

Quality and compliance in practice

In this issue of Quality and Compliance in Practice, we're focusing on [Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety](#).

Below, you'll find information and insights on how to manage an education and care environment that provides for children's physical and psychological wellbeing, supporting their growing competence, confidence and independence.

Keep reading to learn about what the Child Safe Standards mean for your service and to hear from allergy expert Kathryn Mulligan, as well as case studies on services from across the state, and lots more!

We'd also like to acknowledge across NSW, a number of OSHC, preschool, family day care and long day care services have been affected by recent flooding. Services can access our [NSW Floods Support and Assistance webpage](#) to easily find key resources and information if they have been impacted.

For the latest COVID-19 advice please visit the [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services](#).

We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and pay our respect to Country.

Quality Area 2 - Children's health and safety

Minimising children's risk for allergies and anaphylaxis

Kathryn Mulligan from the NSW Anaphylaxis Education Program shares insights and advice on the critical need for early childhood education and care services to proactively manage risks related to food allergies.

[Keep reading](#)



What do the Child Safe Standards mean for you and your service?

The Office of the Children's Guardian share their insights on how the Child Safe Standards relate to the National Quality Framework, and advice for ensuring child safe practices at your service.

[Keep reading](#)

Empowering children at Peak Sports and Learning

Located on Dharawal Land, Peak Sports and Learning Woonona East is an OSHC service driven by a commitment to child safety.

[Keep reading](#)





Technology drives stronger success in compliance and the health and safety of children

Located on Wallumedegal country, long day care service Explore & Develop North Ryde uses technology and innovative practices to support children to thrive in their earliest years of learning.

[Keep reading](#)

The other end of the Information and Enquiries line

Based on Darug land, Information and Enquiries Coordinator Pam Gray shares her insights on how the Early Childhood Education team engages with families and services to support positive outcomes for children.

[Keep reading](#)



Tips to meet Standard 2.2: protecting children through effective supervision and emergency management

Every child has the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that provides for their physical and psychological wellbeing.

[Keep reading for more info and helpful hints](#)

Did you know?

- As at 30 June 2022, 89.5% of all approved services are rated Meeting or Exceeding NQS in Quality Area 2 (excluding services without a rating).

- The highest performing elements under Quality Area 2 for all approved services rated are Elements 2.1.4 and 2.3.1 (each 99.9% Met under the current NQS framework).
- Across all approved services Element 2.1.2 (99.3% Met under the current NQS framework) is the most significant driver for not meeting NQS in this Quality Area.

Compliance reminders - children's safe sleep and rest

The sleep and rest requirements under the National Law and Regulations aim to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of children.

It is crucial that all providers and service staff ensure children are safe, healthy and protected from harm and risks associated with sleep and rest by complying with all sleep and rest regulatory requirements.

The department, as the NSW Regulatory Authority, has zero tolerance of serious harm to children as a result of unsafe sleep and rest practices.

- Approved providers, nominated supervisors and family day care educators must take reasonable steps to ensure children's needs for sleep and rest are met, having regard to each child's age, developmental stages and needs ([regulation 81](#)).
- Education and care services must have in place policies and procedures relating to sleep and rest for children ([regulation 168](#)).

Additionally, other regulatory requirements are relevant to sleep and rest times. These include:

- Ensuring adequate supervision ([section 165](#))
- Protecting children from harm and hazards ([section 167](#))
- Ensuring safe, suitable and developmentally appropriate equipment ([regulation 103](#), [regulation 105](#))
- Ventilation, natural light and temperature of indoor spaces ([regulation 110](#))

Approved providers and services must have systems in place to ensure their sleep and rest policies, procedures and practices are in line with regulatory requirements and support children's safety during sleep and rest times.

More information

- Visit [Red Nose](#) for guidance on safe sleeping, environment and practices
- Visit the department's [Safe sleep and rest web page](#)
- ACECQA [Safe sleep and rest practices](#) information sheet

Sector resources

Join our Cultural Safety Framework seminar

The Department of Education is hosting a Cultural Safety Framework Webinar on **Wednesday, 27 July** from **3-5pm** to explore the development of the Cultural Safety Framework for the Early Childhood Education and Care sector.

Join us to hear from stakeholders involved in this project, cases studies of culturally responsive practices in early childhood settings, as well as information on sector consultations that are about to take place as part of this project.

What to do next

[Register now](#) to attend this free online event.

[Visit our website](#) to learn more about the Cultural Safety Framework project and consultations.

Early Years Commitment

Last month, the NSW Government announced a historic new investment to transform early childhood education and care that will change the future for children and families across the state.

The [Early Years Commitment](#) is the state's plan for ensuring that early childhood education and care is more affordable, accessible and flexible so it works for working families.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the future for the children of NSW by giving every child the early learning and support they need so they can start school developmentally on track.

The announcements include the introduction of:

- the expansion of critical programs for prenatal to age 5
- a new fund to support more parents returning to work
- fee relief for families with children in preschool
- universal pre-Kindergarten for all children in NSW by 2030
- a workforce package to attract and retain our invaluable teachers and educators.

More information

To learn more about these exciting changes, visit the [Early Years Commitment webpage](#).

Sector updates

Reflecting on common OSHC supervision areas

ACECQA has developed a free and tailored [eLearning module](#) available to all OSHC services, to support reflection on Quality Area 2, supervision areas. The resource is intended to encourage reflective conversations about how your service team approaches supervision. The resource is a foundation to build from as your service considers your current supervision policies, procedures and practices, and whether changes are needed to better support children's wellbeing and safety.

More information

OSHC staff can access the free eLearning module on the [ACECQA website](#).

Early learning podcasts

Our [Early Learning Matters podcasts](#) are designed to complement other professional learning, build educator capacity and inspire high-quality early childhood practice.

Join our Early Learning Coordinator, Jacqui Ward, and colleagues, as they unpack important early childhood concepts, theories and practice including creative arts, numeracy and effective assessment.

More information

[Visit our website](#) to stream, download and share episodes today.

Don't forget

- [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day](#) will be held 4 August.
- [Red Nose Day 2022](#) will be held 12 August.

Families corner

Each month we're sharing resources made especially for families to support them and their children.

These resources are for you to share with your current and/or prospective families via your own communication channels.

Learning resources for families by age group

The NSW Department of Education has created a range of [resources](#) to support families to create play-based learning opportunities for their children at home.

Developed by early childhood teachers, these are just a few of the many activities parents and careers can do together with their children - The most important thing is to spend

quality time together, talking, exploring, laughing and having fun!

Red Nose Safe Sleep resources for families

The Red Nose website has an [Advice Hub](#) with a range of resources available to inform parents and carers about safe sleeping practices to help reduce the risk of sudden and unexpected death during pregnancy, infancy and childhood.

Families can also contact Red Nose for safe sleep advice by:

- Calling 1300 998 698 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (AEST)
- Emailing education@rednose.org.au
- [Asking a question](#) in the Red Nose online Q&A Forum.

For more information

If you have any questions about your service operation you can contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113 or by emailing ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.



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All services and providers

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