



# EDUCATION AND CARE

## ECU NEWSLETTER

29 September 2023

### Prepare now for the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework

From 2024 onwards, organisations that engage with children and young people will have to comply with Tasmania's new [Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework](#)<sup>1</sup> (the Framework).

The ECU reminds services and providers that they are responsible for being aware of their compliance and reporting obligations. They should have a plan in place to support their service and educators with the implementation of the Framework.

The explainer resource [Introducing Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework \(PDF, 673KB\)](#)<sup>2</sup> steps through the main elements of the Framework and is a useful starting point.

You may also want to check out this list of [things you can do now to prepare for compliance with the Framework](#)<sup>3</sup>.

You can [sign up for an online forum](#)<sup>4</sup> to learn more about the Framework. The online sessions will provide an opportunity to ask questions, learn about how to prepare for compliance, and identify areas for future training, guidance, and support.

The sessions are:

- 1) Child and Youth Safe Standards online forum
  - 19 October 2023
  - 9:00-10:00am or 5:00-6:00pm
- 2) Reportable Conduct Scheme online forum
  - 10 November 2023
  - 9:00-10:00am

The best way for you to stay up to date about the Framework and the release of further guidance material is to [sign up for the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework newsletter](#)<sup>5</sup>.

There are additional resources, such as information sheets and guides to help you learn more about the Framework and understand your compliance and reporting obligations, on the [Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework website](#)<sup>6</sup>.

Tasmania's Interim Compliance Guidance is being developed and will be published in the coming weeks. We'll share further detail as it becomes available.

### Changes to how a new food safety standard applies to ECEC services in Tasmania

Standard 3.2.2A – *Food Safety Management Tools* is a new, national food safety standard that is set to commence in December 2023.

Under the new Standard, ECEC services deemed in scope will be required to implement several food safety management tools; food safety supervisor, food handler training, and substantiation of critical food safety controls (record keeping).

The Tasmanian Department of Health (DoH) is seeking to exempt certain education and care services in Tasmania.

For example, services that provide only morning and afternoon teas (with lunch provided from home) will not need to comply with the new requirements.

DoH is also progressing a delay to commencement for other services until 1 March 2025.

DoH will provide further updates next year and services that remain in scope of the new Standard will be provided with resources to help them comply.

If you have any questions, please contact a food safety officer at DoH on 1800 671 738 (select the 'food safety' option) or at [food.safety@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:food.safety@health.tas.gov.au), or speak to an Environmental Health Officer at your local council.

### Reminder - NQF changes in effect 1 October 2023

The remainder of this issue of the ECU newsletter explores some of the changes to the National Quality Framework (NQF) happening from 1 October 2023.

As background, in 2022, Education Ministers agreed to changes to the NQF based on findings from the 2019 NQF Review. The 2019 NQF Review included extensive consultation with the sector, families and other parts of the community.

The implementation of regulatory changes from the 2019 NQF Review is occurring in phases, with initial rounds of changes in effect from 1 March 2023 and 1 July 2023 respectively.

The third round of regulatory changes are coming into effect from 1 October 2023.

A few residual matters are to be addressed and expected to be in effect from early 2024. We'll keep you updated as changes occur.

ACECQA has published [new guidance information and resources](#)<sup>7</sup> on its [website](#)<sup>8</sup>. [The Guide to the NQF](#)<sup>9</sup> will also be updated from 1 October 2023.

### Changes to safe sleep and rest regulations from 1 October 2023

Services have been required to have policies and procedures in place relating to sleep and rest since 2012.

From 1 October 2023, changes to the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* (National Regulations) prescribe the matters that must be considered and addressed in the service's sleep and

rest policies and procedures and require a risk assessment to be conducted at least annually, or when new risks are identified.

The approved provider must ensure their services:

- Include matters prescribed under the National Regulations in their policies and procedures for sleep and rest.
- Conduct a sleep and risk assessment at least every 12 months.
- Ensure that bassinets are not on the service premises at any time that children are being educated and cared for by the service.

The content of individual service sleep and rest policies and procedures should be tailored to the unique context of each service environment.

For further information, please see:

- [ACECQA Information Sheet – Sleep and rest legislative requirements](#)<sup>10</sup>
- [ACECQA Policy Guidelines – Sleep and rest for children](#)<sup>11</sup>
- [ACECQA Template – Sleep and Risk Assessment](#)<sup>12</sup>
- [Red Nose Australia](#)<sup>13</sup>

### Further embedding the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations from 1 October 2023

The [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)<sup>14</sup> (the National Principles) provide a nationally consistent approach to creating organisational cultures that foster child safety and wellbeing.

From 1 October 2023, approved providers and services must review and update existing policies to comply with new requirements including:

- New obligations for volunteers and students
- Child protection training for family day care coordinators
- Enhanced requirements for policies and procedures on providing a child safe environment and managing complaints.

It should be noted that the National Principles align with the [Child Safe Standards](#)<sup>15</sup>, which are a key element of the [Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework](#)<sup>16</sup>.

The following resources may help you in reviewing and updating your policies:

- [ACECQA Information Sheet – Embedding the National Child Safe Principles](#)<sup>17</sup>
- [ACECQA Policy Guidelines – Providing a child safe environment](#)<sup>18</sup>
- [ACECQA Policy Guidelines – Dealing with complaints](#)<sup>19</sup>
- [Child Safety Australia – Lead the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)<sup>20</sup>
- [Child Safety Australia – Child Safe Organisations: Introductory self-assessment tool for organisations](#)<sup>21</sup>

### Requirement to notify of change of nature of care in effect from 1 October 2023

In order to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, from 1 October 2023, providers of centre-based services will be required to notify the ECU of any changes to the ages of children, or the nature of care offered at the service.

Information on the required [notification type and timeframes for notifications](#)<sup>22</sup> can be found on the ACECQA website.

Notifications should be made through the [National Quality Agenda IT System](#)<sup>23</sup>.

### Mandatory assessments for family day care residences that have swimming pools or water hazards from 1 October 2023

There are a number of new safety and workforce requirements for family day care in effect from 1 October 2023.

These include additional safeguards around swimming pools and other water hazards to ensure active supervision and regular review of risks are considered.

Regulation 345 prohibits swimming pools on an education and care service premise in Tasmania.

Where there is a water hazard present at a family day care residence, the approved provider will be required to implement these new requirements to enhance children's safety.

For further information and guidance see:

- [ACECQA Information Sheet – Legislative requirements for family day care providers from 2023](#)<sup>24</sup>
- [ACECQA Information Sheet – Legislative requirements for family day care educators: from 2023](#)<sup>25</sup>
- [ACECQA Risk Assessment Management Tool](#)<sup>26</sup>

#### Contact details:

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## LINKS

<sup>1</sup> Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework -

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework>

<sup>2</sup> Introducing Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework (PDF, 673KB) -

[https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/711848/Introducing-Tasmanias-Child-and-Youth-Safe-Organisations-Framework-v3-1.pdf](https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/711848/Introducing-Tasmanias-Child-and-Youth-Safe-Organisations-Framework-v3-1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Things you can do now to prepare for the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework -

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/tasmanian-response-to-the-royal-commission/news/news-items/what-can-my-organisation-do-now-to-prepare-for-the-child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework>

<sup>4</sup> Sign up for an online forum -

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework-forums>

<sup>5</sup> Sign up for the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework newsletter -

[https://comms.justice.tas.gov.au/link/id/zzzz616d73fe0fe68615/page.html?prompt=1&parent\\_id=zzzz616d4ce1542a2179](https://comms.justice.tas.gov.au/link/id/zzzz616d73fe0fe68615/page.html?prompt=1&parent_id=zzzz616d4ce1542a2179)

<sup>6</sup> Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework -

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework>

<sup>7</sup> Changes to the NQF starting 1 October 2023 | ACECQA -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/latest-news/changes-nqf-starting-1-october-2023>

<sup>8</sup> Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/>

<sup>9</sup> Guide to the NQF | ACECQA -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Guide-to-the-NQF-230701d.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> ACECQA Information Sheet – sleep and rest legislative requirements -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/supporting-materials/infosheet/safe-sleep-and-rest-practices>

<sup>11</sup> ACECQA Policy Guidelines – sleep and rest for children -

[https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/PolicyGuidelines\\_Sleep%26RestForChildren\\_August.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/PolicyGuidelines_Sleep%26RestForChildren_August.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> ACECQA Template – Sleep and risk assessment -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-07/Sleep%20and%20rest%20risk%20assessment%20template.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Red Nose Australia - <https://rednose.org.au/>

<sup>14</sup> National Principles for Child Safe Organisations | Child Safety Australia -

<https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/national-principles-child-safe-organisations>

<sup>15</sup> Child and Youth Safe Standards -

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework/child-and-youth-safe-standards>

<sup>16</sup> Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework -

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/carcru/child-and-youth-safe-organisations-framework>

<sup>17</sup> ACECQA Information Sheet – Embedding the National Child Safe Principles -

[https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/InfoSheet\\_EmbeddingTheNationalChildSafePrinciples\\_1.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/InfoSheet_EmbeddingTheNationalChildSafePrinciples_1.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> ACECQA Policy Guidelines – Providing a Child Safe Environment -

[https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/PolicyGuidelines\\_ProvidingAChildSafeEnvironment\\_2.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/PolicyGuidelines_ProvidingAChildSafeEnvironment_2.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> ACECQA Policy Guidelines – Dealing with complaints -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/DealingComplaintsGuidelines.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Lead the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations |

Child Safety Australia - <https://www.childsafety.gov.au/our-work/lead-national-principles-child-safe-organisations>

<sup>21</sup> Child Safe Organisations: Introductory self-assessment tool for organisations | Child Safety Australia -

<https://www.childsafety.gov.au/system/files/2022-09/english-introductory-self-assessment-tool-for-organisations.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Notification types and timeframes | ACECQA -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/notification-types-and-timeframes>

<sup>23</sup> National Quality Agenda IT System -

<https://public.nqaits.acecqa.gov.au/Pages/Landing.aspx>

<sup>24</sup> ACECQA Information Sheet – Legislative Requirements for Family Day Care Providers from 2023 -

[https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Info\\_Sheet\\_LegislativeRequirementsForFamilyDayCareProvidersFrom2023\\_2.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Info_Sheet_LegislativeRequirementsForFamilyDayCareProvidersFrom2023_2.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> ACECQA Information Sheet – Legislative Requirements for Family Day Care Educators from 2023 -

[https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Info\\_Sheet\\_LegislativeRequirementsForFamilyDayCareEducatorsFrom2023\\_1.pdf](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Info_Sheet_LegislativeRequirementsForFamilyDayCareEducatorsFrom2023_1.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> ACECQA Risk Assessment Tool -

<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-2-childrens-health-and-safety>