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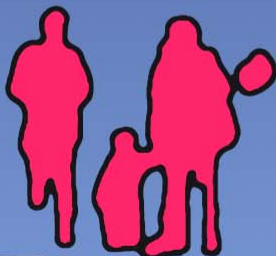
National Quality Agenda

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Early Childhood Reform Agenda

- National Early Childhood Development Strategy
- Universal Access Initiative
- National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care
- Early Years Learning Framework
- Early Learning and Care Centres
- Implementation of an Australian Early Development Index
- Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership
- Home Interaction Program



National Early Childhood Development Strategy

- July 2008: COAG asked that a National Early Childhood Strategy be developed
- July 2009: National Early Childhood Strategy was endorsed by COAG
- Vision for 2020 'All children get the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and the nation'
- Identifies a set of outcomes for children and families



Key elements of the ECD Strategy

- Supporting children in families and communities
- Balancing universal and targeted service responses
- A sustainable and qualified workforce
- Balancing quality and cost
- Effective governance across diverse responsibilities
- Meeting infrastructure requirements
- Comprehensive information and evidence to inform decisions



National Quality Agenda

COAG agreed to the development of a National Quality Agenda for early childhood education and care (December 2007), including:

- A new national quality standard
- A quality rating system
- Enhanced regulatory arrangements
- An Early Years Learning Framework



The Journey

NQA Consultations – August and September 2008

Early Years Learning Framework consultations

Expert Advisory Panel report

Joint work between States, Territories and the Commonwealth, and the National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC)



On 2 July 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to seek further public comment on a series of options to improve the quality of early childhood education and childcare (ECEC) in Australia through a Consultation Regulation Impact Statement.



Why Invest?

There is increasing recognition of the social and economic benefits of investing in early childhood.

A nationwide commitment to high quality early childhood education would have substantial long-term benefits.



Case for Change

- Duplication in regulation between national and state/territory based systems
- Need for consistent quality systems, and recognition of high quality
- Need to improve information available to parents



Balancing the Priorities

- Improved information for parents
- Improved developmental outcomes for children
- Supporting workforce participation
- Reduced regulatory burden for services
- Affordability for families, services and government



What will the reform deliver?

- A new **National Quality Standard**
- Brought together with a Ratings system into the one **National Quality Standard and Ratings Framework**
- Streamlined Regulatory arrangements
- Meaningful information for parents about the quality of the service



Quality Areas

1. Educational program and Practice, including the EYLF
2. Children's wellbeing, health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements, including ratios and staff qualifications
5. Relationships
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and Service Management



Moving Forward

- Everyone in our community, particularly families, wants to ensure the best future for Australian children.
- Regardless of their starting point in life, every child needs to be supported by their family and the wider community.
- Transforming the way Australia supports young children and their families will take time and resources.



Next steps

- Further work on the details of the National Quality Agenda and its implementation.
- Collaboration with key stakeholders is essential.
- COAG consideration later in 2009.



More information on the National Quality Agenda can be found at:

www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood

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