

Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

National Quality Framework for early childhood education.

The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs today acknowledged the smooth commencement of the National Quality Framework for early childhood education from 1 January 2012. A new national body, the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority will guide the implementation of the Framework nationally.

The Hon Martin Dixon MP, the out-going Chair of the Ministerial Council, announced that the National Quality Framework includes nationally consistent educator-to-child ratios and educator qualification requirements, and will provide families with more information on the services that best suit their families' needs.

The National Quality Framework incorporates the recently made Education and Care Services National Regulations, which establish for the first time a national regulatory system for the early childhood education and care sector.

"The commencement of the Framework is the culmination of extensive collaboration between governments throughout Australia. After extensive consultation with families, service providers and the sector, we can be proud to have established a high quality and truly national early childhood education and care system," Minister Dixon said.

"Parents can be confident of the same quality of services throughout Australia, from long day care and family day care through to outside school hours care and most types of preschool services," Minister Dixon said.

The start of 2012 also marks the beginning of Dr Diane Sisely's term as the National Education and Care Services Ombudsman, Freedom of Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner. Dr Sisely's appointment was announced on 12 December, and will play an important role in ensuring the fairness and accountability of the National Quality Framework.

For more information about the National Quality Framework visit: www.acecqa.gov.au

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