

24 March 2020

Review of the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority

The Chair of the Education Council, Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Education the Hon. James Merlino MP, today released the independent report on the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) review.

The purpose of the review was to ensure that ACECQA’s operations remain ‘fit for purpose’ in the current early childhood education and care environment, and in line with the objectives and guiding principles of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (the National Law).

The report, commissioned by the Education Council, found that “ACECQA plays an integral role in the regulatory ecosystem that oversees the provision of children’s education and care in Australia” by “driving national consistency” and being an essential element in the “successful implementation and administration of the National Quality Framework (NQF)”.

Minister Merlino thanked all of the stakeholders who participated in the review and noted that the consultations found that there is “unanimous and strong support for ACECQA’s continued operation”, as a result of the “broad recognition for the significant and important contribution” that ACECQA has made to early childhood education and care since it commenced operations.

The report also makes ten recommendations to inform and influence the future direction, governance, funding and operations of ACECQA. These recommendations recognise the need to strengthen existing practices and networks with governments and the sector to address new and emerging priorities within the current early childhood education and care environment.

The Education Council will respond to the report and recommendations later this year to ensure that ACECQA continues to build on its achievements over the last eight years.

In line with the findings of the review, the Australian Government agreed to provide ongoing funding for ACECQA to continue to perform its role under the NQF, from 1 July 2020.

Research shows that quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education and employment outcomes later in life. The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, resilience, healthy growth and capacity to learn. Quality education and care shapes every child’s future and lays the foundation for development and learning.

The report is available at: www.educationcouncil.edu.au

More information on ACECQA is available from www.acecqa.gov.au.

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