

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate Release

15 February 2017

ACA Hopeful About Changes to National Quality Framework

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) is optimistic that the National Quality Framework (NQF) will be easier for service providers to comply with and benefit from under the new changes that will take effect this October.

“These changes are the result of the ACA’s ongoing engagement with government, along with a formal 2014 review of the framework and the unilateral agreement between governments that formed the new regime.” ACA President Paul Mondo said today.

The formal review sought feedback from the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector, along with families and extended communities.

“During this review the ACA played a key role in providing member feedback about how the framework applies to ECEC service providers on a practical level, and some of the unintended consequences of the new regime.”

“The ACA supports the NQF and its aim of raising the quality of education and care Australia-wide. However as we made clear during our engagement with government, there are some technical and operational elements in need of improvement, to reduce red tape and ensure positive practical outcomes for ECEC services.” Mr Mondo said.

Despite the fact that the constructive feedback from the 2014 consultation process was delayed by bureaucracy, this recent outcome represents much of the work performed by the ACA through lobbying activity and the ongoing preparation of submissions advocating for improvements to the system.

“As has been the case with these changes, the result is often not immediate, but without the ACA’s rigorous engagement with politicians and bureaucrats these changes would not have occurred.”

The ACA commends the government for acknowledging feedback from the ECEC sector about the unintended consequences of the NQF, which caused a significant administrative burden and unnecessary red tape for service providers.

“The ACA will continue to assess the practical implication of the NQF changes as they are introduced, and advocate for its members to ensure better outcomes wherever possible, for the ultimate goal of ensuring that Australia’s young children get the best education and care possible.” Mr Mondo said.

Meanwhile the ACA remains concerned about the immediate financial pressures facing families that rely on ECEC services, and would like to see additional support for families introduced as soon as possible.

“Australian families need financial support now. To this end the ACA will continue to engage with government to encourage prompt agreement on a package that meets the ECEC needs of all young Australians, regardless of their life circumstances.” Mr Mondo concluded.

ENDS

Media enquiries: Nesha Hutchinson 0412 085 068 Paul Mondo 0411 587 170

Australian Childcare Alliance

A Suite 6, 539 Highett Road, Highett VIC 3190 P 03 9532 2017

President Paul Mondo (VIC) 0411 587 170 paul@mondocorp.com.au

Vice President Nesha Hutchinson (NSW) 0412 085 068 Nesha.hutchinson@childcarealliance.org.au

State Presidents

QLD/ACT	Jae Fraser	0408 873 492
NSW	Lyn Connolly	0425 225 275
VIC	Paul Mondo	0411 587 170
WA	Ann Chemello	0433 498 147
SA	Kerry Mahony	0419 819 754

Background

The [Australian Childcare Alliance](#) (ACA) is the peak body for privately owned Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in Australia.

We work on behalf of long day care owners and operators to ensure families and their children have an opportunity to access affordable, high quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) services throughout Australia.

On Monday 13 February, the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) announced that the Australian, State and Territory Education Ministers had agreed to changes to the [National Quality Framework](#) (NQF), which intended to strengthen quality in early childhood education and care while at the same time reducing red tape for the sector.

ACECQA has outlined the key timeframes of the legislation changes will come into effect, after passage through the Victorian Parliament:

1 October 2017 – National Law and Regulations changes commence in all states and territories, except Western Australia. In Western Australia changes will commence by 1 October 2018 to allow for the legislation to pass through that parliament.

1 February 2018 – Revised National Quality Standard commences in all states and territories, including Western Australia.

Further information about these changes is available on the [ACECQA website](#).

Australian Childcare Alliance

A Suite 6, 539 Highett Road, Highett VIC 3190 P 03 9532 2017

President Paul Mondo (VIC) 0411 587 170 paul@mondocorp.com.au

Vice President Nesha Hutchinson (NSW) 0412 085 068 Nesha.hutchinson@childcarealliance.org.au

State Presidents

QLD/ACT	Jae Fraser	0408 873 492
NSW	Lyn Connolly	0425 225 275
VIC	Paul Mondo	0411 587 170
WA	Ann Chemello	0433 498 147
SA	Kerry Mahony	0419 819 754