

# NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS



- In July 2009, COAG endorsed Australia's first ever overarching national strategy for early childhood development.
- *Investing in the Early Years: A National Early Childhood Development Strategy provides a blueprint for the future.*
- It outlines a shared vision for the development of young children in Australia that by 2020 *all children have the*
- *best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation.*



- Streamlined regulatory arrangements
- A National Quality Standard including the *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)* and quality rating system
- A new national body jointly governed between the Commonwealth and the states and territories.



# UNIVERSAL ACCESS

## Initiative

All 4 year olds would have access to 15 hours of a Pre School/ Kindergarten program delivered by a 4 year trained early childhood Teacher.



# The Early Years Learning Framework

describes the principles, practice and outcomes essential to support and enhance young children's learning from birth to five years of age, as well as their transition to school.



December 2007 COAG agreed to pursue regulatory reform in early childhood.

National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care Signed between the Commonwealth Government and all States and Territories on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009

[www.coag.gov.au](http://www.coag.gov.au)



# LEGISLATION

- Developing the legislation for the new system
- Setting up the new national body and associated IT system
- Working with the NCAC and States and Territories on transitioning to the new system
- Development, application and refinement of the new assessment and rating system including compliance and support activities
- Development of the training and support tools for services



# ASSESSMENT AND RATINGS PROCESS

- **Self assessment and Quality Improvement Planning process (QIP)**
- **Desktop Review by assessor**
- **Site visit**
- **Allocation of assessment and post assessment written advice**



# The quality areas are:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements, including staff-to-child ratios and qualifications
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

***23 Standards and 65 elements***



# QUALITY RATINGS SYSTEM

**A five point rating scale:**

- **Unsatisfactory**
- **Operating level**
- **National Quality Standard**
- **High Quality**
- **Excellent rating (via a separate process by application)**



- **Approval to operate**
- **Interim approvals and deemed compliance**



1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	All services will be assessed against the new National Quality Standard. All services will be required by legislation to obtain an Approval to operate (no date stipulated but most likely prior to 1/01/2012)
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	1:4 ratio birth to 24 months ( <b>Not in Queensland</b> ) Services licensed by 1/01/2011 need to justify the need to maintain the 1:5 toddler ratio. (No information on how to justify)
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012	Mixed age Group. Proportional formula based on the National Standards ratios (e.g. 1:4; 1:5; 1:11)
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	Early Childhood Teacher <b><i>some of the time</i></b> for services with less than 25 children
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	Early Childhood Teacher to be employed at the service with 25 children or more



1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	Half of staff employed will need to have (or be actively working towards) Diploma or above. <b>Queensland is immediate as per state regulations</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014	Remaining staff will need to have (or be actively working towards) Certificate 111 or equivalent <b>Queensland is immediate as per state regulations</b>



1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016	1:5 ratio: 25 – 35 months
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016	1:11 ratio : 36 months to school age
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	1:4 ratio birth to 24 months <b>(in Queensland)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	A <b>second</b> Early Childhood Teacher or other suitably qualified leader to be in attendance at the service at least <b>half the time</b> if the centre is licensed between 60 – 80 children
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	A <b>second</b> Early Childhood Teacher or other suitably qualified leader to be in attendance at the service whenever the service is being provided if the centre is licensed for more than 80 children



# ACA/CAA IDENTIFIED CONCERNS

1. Regulation Impact Statement underestimates implementation cost impact
2. Families hurt as an “unintended consequence” of legislation intended to be beneficial to children, families and staff
3. Australia wide averages do not indicate the true costs of implementation in specific states/areas



# **COST INCREASES**

- 1. Increased staffing**
- 2. Loss of licensed capacity**
- 3. Administration/ Training/  
Implementation**

