



Mr Chiang Lim
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Dear Mr Lim

Thank you for your email of 1 May 2020, to the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, regarding the Quality Ratings Guide Star Graphic. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

As you may be aware, any legal advice provided to the Department is subject to professional privilege and as a matter of course the Department does not release such advice and waive privilege.

The NSW Government views the ongoing pursuit of quality improvement as a partnership between the Department of Education and the education and care sector. Research conducted by both ACECQA and NSW Department of Education has consistently shown that family awareness and understanding of quality ratings is poor. For families where English is a second language, and families who have other language or literacy challenges, the format of the information in the current template can be inaccessible. The new format provides families with an easy to access graphic that makes ratings easier to understand.

While the law does not prescribe the format in which ratings are displayed nor does it restrict regulatory authorities in how they choose to provide the certificate of rating for display. All states and territories have their own templates used to set out the ratings information services are required to display. Ratings certificates have always been issued to services by the Regulatory Authority following Assessment and Rating. The introduction of the NSW Quality Ratings Guide is a purposeful change to the current approach.

Materials provided to services along with their new ratings certificate will assist them to have conversations with families about understanding the benefits of quality early childhood education, the quality ratings and how to work with their services as part of the quality improvement planning process. A number of services have already opted in to be early adopters and will display the new certificates from mid-2020.

The Department's engagement with the sector has demonstrated that most services are happy to support an initiative that is designed to drive quality improvement and build on relationships between services and families. Conversations about ratings are an opportunity for services to celebrate their strengths and showcase aspects of their practice that demonstrate quality education and care.

This initiative is an opportunity to increase community participation and engagement in education and care and highlights the vital role of quality education and care services in our communities.

I look forward to meeting with you and my colleague Kathleen Forrester, Executive Director, Early Childhood Education Policy and Programs on 28 May.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Gudu
Executive Director
Quality Assurance and Regulatory Services
Early Childhood Education
25 May 2020

