

FOI 001-2025-26

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 25 August 2025. A total of 23 reports (notifications) were made to the Education and Care Unit.

2020 = 4

2021 = 3

2022 = 5

2023 = 2

2024 = 5

2025 = 4

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 = 5

2025 = 4

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.

The current Memorandum of Understanding between the Department for Education Children and Young People (DECYP) and Tasmania Police currently to enable information-sharing between agencies on matters regarding child sexual abuse is being reviewed.

2 out of 23 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.

20 out of 23 reports resulted in no further action against the educator and/or approved provider as breaches of the National Law/National Regulations were not substantiated.

1 of the 23 reports are currently under investigation, the outcome is pending.

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

Out of the 23 reports:

- 17 were complaints from parents made to the service/approved provider
- 3 were complaints from an educator to the service/approved provider
- 1 was a complaint from a support service
- 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 ECU titled 'Investigation Guidelines' was located 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 DoJ 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.