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| Children's Education and Care Assurance Alert |
|  *The Children’s Education and Care Assurance Update links professionals, providers and educators with news, resources and information that supports quality outcomes for children in ACT education and care services*January 2021**Application Fees and Waiver** In March 2020, the ACT Government waived all education and care regulatory fees to help support businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. From 1 January 2021, these fees have been re-established. These include annual service fees and transaction fees for children's education and care services as set out in the [Education and Care Services National Regulations](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/national-regulations) under the National Quality Framework. For more information, please visit the [indexed fees](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/indexation-of-fees) page on the ACECQA website. **Early Childhood teachers** Early childhood teachers – [regulation 242](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2011-0653#sec.242) (*Persons taken to be early childhood teachers)* has been extended until December 2021. This means that educators working towards an approved early childhood teaching qualification or holding an approved early childhood diploma may be considered as early childhood teachers to meet the requirements of regulations 130 to 134. Services must ensure that they obtain documentary evidence that educators are actively working towards an approved early childhood teaching qualification and have completed at least 50 per cent of the course or hold an approved diploma in education and care to meet the regulation.**Resources**Exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS) is going above and beyond what is expected at the Meeting NQS level and ensuring these themes are Embedded into practice. ACECQA has a range of resources, fact sheets and case studies to help you achieve an exceeding rating. For more information visit the ACECQA [Exceeding the NQS](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/assessment/exceeding-nqs) website. Early Childhood Australia has a range of webinar, learning module resource and professional networking nights and information available free or at a small cost. For more information visit the [Early Childhood Australia](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/) website. **Update to Early Learning Framework** Last year the Education Council commissioned an update of the two [national approved learning frameworks](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/approved-learning-frameworks) Belonging, Being and Becoming, the early years learning framework and My Time, Our Place the learning framework for school aged care.Work on the update is expected to commence from early 2021, with a stakeholder feedback and engagement process from mid-2021. Further information will be provided on opportunities for Providers and Services to be involved in this process across 2021. **Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program** The Early Childhood Policy and Regulation Branch of the ACT Education Directorate is committed to increasing the number and profile of degree-qualified educators in the ACT. Applications for the 2021 Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program close on 31 January 2021. To request a 2021 Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program information pack please email Children's Education and Care Assurance at CECA@act.gov.au or call +61 2 6207 1114.**CECA Contact Information and communication channels** To keep up to date with information from CECA all providers, service leaders and educators are encouraged to connect with CECA’s communication channels. Subscribe to receive all CECA email communications with a request in writing here, follow CECA’s [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CECAACT/) page and attend CECA’s professional learning opportunities and forums. For enquires in relation to this notification please call CECA on (02) 6207 1114 or email CECA@act.gov.auThis email has been authorised by the ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA). CECA are responsible for administering the National Quality Framework within the ACT. |

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