

11 June 2019

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC
NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning
Parliament of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Mitchell,

**Re: Request to receive same training as NSW Department's assessors
on Assessment and Rating under the National Quality Framework
since February 2018**

During the NSW Department of Education's Roadshows and Consultation Sessions as well as their Review of the National Quality Framework (NQF) in May-June 2019 regarding assessments and ratings, there is a latent if not emerging view that there is inconsistencies in how your Department's assessors apply the "streamlined" NQF since February 2018, and arguably a disconnection of understanding by a large number of services.

The following observations of services that were re-rated during 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019 may be worth your consideration:

- (a) of the 247 services that were rated "Exceeding", **57.1% were downgraded** to "Meeting" or "Working Towards";
- (b) of the 349 services that were rated "Working Toward", 48.1% did not change their rating and thus NSW had the **largest** percentage of no change compared to any other jurisdiction;
- (c) of the 1,055 services that were re-rated during this period, 228 or 21.6% were downgraded, which was the **second highest** jurisdiction other than Western Australia who had 66 or 29.1% downgraded;
- (d) of the 1,055 services that were re-rated during this period, 233 or 22.1% were upgraded, whereby NSW was the **lowest** percentage compared to all other jurisdictions;
- (e) there remain 2,608 services (or 51.3%) who have not been re-rated since 2012 to 2016; and
- (f) there remain 1,527 services (or 30.0%) who have not been re-rated since 2012 to 2015.

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW is most concerned that NSW service providers' overall performance during 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019 appears to be poorer than any other Australian jurisdiction.

As such, we are asking that service providers be allowed to have access to the same training as your Department's assessors. This way, both assessors and services can be on the same page and services' understanding of assessors' requirements and expectations would be at its potential optimum.

I intend contacting your office to progress this suggestion with you. A similar request has also been sent to the Australian Children's Education and Care Authority (ACECQA).

Looking forward to your response. And thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chiang Lim', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chiang Lim
CEO

cc Ms Tracy Mackey, Executive Director
NSW Department of Education, Early Childhood Education