

Amendment to the Child Care Act (2001) effective 1 October 2022

What is the issue?

The Education and Care sector is currently experiencing workforce challenges. The Education and Care Unit (ECU) is committed to working with the sector while promoting high quality education and care including, but not limited to children's health, safety and wellbeing outcomes.

What are the considerations?

Nationally, changes are being developed to address workforce shortages for services approved under the National Quality Framework (NQF). Legislation is being amended to enable primary trained teachers to replace certificate III or diploma qualified educators, for a period of up to 30 days in a calendar year. The ECU has considered the changes to the NQF and the current workforce challenges faced by services licenced under the Child Care Act, the Licensing Standard requirements for qualifications, and outcomes for children attending these services.

What are the changes?

On 30 September 2022, approval was granted by the Secretary of the Department of Education to amend the state legislation regarding educators' qualifications. The amendment to the Tasmanian Licensing Standards Class 5, now recognises teachers with a tertiary qualification in **primary education**, as approved to care for children **aged 3 years** and older (previous requirement was restricted to children aged 4 years and older).

How is this expected to assist with workforce challenges?

The ECU has identified that this amendment will assist in addressing some of the workforce issues faces by services in obtaining appropriately qualified staff to meet requirements, without compromising outcomes to children. This change is effective 1 October 2022.

Legislation reference

Tasmanian Licensing Standards for Centre Based Child Care, Class 5 (0-12 years)

SCHEDULE 2: QUALIFICATIONS

For CENTRE BASED CARE CLASS 5

(Under school age care setting)

1. Approved qualifications for Centre Based Care, Class 5 (under school age care setting) include:

A minimum of a two-year full-time or equivalent accredited post-secondary education, or tertiary qualification in child care (early childhood), or education (early childhood).

Note: A tertiary qualification in education (primary) is an approved qualification where the person works exclusively with children aged three years or older.

Relevant Links [The Child Care Act and Licensing Standards - Education and Care](#)

Contact details

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