

## FOI 001-2024-25

1. ***The number of reports made to the department of alleged sexual conduct, or grooming behaviour by a childcare worker of a child in an early childhood centre in Tasmania from 1 January 2020 until present, broken down by calendar year***

The following data were extracted from the National Quality Agenda Information System (NQAITS) and accurate as of close of business 11 November 2024. A total of 17 reports (notifications) were made to the Education and Care Unit.

2020 = 4

2021 = 3

2022 = 5

2023 = 2

2024 = 3

2. ***The number of investigations commenced into childcare workers for alleged sexual conduct, or grooming behaviour of a child in an early childhood centre in Tasmania from 1 January 2020 until present, broken down by calendar year***

The Education and Care Unit (ECU) conducted enquiries/investigation to the respective education and care service and/or approved providers in relation to each abovementioned report.

2020 = 4

2021 = 3

2022 = 5

2023 = 2

2024 = 3

**3. *The outcomes of those investigations, including how many times the staff member lost their working with children credentials, was referred to police, was cleared, was cautioned but allowed to continue working with children etc***

The ECU do not hold legislative powers to cancel a staff member's Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration in the case for Tasmania.

The ECU is a reporting body to the Tasmanian Department of Justice (DoJ) under the Tasmanian *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* for matters relating to an educator/childcare worker's WWVP registration. In instances where the ECU has become aware by any means or reasonable grounds that a registered person (eg educator/childcare worker) has or may have engaged in reportable behaviour, the ECU is required to notify DoJ.

A Memorandum of Understanding between DECYP and Tasmania Police currently exist to enable information-sharing between agencies on matters regarding child sexual abuse.

2 out of 17 reports resulted in issuing Prohibition Notices to 2 educators under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*, which prohibits the individual in being involved in education and care services.

15 out of 17 reports resulted in no further action against the educator and/or approved provider as breaches of the National Law/National Regulations were not substantiated.

**4. *A breakdown of how many of the reports that prompted investigations into childcare workers for alleged sexual conduct, or grooming behaviour with children in centres, come from the centres themselves, parents or others***

All 17 reports were notifications made by the service/approved provider to the ECU.

Out of the 17 reports:

- 13 were complaints from parents made to the service/approved provider
- 2 were complaints from an educator to the service/approved provider
- 2 were reports that Tasmania Police made to the service/approved provider

**5. *Any documents that outline the process involved in an investigation undertaken by department investigators***

An internal document by the Education and Care Unit: *Investigation Guidelines* was located as within the scope of your application. Please see attached decision letter for further information.

The ECU takes a risk-based approach when regulating and conducting investigations in education and care services in Tasmania. The ECU initially assesses the information provided by a triaging officer which is then further assessed and investigated by an Authorised Officer. The ECU communicates with Tasmanian Police and the Department of Justice for matters relating to an individual's Working with Vulnerable People registration.

The ECU does not have a public-facing document that outlines investigation processes.

