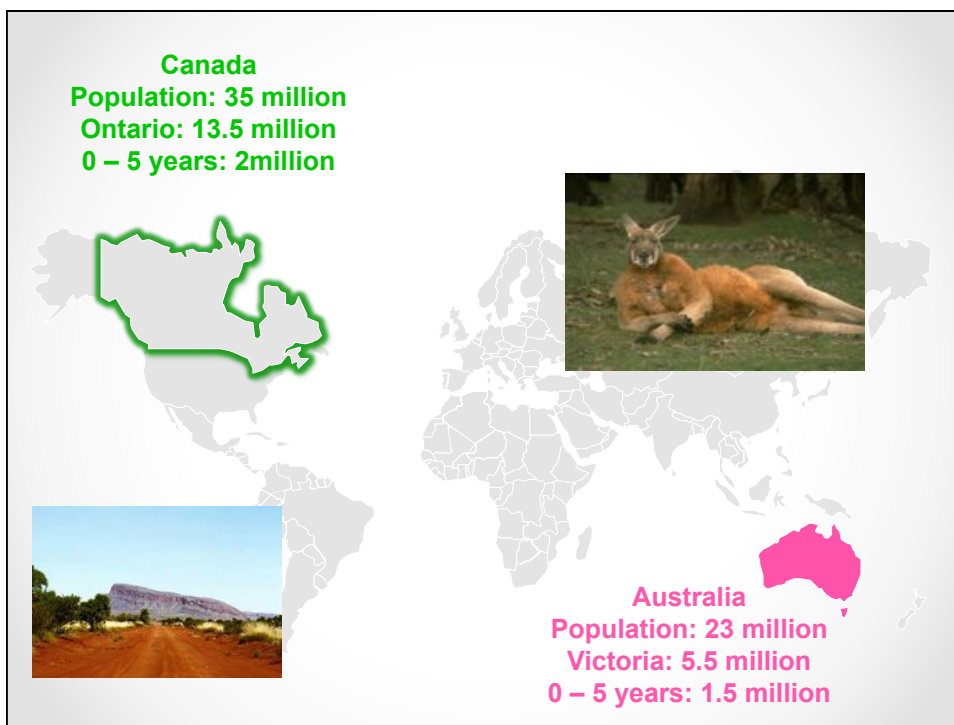




From policy to pilots to policy What's Happening in Australia?

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October 2012



Australia's health & welfare system



- Health / hospital cover
- Maternal Child Health Nurse
- Preschool
- School system

Every Australian



- For single mothers, disabled, unemployed, old-age, sick, etc.
 - Medicine
 - Utilities

Australians in need

Investment in Early Childhood

Varies from state to state

Mix of Commonwealth, State, Local Government and Philanthropic funding – some private provision

Universal service provision 0 - 5's

- Maternal and Child Health
- Preschool - Kindergarten
- Childcare access – workforce agenda
- Playgroups

What is COAG? **Council of Australian Governments**

- COAG is the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia
- Comprises:
 - Prime Minister (Chair)
 - State Premiers / territory Chief Ministers
 - President of the Australian Local Government Association

Aim of COAG

To initiate, develop & monitor the implementation of policy reforms that are of national significance & require cooperative action by governments at all levels.

COAG - Productivity agenda

- Link between investment in human capital, and increased productivity & participation
 - Early childhood
 - Education
 - Skills and workforce development
- Boost participation by 0.7%
- Productivity by 1.25% by 2030 (=\$25B)

COAG

- National Early Childhood Development Strategy
all children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation.
- A road map for action and for engaging effective partnerships across and between governments, with the non-government sector, and with families around the needs of young children.

COAG - Early Childhood

Key policy directions

1. Improving antenatal care
2. Strengthening the health, development & learning of 0-5 year olds
3. Improving the quality & sustainability of the early years learning workforce
4. Enhancing & integrating the provision of early childhood education & care services - NQF
5. Boosting the participation of parents in the learning & development of their children

COAG

Child and Family Centres (260)

- Objective to increase supply of integrated early childhood education and care in areas of unmet demand for child care.
- Emphasis on connecting with schools to ensure all Australian children are fully prepared for learning and life.

Access to 15 hours kindergarten for every 4 year old

COAG**National Quality Framework - NQF**

Removes:

- Two levels of regulation
- The national quality assurance system
- National Childcare Accreditation Council
- Individual state based regulatory arrangements
- Various state based requirements for educators to be qualified at different levels

COAG**National Quality Framework - NQF**

Introduces:

- A national Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- A national quality standard and rating system
- Improved educator to child ratios
- New educator qualification requirements
- Streamlined regulatory arrangements
- New national body – Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority - ACECQA

AIMS of the NQF

- ensure safety, health and wellbeing of children attending education and care services
- improve educational and developmental outcomes for children
- promote continuous improvement in the provision of quality education and care services
- establish a nationally integrated system
- improve public knowledge and access to information about the quality of services
- reduce the regulatory and administrative burden for services by sharing information between states and territories and the Commonwealth.

NQF – Services included

- All services in receipt of Commonwealth Child care Benefit as well as State funded kindergartens – ex WA and Tas

Includes:

- Long Day Care
- Family Day Care
- Out of School Hours Care
- Kindergartens



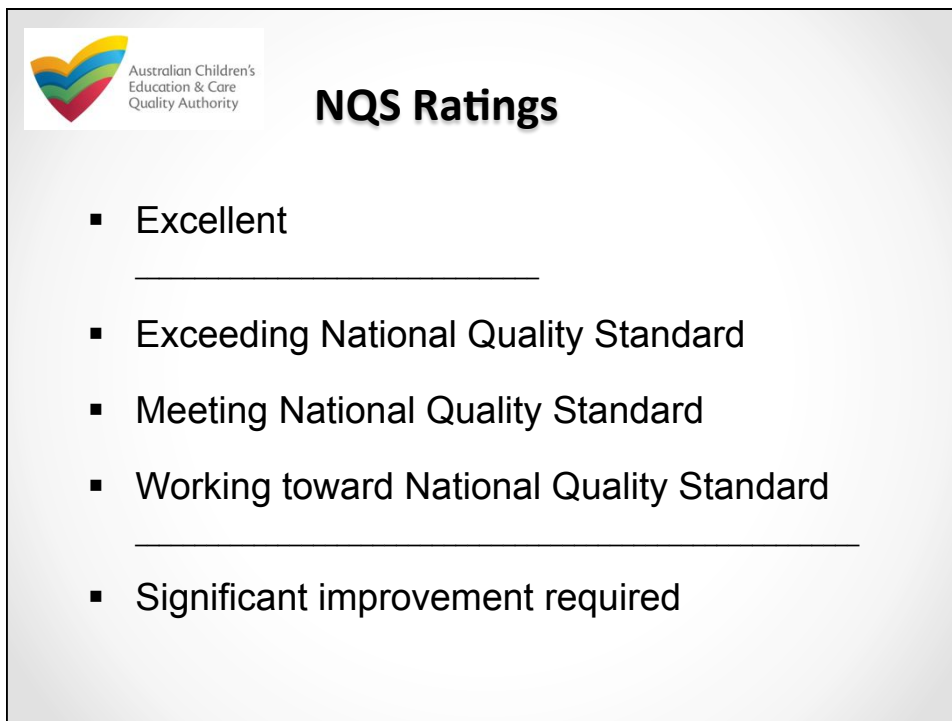
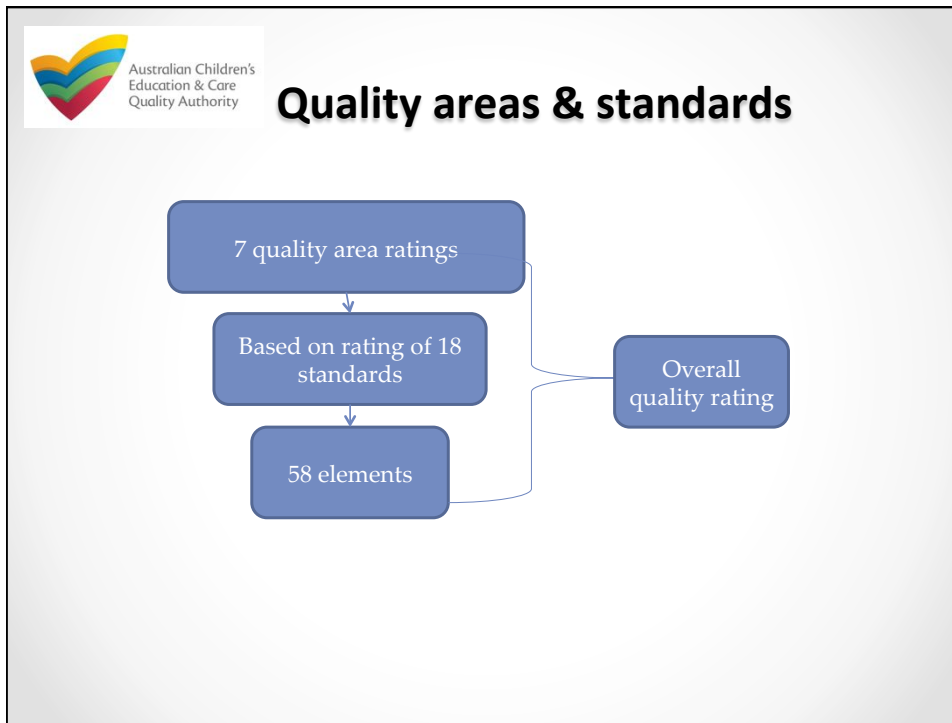
ACECQA

- Independent statutory authority, governed by a 13-member board
- Members from each state and territory
- Strategic priorities:
 - Establish ACECQA
 - Guide implementation of the NQF
 - Engage and communicate with stakeholders
 - Research and educate



7 national quality rating areas

QA1	Educational program and practice
QA2	Children's health and safety
QA3	Physical environment
QA4	Staffing arrangements
QA5	Relationships with children
QA6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
QA7	Leadership and service management



NQF – Curriculum frameworks

- Early Years Learning Framework – care and education services – 0-5years -EYLF
- My Time My Place – outside school hours services – 5-12 years

Underpins the National Standards

Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

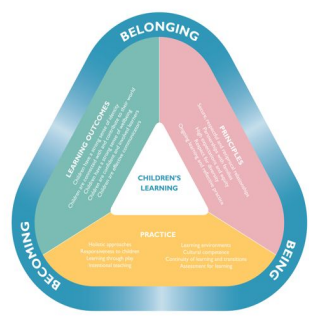
The vision:

That all children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life.



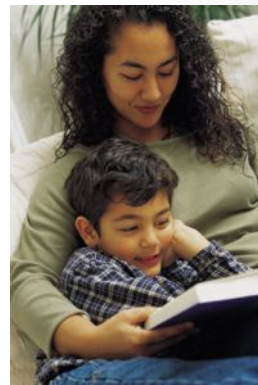
Belonging, Being, Becoming

- Themes of the framework
- Reflecting children's lives
- Acknowledges interdependence, relationships, the importance of the 'here and now', and the change that children experience



The Principles

- Secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships
- High expectations and equity
- Respect for diversity
- Ongoing learning and reflective practice



The Practices

- Holistic approaches
- Responsiveness to children
- Learning through play
- Intentional teaching
- Learning environments
- Cultural competence
- Continuity of learning and transitions
- Assessing for learning



The EYLF Learning Outcomes

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators



State Government Victoria

Dept Education and Early Childhood

Development - DEECD

- Formed in 2009
- Former education department including early childhood education and care, child health and well being, parenting, early childhood intervention
- Co-located but not joined up policy, practices or resources
- Undergoing significant restructure and change under new Government

State Government Victoria

DEECD Policy Directions

- Emphasis on improved quality in services
- Emphasis on integrated child and family services
- Improving professional development and training
- Co-location of early childhood services with schools
- Investment in not-for-profit sector
- Enhance capacity of local government to plan, develop, integrate and co-ordinate early years - MEYP

DEECD NQF - Curriculum frameworks

- Victorian Early Learning and Development framework - VEYLDF
- Age range 0-8 years
- MCH, Child Care, Kindergartens, Early childhood Intervention Services, Schools – to grade 2 (incorporating the Victorian Education Learning Standards - VELs)

Doveton College – an opportunity

- Model approved and funded prior to the Gov change in 2010
- Philanthropy partnership very powerful
- High profile with new government as a site demonstrating service integration possibilities from a school platform
- Gov looking for opportunities to demonstrate sustainable joined up models aimed at improvements in child outcomes in tight fiscal environment – no new money!

Where to now?

- Implementation of the NQF commenced in Jan 2012 – 15 hours kindergarten commences in 2013
- Current Vic government policy position in development – opportunity for Doveton model and others to influence this
- Opportunistic service development – service reengineering within a tight fiscal environment
- Role of philanthropy partnerships critical in demonstrating - driving change
- Challenges of developing methodologies and evaluating outcomes for children in tight timelines



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