

NEW NATIONAL EDUCATOR REGISTER



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority

This information sheet provides an overview of the new national educator register being developed by ACECQA.

Some aspects of this advice, including prescribed requirements for inclusion in the foundational national educator register, remain subject to agreement by Education Ministers. ACECQA will update this advice as required.

A foundational register

Education Ministers have asked ACECQA to build a new, national educator register to give regulators better visibility of who is working in the sector and where. A foundational educator register will better support the existing role of regulatory authorities to monitor, identify and respond to risk with respect to persons working in children's education and care.

The foundational educator register will be built by ACECQA within the [National Quality Agenda IT System](#), the national IT system already used by the sector and regulatory authorities.

For approved providers, the foundational educator register will be an electronic mechanism to enter information they must currently collect and maintain about their staff. This includes the following information about their staff:

- identity and contact information
- role at the service
- place of employment (linked to service details, and residence/venue location for family day care services) and date of commencement / date of employment cessation
- qualifications held (and if applicable, that the staff member is 'actively working towards' that qualification, or is counted in ratios by virtue of a probationary period)
- approved training completed (including first aid training)
- current Working With Children or Vulnerable People identifying number (or state equivalent) and expiry or teacher registration (where applicable).

This information will need to be recorded for **all educators, volunteers and students, non-educator staff, teachers (regardless of whether or not they are registered or accredited with a teacher registration body), nominated supervisors, co-ordinators, and FDC educator assistants** who are currently required to be captured and maintained by approved providers in their staff and educator records.

Individual educators and non-educator staff will not be required to register or obtain registration for inclusion in the foundational educator register – recording and maintaining this information will be the responsibility of the approved provider. Further details about these processes will be provided.

Education Ministers have agreed to mandate use of the foundational educator register by approved providers through changes to the Education and Care Services National Law.

Testing of the foundational register will commence in December 2025, with the aim of a national rollout with mandated use of the register from February 2026.

Beyond a foundational register

Education Ministers have also asked ACECQA to work with all governments to commence scoping work to provide a blueprint for the potential evolution of the foundational register.

Potential later phases will be informed by sector consultation and be subject to agreement by all governments. Options provided will aim to better support approved providers to screen workers, including through:

- identification verification processes
- integration with Working With Children Checks and similar agencies.

A full national educator registration scheme will also be considered as part of later phases.

Frequently asked questions

For educators and other staff members

Will I need to register for the foundational register or provide more information to my approved provider than I am currently required to?

No. Approved providers will be responsible for entering and maintaining information about their staff (and volunteers and students) into the foundational register. Further details on the process will be provided.

How will I know when my information has been placed into the foundational educator register?

Approved providers are already required to collect and maintain staff information from the start of employment / engagement. The foundational educator register will provide an electronic platform for entering and maintaining this required information.

If I change employers, will this be reflected in the foundational educator register and can employers use this to check my work history?

Your previous approved provider is responsible for recording your employment or engagement has ceased, and your new approved provider will need to record that your employment or engagement has commenced.

However, each approved provider will only view and manage information in the foundational educator register relating to staff in their own service(s). They will not be able to access or view any information entered by other approved providers.

Will my personal information be secure in the foundational educator register?

Information will be safely stored in the National Quality Agenda IT System, which is already used by approved providers and regulators to safely record and store information, including personal information.

Will I be able to access, check or correct the information that is held about me?

The information your approved provider adds and maintains in the foundational educator register will be the same information that is already required to be held by the provider about you in their staffing records and made accessible to regulatory authorities. Your service will be able to confirm the information that is held about you or discuss the need for updating or correcting information.

Will other staff at my service be able to see information about me?

The approved provider will enter and maintain the information in the foundational educator register and will be able to see the information they have added about staff working in their service. Existing arrangements will continue for the secure access to the National Quality Agenda IT System by approved providers and their delegated staff.

For approved providers

Who is responsible for entering and maintaining workforce information in the foundational register and ensuring its accuracy and completeness?

This responsibility will remain with you as the approved provider, in line with existing arrangements for maintaining this workforce information at the service level. For approved providers, what is changing through the introduction of a foundational educator register is the requirement for where some of this workforce information is to be entered and maintained, which will now be in a digitised format through the National Quality Agenda IT System.

Do I need to enter information into the foundational register about all staff at my services?

The requirements for which staff information is to be entered and maintained in the foundational educator register will be the same as what is currently required to be recorded and maintained by providers of services approved to operate under the Education and Care Services National Law. That is, information will need to be recorded for all **educators, volunteers and students, non-educator staff, teachers (regardless of whether they are registered or accredited with a teacher registration body), nominated supervisors, co-ordinators, and FDC educator assistants** who are currently required to be captured and maintained by approved providers in their staff and educator records (centre-based services – National Law s175, National Regulations 145–152B; family day care services – National Law s269, National Regulations 153–154).

What about temporary staff, including those employed through an employment agency?

Information about staff employed or engaged by approved providers through employment agencies and labour hire companies is currently required to be captured in an approved provider's staff records, and will therefore need to be entered and maintained in the foundational educator register.

What about when a staff member ceases employment / engagement with the service?

Approved providers will only need to include information about staff who are currently working at their services, as they are currently required to do in their staffing records. Detailed operational guidance will be provided on how information is to be entered and maintained ahead of the national rollout.

Will I be able to see information about educators and other staff who do not work, or have not worked, in my service(s)?

No. The foundational register will provide national visibility to state and territory regulatory authorities of who is working in the sector and where, at a national level. Approved providers will only be able to see the information that they have entered into the register. Options for additional visibility will be considered as part of future work to evolve the register from a foundational stage.

Will I be required to use the foundational educator register to record and maintain this information?

Yes. The National Law will be amended to require approved providers to use the foundational educator register to record and maintain information about all educators, volunteers and students, non-educator staff, teachers, nominated supervisors, co-ordinators, and FDC educator assistants.

How often will I need to update the foundational educator register?

Approved providers will need to ensure information in the foundational educator register is up to date, in the same way they currently need to ensure information in their staffing records is maintained for currency.

Once our service's information is included in the foundational educator register, will this become the only source used by regulatory authorities to monitor National Law staffing requirements?

No. While the foundational register will improve regulatory oversight nationally about staff working in children's education and care services, regulatory authorities will continue to monitor compliance with staffing requirements through a range of mechanisms, including service visits and other regulatory checks. The register is one part of a broader regulatory framework designed to promote the safety and quality of children's education and care services.

How will the foundational educator register work for family day care services?

Approved providers are currently required to maintain a register of family day care educators, coordinators and assistants (National Law s269). The information that has to be included in that register is prescribed by the National Regulations, and includes information such as the name, address, date of birth and contact details of the educator, coordinator and assistant (National Regulation 153). Parts of the new national educator register will support approved providers to meet some of the requirements for the family day care register. A future evolved version of the national educator register may consider fulfilling all requirements of the family day care register.

Section 269 of the National Law and regulations 153 and 154 of the National Regulations prescribe additional information that must be held within the FDC register and register of staff (other than an educator, educator assistant, and coordinator) engaged by the family day care service. Approved providers can use existing methods to record this information.

Will the foundational educator register help approved providers identify if someone is prohibited from working in a children's education and care service?

The [National Quality Agenda IT System](#) already includes a register of prohibited persons and suspended educators, which can be searched by approved providers to identify any prohibited persons or suspended FDC educators. This process will continue. Options for future phases of the foundational educator register will consider how the national educator register can be better integrated with the register of prohibited persons and suspended FDC educators.

For support in searching the existing register of prohibited persons and suspended FDC educators, refer to the [NQA IT System help centre](#).

As an approved provider in Victoria, how will the foundational educator register align with the Victorian Early Childhood Workforce Register?

This is still to be determined. However, ACECQA will work closely with Victoria to achieve alignment with Victoria's [Early Childhood Workforce Register](#). More information will be provided as it becomes available.

For families and the community

How will a foundational educator register help keep children safe in children's education and care services?

The foundational educator register will give regulators better visibility of who is working in the sector and where, at a national level. This will better support their existing roles to monitor, identify and respond to risk with respect to persons working in children's education and care.

In 2026, all governments will consider potential future enhancements to the register, including to support approved providers in their pivotal role in recruiting and maintaining a high quality, child safe workforce.

The national foundational educator register is just one of a suite of reforms and initiatives that all nine governments are progressing to ensure children's education and services are even safer and more supportive so children can thrive.

Further information on current national child safety reforms and national actions can be found on the [ACECQA website](#).

How will I know that staff at my service have been included in the foundational educator register?

Approved providers already have a legislative obligation under the National Law to collect and maintain staff information. The following information that is already required to be held and maintained by approved providers about staff will now be captured in the foundational educator register and made visible to all state and territory regulators:

- identity and contact information
- role at the service
- place of employment (linked to service details, and residence/venue location for family day care services) and date of commencement / date of employment cessation
- qualifications held (and if applicable, that the staff member is 'actively working towards' that qualification, or is counted in ratios by virtue of a probationary period)
- approved training completed (including first aid training)
- current Working With Children or Vulnerable People identifying number (or state equivalent) and expiry or teacher registration (where applicable).

Can I check a staff member's qualifications and Working With Children status?

Approved providers will continue to be responsible for verifying and maintaining records of their staff's qualifications, training and Working With Children / Vulnerable Person Checks. This includes ensuring that educators meet the minimum qualification requirements under the National Law and hold a valid Working With Children or Vulnerable Person Check, as required by state and territory legislation.

What information will be included in future stages of the register, and when?

This is still to be determined, however, all nine governments have agreed that ACECQA will also commence scoping work - alongside the initial establishment of the foundational register – to provide advice on options for the evolution of later stages of the register.

Future stages of the national educator register will be subject to agreement by Education Ministers, and may consider:

- robust identification verification processes, including through the potential establishment of an educator portal
- integrations with Working With Children / Vulnerable Persons Checks and similar agencies (i.e. reportable conduct)
- other information to support an approved provider's employee screening processes
- the potential to evolve to become an educator registration scheme, better recognising the professional status of certificate III and diploma qualified educators. This will consider options to support in-service professional learning, including through the recording of mandatory training and access to professional development resources.