

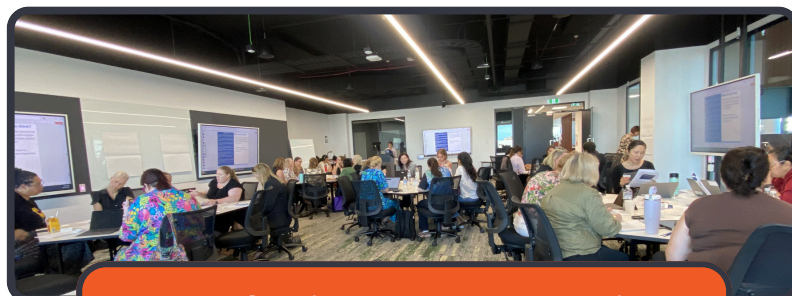
EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

Across our early childhood sector, inspiring work is happening every day, and this newsletter offers a space to share, inform and celebrate the important initiatives across our community. Thank you for the vital role you play in helping children thrive, providing safe starts and building strong futures.

Key Dates:

 Click the links

- **3 – 9 August:** [Early Learning Matters Week](#)
- **2 September:** [Early Childhood Educators Day](#)
- **16 October:** [Education and Care Awards](#)
- **17 October:** [Little People Big Dreams Conference](#)
- **18 - 26 October:** [Children's Week](#)



Strengthening sector connections

Over the past few months, the Early Childhood branch has strengthened connections with the sector.

Through the Early Childhood Community of Practice consultation and regional forums in Katherine and Alice Springs, educators, service leaders and community representatives came together to share insights, challenges and opportunities for the future.

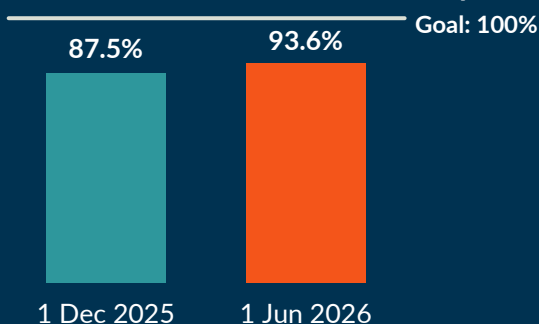
These conversations continue to inform policy and reform planning, ensuring the voices of the sector help shape quality outcomes for children and families.



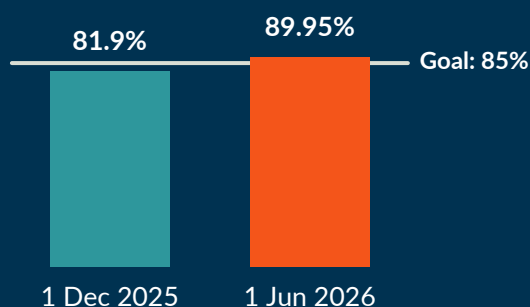
Safe Start, Strong Futures Plan 2026

Since the plan's launch in December 2025, investments aimed at enhancing quality and care across the sector have resulted in measurable improvements in meeting and exceeding Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety, as well as overall performance against the National Quality Standard (NQS):

QA2 Children's Health & Safety



Services Meeting/Exceeding NQS



Did you know?



- If you're currently working in a service that is regulated under the National Quality Framework (NQF), you have until 27 August to complete the Foundational [National Child Safety Training](#)
- The [Worker Retention Payment](#) has been extended to 30 June 2028
- [HumanAbility](#) is updating the Certificate III and Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care
- [Business NT](#) offers free business advice and support
- The Australian Government is seeking your input on the cost of delivering quality services - [Survey here](#)

Increased regulatory engagement and awareness across the sector

Quality Education and Care Northern Territory (QECNT) has observed a rise in proactive reporting, with services and providers increasingly contacting the Regulatory Authority to seek clarification and confirm regulatory and reporting requirements. This trend indicates improved service safety practices, greater awareness, and enhanced competency of the workforce in recognising and engaging with regulatory obligations.

As the Regulatory Authority, QECNT maintains that children's health, safety and wellbeing must remain the paramount consideration in service practice and regulatory oversight. This standard underpins all monitoring, assessment and enforcement activity.

For more info on QECNT visit: [Quality Education and Care NT](#)

Need support?

Early Years Advisors can assist approved providers and services with quality improvement, program planning, professional learning, and understanding the requirements of the National Quality Framework.

Stay up to date by checking the [Professional Learning Calendar](#) on our website.



Inspiring Future Early Childhood Educators

Students from Stage 2 Child Studies at Casuarina Senior College recently took part in a hands-on learning experience that connected classroom study with real-world early childhood practice.

Through exploring the Families as First Teachers program, the 3a approach and the Early Years Learning Framework, students developed an understanding of play-based learning and the role of educators in supporting children and families.

They examined how responsive, inclusive learning environments are created and applied their knowledge by designing and producing safe, durable resources for young learners using a laser printer. This experience fostered both critical and creative thinking, while providing valuable insight into future pathways in education and care, with students gaining a deeper appreciation of the vital role early childhood professionals play in supporting children, families and communities.



Useful Resources

- [Child Safety Requirements under the National Quality Framework](#)
- [Children Thriving with Risky Play](#)
- [Early Childhood Learning Trajectories](#)
- [Educational Leaders Resource](#)
- [Nurturing the Dispositions That Make Creativity Possible](#)

Contact us!

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Visit us on the web at

w. [Early childhood education and care](#)