

National Quality Standard in Kindergartens INFORMATION SHEET



THE ROLE OF KINDERGARTENS

Kindergartens are a vital part of our children's learning and development. The skills and values learnt in the first few years of life, stay with children forever.

It's important that Kindergartens:

- run at the highest possible standard, and
- that this standard is measurable.

The Department of Education (DoE) is committed to improving Kindergarten quality.

From 2021, Tasmanian Government Kindergartens will roll out the National Quality Standard. This will measure the quality of practice in Kindergartens. It will also guide continual improvement for the early years programs in schools.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)?

The National Quality Standard (NQS) is a quality improvement tool.

It is part of the national quality framework for early childhood education and care services.

The NQS provides a guide for the delivery of quality education and care in Australia.

It includes seven areas of focus:

1. Educational Program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Governance and leadership

The NQS sets a solid and well researched guide to build the highest quality in Kindergartens.

BENEFITS OF THE NQS

The NQS supports:

- A culture of learning and growth for educators.
- The strengthening of teaching practices and processes.
- The delivery of high-quality early learning for young children.

This leads to strong outcomes for children. Including improved learning, development and wellbeing.

THE NQS IN TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT KINDERGARTENS

Tasmania's rollout of the NQS, includes advice from:

- local early childhood experts, and
- other states and territories. This includes the successful system implemented in Western Australia's schools since 2015.

The NQS approach in Tasmania aligns with the approach used across Australia.

WHAT OTHER FRAMEWORKS GUIDE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT KINDERGARTENS?

Tasmanian Government Kindergartens are:

- regulated under the [Education Act 2016](#), and
- guided by the [Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](#).

THE ROLLOUT OF THE NQS IN 2021

A staged approach is being taken in Tasmania. This allows for the NQS process to adapt and be refined as required.

During 2021, a group of DoE schools will use the NQS in their Kindergartens. This involves:

1. Ongoing reflection
2. Self-assessment
3. Reporting by school leaders
4. An independent validation

Key work undertaken or underway includes:

- Professional learning for educators and school leaders
- Upgrades of Kindergarten facilities. This will provide safe and suitable learning environments.
- Development of NQS in Kindergarten resources, tools and professional learning. These will help support school's understanding of the NQS.

A review of the approach will be undertaken in early 2022. This will ensure that the Tasmanian Government approach:

- aligns with the intent of the NQS, and
- is suitable for DoE schools.

The evaluation will inform the future direction in Tasmania.

For further information on the NQS in Tasmania:

- Email: NQSKindergarten@education.tas.gov.au
- Visit: [Department of Education website](#)

