



EDUCATION AND CARE

A&R visit postponement

Information sheet

The [Education and Care Unit](#) (ECU) have implemented several changes to the Assessment and Rating (A&R) process in Tasmania, in line with the [revised national approach](#).

One of these changes is a reduction in notice periods for A&R visits.

The reduced notice periods are coming into effect in Tasmania on 1 May 2023.

One of the reasons for the introduction of reduced notice periods is to ensure that evidence collected during A&R is reflective of typical, everyday practice at the service.

For this reason, the ECU will only consider postponing visits after the notification has been made as a last resort.

If you are aware of upcoming events at your service which may impact on the Authorised Officer's ability to observe everyday practice, you should advise your point of contact Authorised Officer of these dates. However, you should also consider what strategies will be in place to reduce disruption to children and families, routines and service operations.

If your service has suffered significant storm damage and as a result, is closing the outdoor area completely for three weeks, you may think it would be difficult for the Authorised Officer to observe typical practice. However, if your service had implemented strategies to access an alternative outdoor space in the community during this time, this may demonstrate that strategies are in place to ensure high quality practice on any given day.

If key staff members have planned leave during an A&R visit, consider who is stepping in to fill their role. This person may be able to demonstrate their capacity in the role and how this provides continuity for children and families.

If a service visit, excursion or meeting is planned during the visit dates, this would be considered typical practice, and can be included in the A&R.

Of course, there will always be occasions when an A&R visit just isn't possible due to service closures or other significant events. In these situations, the Authorised Officer will advise that the visit will not proceed. When the visit is rescheduled, the Authorised Officer will then notify the service of the new planned date/s 1 – 5 days prior to the visit.

Further information

Please see the [ACECQA information sheet - Making quality A&R more effective](#), the [ECU information sheet - changes to A&R in 2023](#) or the [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#) for more information about changes to the Assessment and Rating process.

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