

# Early childhood education and care services in NSW

## Information for other Government agencies

This information is relevant for any agency that interacts with early childhood education and care (ECE) services or families attending ECE services. ECE services include long day care, preschool, family day care, outside school hours care, vacation care, occasional care and mobile services, and are sometimes referred to as 'childcare services'.

The NSW Department of Education has two Directorates with roles in early childhood education and care:

### Quality Assurance and Regulatory Services (QARS)

QARS regulates, monitors and supports over 5,700 early childhood education and care services. We work to drive quality outcomes for children and communities through early childhood education, to ensure all children get the best start in life. The health, safety and wellbeing of children is the highest priority for the department.

Our regulatory responsibilities include:



Enforcing compliance with the National Law and Regulations\*



Working with other agencies such as the Office of the Children's Guardian to support the sector to be Child Safe



Processing applications for provider and service approvals



Assessing and rating services against the National Quality Standard, to support children's learning and development and services' continuous quality improvement

\*This includes investigating serious incidents that occur in ECE services such as injuries, assaults or death and undertaking a range of compliance action, including prosecutions and prohibitions.

### Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy

ECE and Schools Policy design and deliver **state-based funding** programs and strategic policy frameworks for early childhood education and care. Our work aims to ensure all children in NSW can participate in 600 hours of quality preschool education in the year before school and helps maintain a strong and sustainable before and after school care sector.

Our responsibilities include:



Analysing, understanding and informing national policies on early childhood education and care



Funding ECE services and organisations to help meet the goals of the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to ECE



Identifying and developing new strategies to achieve goals



Supporting positive educational changes, particularly for Aboriginal children, children with disability and children in regional and remote NSW

## When to contact us



### Collaborations

If you work with children and families and would like to partner with us on initiatives to support children's health, safety and wellbeing or improved learning outcomes through access to early childhood education and care.



### Notifications and reporting

If you have information about an incident, allegation and/or complaint within an ECE service in NSW.



### Approvals information

If you have relevant information about someone who is seeking to own and/or operate a service in NSW (including referring development applications for local councils).



### Compliance issue

If you have information about an ECE service not complying with the various acts, regulations and frameworks that govern services.



### Funding

If you have any questions about the various grants and funded programs that the department develops and implements in relation to ECE.



### Choosing a service

If you would like more information about how to access quality ECE services.

## How to contact us

### Funding:

1300 755 426

[ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ecec.funding@det.nsw.edu.au)

### Feedback, notifications, complaints and all other enquiries:

1800 619 113 (toll free)

[ececd@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ececd@det.nsw.edu.au)

[education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education](http://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education)

