

Media Release

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Family Day Care Australia Supports Quality Child Care

Family Day Care Australia supports the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) decision to improve the quality of early learning and child care within the early childhood education and care sector across the country.

Today COAG announced that under the new National Quality Framework there will be qualification requirements for family day care carers and staff as well as changes to family day care ratios, which currently differ from state to state.

By 1 January 2014 family day care coordinators will need to have (or be actively working towards) a diploma-level early childhood education and care qualifications or above, and all family day care carers will be required to have (or be actively working towards) a Certificate III level early childhood education and care qualification or equivalent.

Across Australia, the ratios for mixed age-groups of children in family day care will be one carer to seven children with a maximum of four children not yet attending school, which will also come into effect on 1 January 2014.

In August this year, Family Day Care Australia put forward a submission to COAG, after comprehensive consultation with the family day care sector.

In that submission Family Day Care Australia confirmed that family day care offers small group care that enables children to receive individual attention.

Family Day Care Australia CEO Rhonda Bignell said, "We are very focused on what is best for the child as all children have the right to reach their full potential. While all carers are highly skilled, experienced and trained and many hold formal qualifications ranging from Certificate III to university degrees already, we want consistency in every state and territory."

The challenges the sector faces to meet these requirements are recognised by Family Day Care Australia. Nation-wide qualifications and ratios differ in the family day care and Family Day Care Australia will work with states and territories to see how the changes can be implemented to ensure the best possible outcomes.

"A strategic plan been developed by the family day care sector, under the auspice of Family Day Care Australia, for the sector which addresses qualifications, high quality early childhood education and care. This plan clearly outlines time frames in which reforms will be implemented and goals achieved. This plan will be launched in early 2010," Bignell said.

Family Day Care Australia will be analysing costs associated with the reforms, many of which are not quantified at this stage.

Bignell believes that changes to the quality of early childhood education and care will be an encouraging step towards achieving an integrated national framework which will deliver consistency across all service types in the sector.

For further information on family day care please visit www.familydaycare.com.au or call 1800 621 218.

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