

# Changes to Assessment and Rating in 2023

## What are the changes?

From 2023, some A&R processes will be changing in Tasmania, in line with a revised national approach, including:

- Introduction of shorter notice periods for A&R visits (1-5 days)
- Increased focus on service's quality improvement journey, including the QIP, as an ongoing process.
- Increased use partial Assessment and Rating visits (for services with a current 2018 NQS rating.)

## What is a partial A&R? How is this different to my A&R experiences in the past?

A partial A&R is where a service is reassessed against some, but not all, the standards of the National Quality Standard (NQS.)

Previously, most A&R visits involved a full reassessment of all 7 quality areas of the NQS. It is anticipated that the use of partial A&Rs will support services to engage in A&R as an ongoing process, rather than a one-off event every few years.

## When are the changes coming in?

In Tasmania, the increased use of partial A&R has already begun for some services. From January 2023 all services with a 2018 NQS rating will be considered for a partial reassessment.

There will be changes in when and how to submit your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) In early 2023, there will be information for services on how to submit and update your QIP.

The shorter notice periods for Assessment and Rating visits in Tasmania will come into effect from May 2023.

## What if my service is rated under the 2012 NQS?

Services rated under the 2012 NQS will need to undergo a full reassessment against the 2018 NQS before they can undergo a partial reassessment. The ECU are prioritising these services for A&R.

## What if my service has recently opened?

Services who have not yet been assessed will need to undergo a full A&R against the 2018 NQS before they can undergo a partial reassessment. This will occur within 18 months of the service commencing operations.

## What happens if my service has gone through a provider change since our last A&R?

Services who have undergone a provider change will need to undergo a full reassessment against the 2018 NQS before they can undergo a partial reassessment.

### **Can a partial A&R lead to a change in the overall rating?**

Yes, a partial reassessment could lead to a change in the service's overall rating.

However, there may be situations where the rating remains the same, such as:

- a partial reassessment for a service with several standards rated not met may result in rating changes at the standard level that do not change the overall rating. The ECU will continue to work with these services, as their continuous improvement progresses, including conducting additional partial reassessments.
- a partial reassessment for a service rated meeting or exceeding NQS which reaffirms this service's rating.

It is important to remember that a partial A&R could move a service's rating up or down, depending on the evidence gathered during the visit.

### **Will services be advised of the areas of the NQS to be reassessed as part of a partial A&R?**

Yes, services will be advised during the notification process of the Standards or Quality Areas to be reassessed. However, if at any time during the A&R process, the Authorised Officer feels additional areas should be reassessed, they will advise the service and begin gathering evidence for these areas.

### **How will the ECU access my service's QIP, given the reduced notice periods?**

In coming weeks, the ECU will be sharing information about how and when to submit your service's QIP.

### **How will my service share documentation as part of the Assessment and Rating Visit?**

The Authorised Officer will provide opportunities for your service to share documentation relevant to the A&R before, during and for 24 hours after the onsite visit.

The ECU will provide guidance about the types of documentation and how to share it.

### **Will there still be virtual connections as part of the A&R process?**

The ECU will still arrange virtual discussions after the onsite visit. However, if the service has a suitable space, these discussions may take place onsite. Some partial reassessments may not require a virtual discussion.

### **Where can I find more information?**

For more information about the assessment and rating process see the [Guide to the NQS](#), the [ACECQA website](#) and the [Education and Care Unit website](#).

ACECQA has also released an [information sheet](#) containing further details about the national changes.

The ECU will develop resources to support services through these changes from early 2023.

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