

Regulatory data: 2025–2026 FY summary

The sector

The number of ECEC services in Queensland continues to grow:

1%
growth

since 30 June 2025

22
additional services approved

270,019
approved places for children in centre-based services

3,366
regulated ECEC services in Queensland

3,328
under the National Quality Framework

- **1,959** long day care
- **817** outside school hours care
- **466** kindergarten
- **86** family day care

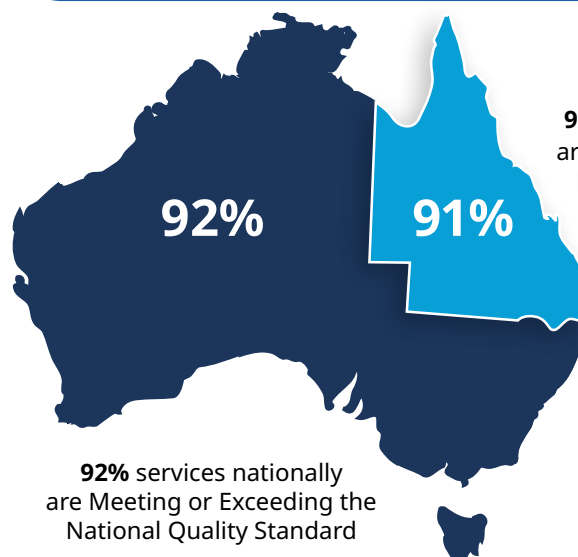
38
services under the *Education and Care Services Act 2013*

Quality

Quality ratings data demonstrates that early childhood education and care (ECEC) services in Queensland continue to deliver safe and high-quality services to Queensland children. Queensland services are some of the highest quality in the nation, with 91% Meeting or Exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS).

80% of services sustained or improved rating, compared with 82% nationally.

96% of Queensland services have a quality rating, compared with 94% nationally.



4,141

monitoring visits conducted in 2025–2026 FY

Services Meeting or Exceeding the National Quality Standard by Quality Area

1	Educational program and practice	94%
2	Children's health and safety	96%
3	Physical environment	97%
4	Staffing arrangements	99%
5	Relationships with children	98%
6	Collaborative partnerships with families and children	99%
7	Governance and leadership	94%

Compliance

In any large industry, there are instances of non-compliance. Breaches of the National Law and National Regulations are often minor or technical in nature and most approved providers are willing and able to work with the Regulatory Authority to address non-compliance when identified.

In Queensland, there is a high degree of service compliance. When non-compliance occurs, the Regulatory Authority takes prompt and proportionate action to ensure children’s health, safety and wellbeing is maintained.

Top 5 breaches of the National Law (2025–2026 FY)	Number of breaches
s165 Offence to inadequately supervise children	909
s167 Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards	537
s166 Offence to use inappropriate discipline	522
s174 Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority	237
s169 Offence relating to staffing arrangements	183

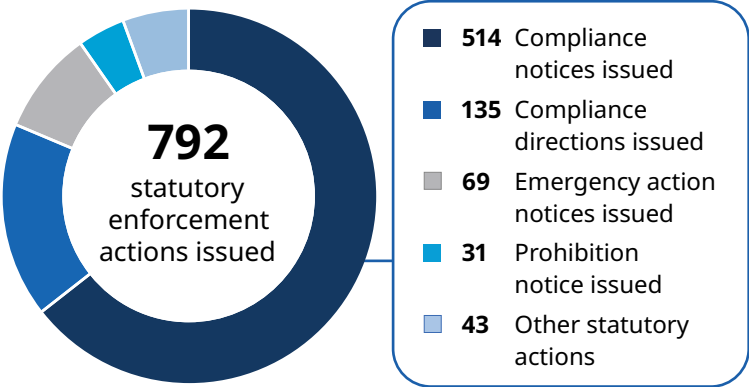
Top 5 breaches of the National Regulations (2025–2026 FY)	Number of breaches
r103 Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair	479
r170 Policies and procedures to be followed	265
r97 Emergency and evacuation procedures	256
r77 Health, hygiene and safe food practices	153
r99 Children leaving the education and care service premises	141

When the Regulatory Authority finds a breach during a service visit or investigation, the breach does not always result in statutory compliance action. In many cases, the Regulatory Authority works with the service provider to immediately identify and address risks and support services to resolve minor breaches — such as cleanliness and upkeep issues — quickly and easily.

Monitoring and enforcement

The regulatory relationship

In the 2025–2026 FY, the Regulatory Authority ensured that all approved ECEC services received at least one monitoring visit*. The Regulatory Authority’s preference is to support and work closely with the ECEC sector to achieve positive outcomes for children together. However, as the enforcement data for the 2025–2026 FY shows, the Regulatory Authority will not hesitate to take enforcement action when there is an unacceptable risk to children attending ECEC services.



Statutory enforcement actions (2025–2026 FY)	Number of actions
Compliance notice issued	514
Compliance direction issued	135
Emergency action notice issued	69
Prohibition notice issued	31
Condition imposed	12
Enforceable undertaking issued	10
Prosecution initiated	9
Inappropriate person excluded	6
Notice of suspension issued	3
Approval cancelled	2
Direction to Supervise Staff or Volunteer (not FDC coordinator)	1
Total	792

Serious enforcement action

The Regulatory Authority publishes information about serious enforcement action when it is in the public interest and/or as a general deterrent.

*Based on the number of approved ECEC services in Queensland as at 1 July 2025.

Applications*

All applications are assessed fairly, consistently and efficiently in accordance with [Regulating for Quality](#): Queensland's risk-based approach to early childhood regulation. This helps safeguard and preserve a high level of quality and compliance in the early childhood sector.



The Regulatory Authority received

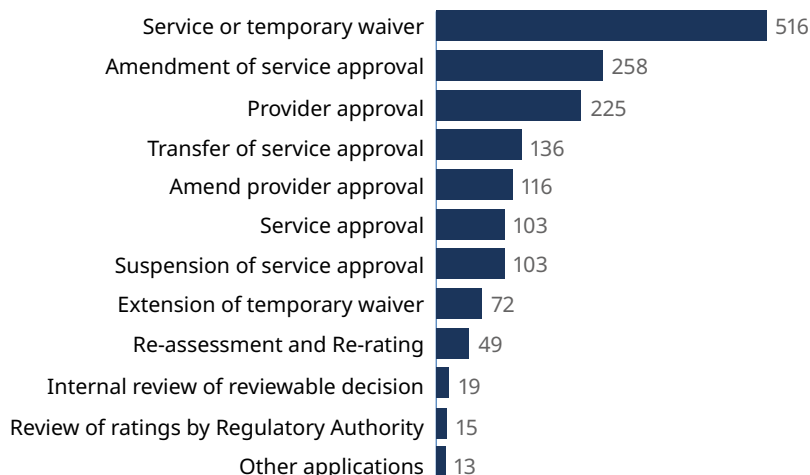
1,625

applications in the 2025-2026 FY

24%

lower than in the 2024-2025 FY

Applications received in the 2025-2026 FY



Notifications and direct complaints

The Regulatory Authority received

13,690

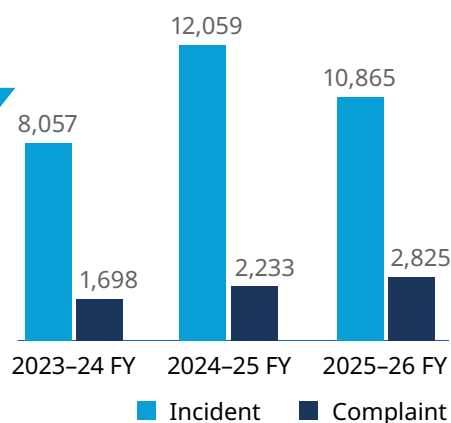
incident and complaint notifications in the 2025-2026 FY

4%

decrease on the 2024-2025 FY

10,865

Notifications of incident



The Regulatory Authority received

1,788

direct complaints about ECEC services in the 2025-2026 FY

30%

increase on the 2024-2025 FY

Complaints management

The Regulatory Authority received a large increase in direct complaints in the 2025-2026 FY compared with the previous FY. The number of direct complaints received continues to increase each year as the sector grows in size and complexity. The RA responds to every complaint it receives, and investigates when non-compliance is suspected in accordance with the [Early Childhood Education and Care Complaints Management Policy](#).

Approved providers are required to notify about a range of incidents including circumstances that may pose a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of children attending an ECEC service. These incidents are typically minor in nature, and notifications are often lodged that do not meet the threshold for an incident. Approved providers generally take their responsibility to notify seriously and have high rates of reporting. The slight decrease in notifications of incidents for the 2025-26 FY was mainly due to a high number of service closures in the 2024-25 FY in South East Queensland caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

*Includes notifications of transfer of service approval and applications determined to be invalid.

2025–2026 FY highlights

Regulatory data from the 2025–26 FY shows continued growth in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector, with increasing rates of regulatory activity reflecting this growth.

- As at 30 June 2026, there were 3,366 regulated services – 1% more than a year earlier, and a 16% increase on 30 June 2016.
- Consistent with this growth in the number of ECEC services, there were more places available for Queensland's children, with 270,019 approved centre-based places for children as at 30 June 2026 – 2% more than a year earlier, and an increase of 45% over the 10 years since 30 June 2016.
- Regulated services in Queensland continue to deliver high-quality education and care to children, with 91% of services Meeting or Exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS). To support service quality, the Queensland Department of Education has partnered with the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority to deliver the Targeting Quality Program (TQP). The TQP supports ongoing quality improvement by offering free, tailored professional support to over 300 services in Queensland rated Working Towards NQS. A total of 250 services have completed the TQP as at 30 June 2026.
- Last financial year, significant regulatory effort was expended on assessing and rating services against the NQS and conducting monitoring visits to services to assess compliance. In the 2025–26 FY, the Regulatory Authority assessed and rated 909 ECEC services, and completed 4,141 monitoring visits. On average, ECEC services in Queensland received 1.3 monitoring visits across the financial year (based on the number of approved ECEC services in Queensland as at 1 July 2025).
- The Regulatory Authority responded to a large number of notifications and direct complaints last financial year. While there was a 27% increase in the number of notifications of complaint lodged on the previous financial year, the number of incident notifications fell by 10%. This decrease is due to an elevated number of lodgments last financial year in response to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. The number of direct complaints received by the Regulatory Authority increased by 30% on the 2024-25 FY.
- While not all notifications and complaints are regulatory or require a full investigation, each was assessed and triaged using a [risk-based approach](#). Notifications and complaints continue to be an important way for the Regulatory Authority to detect and respond to instances of non-compliance in ECEC services. The high level of notifications also confirms that Queensland approved providers take their significant reporting obligations seriously.
- The Regulatory Authority continues to take robust enforcement action when non-compliance is identified, issuing 792 statutory enforcement actions last FY. A number of areas of compliance remain a concern based on data regarding the most commonly breached provisions of the legislation. These are being addressed proactively by the Regulatory Authority as [regulatory priorities](#).
- The RA received and processed 1,625 applications in the 2025–26 FY – a 24% decrease on the previous financial year. This decrease is partially explained by a higher-than-usual number of service approval amendment applications processed in the 2024-25 FY, a result of the sector reflecting on the Child Safety Review and removing conditions for a rest period.

Useful information

[Regulating for Quality: Queensland's risk-based approach to regulating ECEC](#)

[Regulatory data updates](#)

[National Quality Framework Snapshots](#)

[Register of published enforcement actions](#)