

Partial Reassessments

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 the increased use of partial reassessments for services with a current 2018 National Quality Standard (NQS) rating.

Some services in Tasmania have already been through a partial reassessment in 2021/2022.

A partial reassessment is where some (but not all) of the 7 quality areas of the NQS are considered as part of a reassessment.

Some services will need to undergo a full A&R before they can be considered for a partial reassessment, these include services:

- rated under the 2012 NQS
- who are Not Yet Assessed
- who have undergone an approved provider transfer since their previous A&R.

Partial reassessments and service ratings

A partial reassessment can lead to changes in a service's NQS rating.

Sometimes, although the rating may change at a standard or quality area level, this will not change the overall rating. It is also possible for a service to undergo a reassessment which does not lead to any rating changes but reaffirms the original rating.

It's important to remember that a service's rating can move up, down or stay the same as a result of a partial reassessment.

After a partial reassessment, the regulatory authority will determine the ratings relevant for the areas assessed. Previously determined ratings in the quality areas/ standards that are not being assessed as part of the reassessment are carried forward. The ratings certificate will include ratings from the partial reassessment and any other ratings that were carried forward.

[Why has the use of partial reassessments been increased?](#)

The use of partial reassessments is one strategy to:

- make assessment and rating more efficient and effective for providers and services
- provide families with up-to-date information on service quality to assist them in their decision making.
- Partial assessments provide the opportunity to target assessments to specific quality areas without requiring a service to undergo a full assessment. It is also anticipated that they will cause less disruption to service routines.

Choosing the areas for partial reassessment.

The areas reassessed during a partial reassessment can be influenced by a range of factors, including the service's:

- current goals or focus areas
- previous ratings
- recent compliance history.

Further information

Please see the FAQs on the following page [ACECQA information sheet](#), the [ECU changes in A&R information sheet](#) or the [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#) for more information about partial reassessments and changes to the Assessment and Rating process.

Frequently asked questions about partial reassessments

1. Does my service need to do anything?

During engagement with your Authorised Officer, you can tell them about:

- your service's QIP and self-assessment
- your service's recent focus areas
- changes at the service
- significant events or celebrations.

This will provide the Authorised Officer with information that can inform which areas are most suitable for reassessment.

2. Is there a minimum number of standards or Quality Areas that can be reassessed?

While there is no minimum number of areas that can be reassessed, reassessment takes place at the standard or Quality Area level, rather than the element level.

3. Can my service request a partial reassessment?

Yes, although there is a fee involved for provider requested reassessments. Please see the Guide to the National Quality Framework for further information.

4. Will we be advised which Quality Areas or standards are included in the reassessment?

Yes. The Authorised Officer will advise the areas to be reassessed during the notification process.

5. Can additional areas be added to the reassessment during the process?

Yes. If the Authorised Officer feels that the current rating for any standard is not accurate, they can add additional areas to the reassessment. The Authorised Officer will advise the service if this is the case.

6. Will my service undergo a full A&R or a partial reassessment?

Unless your service has a 2012 NQS rating, has not yet been assessed or has undergone a provider

transfer since the previous A&R, you will more than likely undergo a partial reassessment. Services may undergo multiple reassessments, based on current focus areas and practice.

7. Will a partial reassessment change my service's overall rating?

Potentially. For example, services who are rated 'Working Towards' in one element which is reassessed and rated as meeting will have an overall rating change to 'Meeting.' Likewise, if a service currently rated Meeting is rated 'Working Towards' in one standard, this would change the overall rating to Working Towards.

However, if a service is rated Not Met in several standards and these are not all covered in the partial reassessment, the overall rating would remain the same. Also, if a service is currently rated 'Meeting' or 'Exceeding' and the partial reassessment reaffirms the original rating, the overall rating will not change.

8. Will we be issued with a new notice of rating and A&R report?

Yes. The notice of rating issued after a partial reassessment will contain a mix of the new ratings for the areas reassessed and the previous ratings for those not assessed as part of the partial reassessment. The A&R Report will include new information for the areas reassessed and should be read in conjunction with the old report.

9. Can my service suggest areas for reassessment?

Yes. You can discuss your service's current practice, goals and focus areas with your Authorised Officer. This will inform their decision-making about areas for reassessment.