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| Children's Education and Care Assurance Alert |

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| *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*13 October 2020**CECA’s regulatory functions** CECA continues to transition back to full regulatory functions in response to the changing needs of the sector during this time. From 19 October 2020, CECA will recommence unannounced compliance audits and scheduled assessment and rating cycles. All functions will be carried out in line with service and Education Directorate COVID-19 protocols.  **Short message service (SMS)**As part of the Education Directorate’s Strategic Security and Emergency Management capabilities, in the event of an emergency, education and care services will now receive short message services (SMS) to their emergency mobile phone contact number listed in the [National Quality Agenda IT System](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fpublic.nqaits.acecqa.gov.au-5FPages-5FLanding.aspx-2526d-253DDwMF-2Dg-2526c-253D1Ed-2D6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw-2526r-253DdoXfx3e9HF851dufQBOH1qsyXPdpYtOXydcyVrSvFic-2526m-253DCzOw1kBmj5flQTYI1RG64jSO-5Fbfb-2D143TlFlWmQU-5F0k-2526s-253D5f1VcMML77vehaf0sxzvbqj0aRPXeT5xDmfdgr4e1Pg-2526e-253D-26data-3D02-257C01-257C-257Cf84aac02f3654cc2dd0508d86fc41820-257Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199-257C0-257C0-257C637382235296348608-26sdata-3DsErFCyNTZ-252BW-252BSmMWTo-252BWxDXcptbVAAPefus9Oc2ae0M-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAg%26c%3D1Ed-6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw%26r%3DX5HtouCg1k_g2G2gArP8idT_Oaxqu3A6HBgPaQnYgqY%26m%3Dzzsx7LiF2GD8ZUHacpbb4lBnnOAF1GMiBWZO72DHbkY%26s%3DWNa1_vp26e1WtSZuex8ZtWZZBNglOSOlsmWRYwhi3ZY%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C882016d8520f4b56241908d873b9ef58%7Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199%7C0%7C0%7C637386589716913641%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GjIQW%2Bg6OlT0mhgS28hVUVFyWZCoLV3gQoj67Bs2jKY%3D&reserved=0) (NQAITS). This emergency mobile phone contact field is located under the service profile.  On 1 October 2020 testing of the emergency notification SMS system took place, with only 48 percent of recipients responding as requested. If your service did not receive the below SMS, please check that the correct emergency mobile phone number is updated under your service profile in NQAITS. Keeping the correct details up to date in NQAITS is critical and will enable services to receive timely information and instructions in the event of an emergency. Further SMS testing will be conducted soon. Upon receiving any SMS notification from the Education Directorate, services must respond within 30 minutes from receipt.**New Exceeding National Quality Standard guidance** ACECQA has released new Exceeding National Quality Standard (NQS) guidance as part of their commitment to promote consistency, reliability and transparency in quality rating decisions. Informed by sector feedback and developed in collaboration with all state and territory regulatory authorities, the guidance and new resources include: * a series of [case studies](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fwww.acecqa.gov.au-5Fassessment-5Fexceeding-2D2Dnqs-2526d-253DDwMF-2Dg-2526c-253D1Ed-2D6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw-2526r-253DdoXfx3e9HF851dufQBOH1qsyXPdpYtOXydcyVrSvFic-2526m-253DCzOw1kBmj5flQTYI1RG64jSO-5Fbfb-2D143TlFlWmQU-5F0k-2526s-253D14e717UvoTqJAK277j2GZ9kViDXEBW7ljRy5fTJV0DQ-2526e-253D-26data-3D02-257C01-257C-257Cf84aac02f3654cc2dd0508d86fc41820-257Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199-257C0-257C0-257C637382235296358603-26sdata-3DiZv7pMuuxiwL70WifRqenp7DfbmqNjV1tmQIv0E7tdI-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAg%26c%3D1Ed-6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw%26r%3DX5HtouCg1k_g2G2gArP8idT_Oaxqu3A6HBgPaQnYgqY%26m%3Dzzsx7LiF2GD8ZUHacpbb4lBnnOAF1GMiBWZO72DHbkY%26s%3DXqLJAQMyvCN8-tdvOdIxJdskkrPGDE1amKrJRxkINTA%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C882016d8520f4b56241908d873b9ef58%7Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199%7C0%7C0%7C637386589716913641%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=m2S%2FqD2xkBX6oPxvzjiiAYMkL10Ikm2BOFOoIC8S3RA%3D&reserved=0) that offer practical and illustrative examples of high quality practice for each quality standard;
* updates to Exceeding guidance in the [Guide to the NQF](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fwww.acecqa.gov.au-5Fsites-5Fdefault-5Ffiles-5F2020-2D2D09-5FGuide-2D2Dto-2D2Dthe-2D2DNQF-2D2DSeptember-2D2D2020.pdf-2526d-253DDwMF-2Dg-2526c-253D1Ed-2D6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw-2526r-253DdoXfx3e9HF851dufQBOH1qsyXPdpYtOXydcyVrSvFic-2526m-253DCzOw1kBmj5flQTYI1RG64jSO-5Fbfb-2D143TlFlWmQU-5F0k-2526s-253DupNgLR-2DeA6CsVWsR2vH2nvwdEBKtVu7NOfpvsFZc-2D-2D8-2526e-253D-26data-3D02-257C01-257C-257Cf84aac02f3654cc2dd0508d86fc41820-257Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199-257C0-257C0-257C637382235296368593-26sdata-3DvMyL8Wp-252FqpzzE125Jp1cPcUitl2fJKnBE72NVmxYsYg-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAg%26c%3D1Ed-6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw%26r%3DX5HtouCg1k_g2G2gArP8idT_Oaxqu3A6HBgPaQnYgqY%26m%3Dzzsx7LiF2GD8ZUHacpbb4lBnnOAF1GMiBWZO72DHbkY%26s%3DPmyV4Lmz6PTuTStFYm5DPT8WmHUrLz752iHAuAbZZUk%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C882016d8520f4b56241908d873b9ef58%7Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199%7C0%7C0%7C637386589716923627%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GN4dP1zgAqzNymLpdmi5ovDVMNw5L6nu9DzWH3%2BlhdU%3D&reserved=0) (page 93). This includes translating guidance previously presented as Exceeding ‘indicators’ against each standard into reflective questions for service leaders, educators and other staff;
* a [new resource for authorised officers](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fwww.acecqa.gov.au-5Fsites-5Fdefault-5Ffiles-5F2020-2D2D09-5FGuide-2D2Dto-2D2Dthe-2D2DNQF-2D2DSeptember-2D2D2020.pdf-2526d-253DDwMF-2Dg-2526c-253D1Ed-2D6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw-2526r-253DdoXfx3e9HF851dufQBOH1qsyXPdpYtOXydcyVrSvFic-2526m-253DCzOw1kBmj5flQTYI1RG64jSO-5Fbfb-2D143TlFlWmQU-5F0k-2526s-253DupNgLR-2DeA6CsVWsR2vH2nvwdEBKtVu7NOfpvsFZc-2D-2D8-2526e-253D-26data-3D02-257C01-257C-257Cf84aac02f3654cc2dd0508d86fc41820-257Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199-257C0-257C0-257C637382235296368593-26sdata-3DvMyL8Wp-252FqpzzE125Jp1cPcUitl2fJKnBE72NVmxYsYg-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAg%26c%3D1Ed-6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw%26r%3DX5HtouCg1k_g2G2gArP8idT_Oaxqu3A6HBgPaQnYgqY%26m%3Dzzsx7LiF2GD8ZUHacpbb4lBnnOAF1GMiBWZO72DHbkY%26s%3DPmyV4Lmz6PTuTStFYm5DPT8WmHUrLz752iHAuAbZZUk%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C882016d8520f4b56241908d873b9ef58%7Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199%7C0%7C0%7C637386589716923627%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GN4dP1zgAqzNymLpdmi5ovDVMNw5L6nu9DzWH3%2BlhdU%3D&reserved=0) ( page 94) to help assess and rate at the Exceeding NQS level. The resource is a series of questions to help determine if all Exceeding themes are demonstrated for each quality standard.These questions are now being used by authorised officers across Australia and are included in the Guide to the NQF to offer further clarity and transparency for providers, service leaders and educators; and
* [this information sheet](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fwww.acecqa.gov.au-5Fmedia-5F29941-2526d-253DDwMF-2Dg-2526c-253D1Ed-2D6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw-2526r-253DdoXfx3e9HF851dufQBOH1qsyXPdpYtOXydcyVrSvFic-2526m-253DCzOw1kBmj5flQTYI1RG64jSO-5Fbfb-2D143TlFlWmQU-5F0k-2526s-253DYPxcUFy5bvzaZktsD88sRGNZY0o0AVl4c-5Fw2UPTlsOg-2526e-253D-26data-3D02-257C01-257C-257Cf84aac02f3654cc2dd0508d86fc41820-257Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199-257C0-257C0-257C637382235296378589-26sdata-3D2GX9NxU-252BH27QySYfSduFc0uEj3MpDO1HVGbY-252BGM73pQ-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAg%26c%3D1Ed-6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw%26r%3DX5HtouCg1k_g2G2gArP8idT_Oaxqu3A6HBgPaQnYgqY%26m%3Dzzsx7LiF2GD8ZUHacpbb4lBnnOAF1GMiBWZO72DHbkY%26s%3DX4t4x3wJ0cRMDhXsFosdym_-NjFMy5mAK6NGyEp5RAI%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C882016d8520f4b56241908d873b9ef58%7Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199%7C0%7C0%7C637386589716933628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=vG%2B1aRqJPMewdrsh8E4gLvwczRStcDIuPN40isMfKyA%3D&reserved=0), which provides a quick summary of the updated Exceeding NQS guidance and new resources.

**Maintaining access to current regulations** From 1 October 2020 new requirements under the [Education and Care Services National Regulations](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com_-3Furl-3Dhttps-253A-252F-252Furldefense.proofpoint.com-252Fv2-252Furl-253Fu-253Dhttps-2D3A-5F-5Fwww.acecqa.gov.au-5Fnqf-5Fnational-2D2Dlaw-2D2Dregulations-5Fnational-2D2Dregulations-2526d-253DDwMF-2Dg-2526c-253D1Ed-2D6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw-2526r-253DdoXfx3e9HF851dufQBOH1qsyXPdpYtOXydcyVrSvFic-2526m-253DCzOw1kBmj5flQTYI1RG64jSO-5Fbfb-2D143TlFlWmQU-5F0k-2526s-253DOBYzFi6uayCqk5WwNe09Hsq-2DnNmI-2DnCJ3bTmlUw6-5FAg-2526e-253D-26data-3D02-257C01-257C-257Cf84aac02f3654cc2dd0508d86fc41820-257Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199-257C0-257C0-257C637382235296378589-26sdata-3DIUH2r0gzeKgI2H55r7hOc1AfuXjr4-252B-252FRLSMPBDU0xnI-253D-26reserved-3D0%26d%3DDwMFAg%26c%3D1Ed-6ms7zRUF92PJRS6bbw%26r%3DX5HtouCg1k_g2G2gArP8idT_Oaxqu3A6HBgPaQnYgqY%26m%3Dzzsx7LiF2GD8ZUHacpbb4lBnnOAF1GMiBWZO72DHbkY%26s%3Dm-OJt0Sfv2PNKmhisfjCHQ5yfYbYqMYUgHKll0z7Aww%26e%3D&data=04%7C01%7C%7C882016d8520f4b56241908d873b9ef58%7Cb46c190803344236b978585ee88e4199%7C0%7C0%7C637386589716933628%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xCbTz%2BQTgpVg5bJn0OysnTvIRI1dRRcindLa7cbIb0o%3D&reserved=0) (Regulations) came into effect and now include changes in relation to the safe transportation of children.Providers and services need to check that a copy of the updated Regulations is accessible at any service premises at all times for use by nominated supervisors, staff members, volunteers, parents of children enrolled at the service and any person seeking to make use of the service.Services can choose to have either a printed, hyperlink or QR version of the Regulations clearly displayed and accessible in a prominent position at the entrance of the service. For enquires in relation to this notification please call CECA on (02) 6207 1114 or email CECA@ACT.gov.au. This 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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