

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Approved Provider: An individual or organisation that has completed an application and been approved by the Regulatory Authority as fit and proper (in accordance with Sections 12, 13 and 14 of the National Law) to operate one or more education and care services. Where the applicant is an organisation, each person with management and control of that organisation must complete a separate application form. (Note: Under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*, Section 5, Definitions: “**person with management or control**, in relation to an education and care service, means – (b) if the provider of the service is an eligible association, each member of the executive committee of the association who has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service”.)

Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): The national authority established to oversee the National Quality Framework and guide its implementation in a consistent way throughout Australia.

Certified Supervisor: An educator with a supervisor certificate (in accordance with the National Regulations) who may consent to being placed in day-to-day charge of the education and care service. The designation must be made by the Approved Provider or the Nominated Supervisor and accepted in writing by the Certified Supervisor. A Certified Supervisor placed in day-to-day charge of a service does not have the same responsibilities under the National Law as the Nominated Supervisor. Applications for supervisor certificates are assessed by the Regulatory Authority.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD): The Victorian State Government department with primary responsibility for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in Victoria in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the *National Quality Standard*.

Early childhood teacher: A person with an approved early childhood teaching qualification. Approved qualifications are listed on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au

Educational Leader: The Approved Provider of an education and care service must designate, in writing, a suitably qualified and experienced educator, co-ordinator or other individual to lead the development and implementation of education programs at the service (Regulation 118). This person must have a thorough understanding of the *Early Years Learning Framework* (or other approved learning framework), be able to guide other educators in their planning and reflection, and mentor colleagues in their implementation practices.

Educator: An individual who provides education and care for children as part of an education and care service.

Learning frameworks: Under the National Quality Framework (NQF), education and care services are required to ensure that the program delivered to all children being cared for and educated by the service is based on and delivered in a manner that accords with an approved learning framework. In Victoria, the approved frameworks are:

- *Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)*
- *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)*
- *My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia*.

National Law: Refers to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: the national law regulating education and care services for children.

National Quality Framework (NQF): This framework for the early childhood education and care sector helps providers to improve the quality of services in areas that impact on a child’s development. The framework includes:

- a National Law – the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- National Regulations – the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*

- the *National Quality Standard*
- an assessment and rating system
- a Regulatory Authority in each state and territory with primary responsibility for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in their jurisdiction in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the *National Quality Standard*
- the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). The national body responsible for providing oversight of the system and ensuring consistency of approach.

National Quality Standard (NQS): The NQS sets a National benchmark for the quality of children's education and care services. The *National Quality Standard* is comprised of guiding principles, Quality Areas, standards and elements. There are seven Quality Areas which capture aspects critical to the provision of quality education and care.

National Regulations: Refers to the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: the regulations or rules under which children's services must operate. The regulations are the way in which the law is applied.

Nominated Supervisor: A person who is a Certified Supervisor and has been nominated by the Approved Provider of the service under Part 3 of the Act to be the Nominated Supervisor of that service, and who has consented to that nomination. The Nominated Supervisor has day-to-day responsibility for the service in accordance with the National Regulations. All services must have a Nominated Supervisor.

Policy: A formal statement of principles which provides a framework for decision-making and indicates the course of action to be taken in specific circumstances. Policies provide services with an approved way of operating in relation to particular matters and improve the management of risk. They reflect the values and beliefs of a service, current thinking, national standards and community expectations, and are relevant in terms of current laws and regulations.

Procedures: The steps required to implement and comply with a policy. Procedures specify how to achieve the necessary result by outlining who does what and when. Procedures are succinct, factual and to the point, and are generally expressed as a list.

Program: The group/activity in which a child is enrolled and which has specific hours of attendance.

Regulatory Authority: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) is the Regulatory Authority in Victoria, with primary responsibility for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the *National Quality Standard*.

Responsible Person: The Approved Provider (if that person is an individual, and in any other case the person with management or control of the service operated by the Approved Provider) or a Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor who has been placed in day-to-day charge of the service in accordance with the National Regulations.

Staff: Any individual (other than the Nominated Supervisor or a volunteer) employed, appointed or engaged to work in or as part of an education and care service.