



Australian Children's  
Education & Care  
Quality Authority

# TRANSITIONING TO THE REVISED NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

**FROM 1 FEB 2018**

The Australian, state and territory education Ministers have agreed to changes to the National Quality Framework (NQF).

Services will be assessed and rated against the revised National Quality Standard (NQS) from 1 February 2018.

This information sheet will support educators and services as they transition to the revised NQS.

## WHEN DO THE CHANGES START?

The revised NQS and some related changes will commence 1 February 2018.

## WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

Visit [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes)

Visit your regulatory authority website [acecqa.gov.au/contact-your-regulatory-authority](http://acecqa.gov.au/contact-your-regulatory-authority)

From 1 February 2018, services will be assessed and rated against a revised version of the National Quality Standard (NQS).

Under the revised NQS, outcomes for children remain at the centre of everything you do with children, families and your community.

The revised NQS has fewer elements and standards than the current version: 15 standards and 40 elements, compared to 18 standards and 58 elements.

The revised NQS uses clearer language and retains the same focus on quality education and care as the current version.

### NQS quality concepts

Each standard and element has a corresponding quality concept. Together the concepts provide simple shorthand for navigating the NQS. See the Revised NQS printable poster for the quality concepts:

[acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes)

### Related NQS changes starting 1 February 2018:

- There is a new rule for determining the Exceeding NQS rating for quality areas. All standards within a quality area must be rated Exceeding NQS for that quality area to be rated Exceeding NQS.
- There is new guidance for services and assessors on determining the Exceeding NQS rating for standards. The guidance explains the difference between the Meeting NQS and Exceeding NQS rating levels for standards.

Updated guidance is included in the revised Guide to the NQS to be published on the ACECQA website. Subscribe to the newsletter to stay up to date with publication timeframes: [acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx](http://acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx)

## WHAT CAN SERVICES DO TO TRANSITION TO THE REVISED NQS?

### Get to know the revised NQS

There are changes to the number, wording and placement of elements and standards.

ACECQA has created a resource that maps the elements and standards of the current NQS against the elements and standards of the revised NQS to show what has moved and changed. The mapping resource is now available on the ACECQA website: [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes)

### Assessment and rating visits before 1 February 2018

If your quality assessment visit takes place before 1 February 2018, the full assessment and rating process will be completed against the current NQS.

### Assessment and rating visits on or after 1 February 2018

If your quality assessment visit takes place on or after 1 February 2018, the full assessment and rating process will be completed against the revised NQS.

### Review and update your QIP

In the lead up to 1 February 2018 you should consider how your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) fits with the revised NQS and start to make any updates that are necessary.

The QIP is requested by the regulatory authority as part of the assessment and rating process and is taken into account in determining rating levels.

If your quality rating visit will occur before 1 February 2018, you can provide the regulatory authority with a QIP that reflects the current NQS.

If your quality rating visit will occur on or after 1 February 2018, you should provide the regulatory authority with a QIP that reflects the revised NQS.

If your next quality rating is scheduled immediately before or following 1 February 2018, you may wish to contact your regulatory authority to confirm their requirements.

An updated version of the QIP template for the revised NQS is now available on the ACECQA website: [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources)

## WHAT OTHER TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE?

### Requests for reassessment

Special arrangements are in place for reassessments to support the transition from the current NQS to the revised NQS.

### Partial reassessments

If your service has received a rating against the current NQS, you may only request a partial reassessment against the current NQS until 1 August 2018.

Once your service has received a rating against the revised NQS, you may request a partial reassessment against the revised NQS at any time.

### Full reassessments

After 1 February 2018, all full reassessments will be conducted against the revised NQS.

### How can I find out more information?

ACECQA will continue to publish new resources and templates. Subscribe to the ACECQA newsletter to stay up to date with what's new: [acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx](http://acecqa.gov.au/Subscribe.aspx)

Take a look at existing resources on the ACECQA website, including:

- a summary of all key changes to the law and regulations
- an information sheet and slide pack about the new guidance on determining the Exceeding NQS rating for standards: [acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources](http://acecqa.gov.au/nqf-changes/information-sheets-and-resources)

### Acknowledgment

The information in this publication is accurate pending the Australian, state and territory education Ministers' agreement of amended regulations.