

Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

FURTHER MILESTONE REACHED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY REFORMS

The Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs today announced the making of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, which establish the first national regulatory system for the early childhood education and care sector.

The making of the Regulations gives legal effect to the Regulations approved in October by MCEECDYA for commencement on 1 January 2012.

“The making of the National Regulations is a major milestone and delivers on the commitment by all governments to reform the Australian education and care sector,” said the Chair of the Ministerial Council, the Hon Martin Dixon MP.

The National Regulations are a part of the National Quality Framework for early childhood education and care services, which comes into effect from 1 January 2012.

The National Quality Framework will introduce nationally consistent educator-to-child ratios and educator qualification requirements.

As well as improved educator to child ratios (except in jurisdictions where these national ratios are already met or exceeded) a new quality rating system will provide families with information about the quality of early childhood education and care services to assist in their choice of services.

Under the National Quality Framework the approval and monitoring of services and the quality assessment of services become the responsibility of state and territory regulatory authorities.

“The National Quality Framework, including the National Regulations, covering long day care, family day care, outside school hours care and most preschool services, has been the subject of extensive consultations with the sector throughout 2010 and 2011.

It represents a collaborative effort between all governments and the education and care sector to implement a robust quality system,” Minister Dixon said.

The new arrangements mean providers will be able to be nationally recognised and can apply for service approvals in any state or territory while adhering to the same quality standards.

The National Regulations can be viewed on the New South Wales Government Legislation Site at: www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

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

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