

Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme

Early childhood teacher qualifications

Who is eligible to deliver the Approved Kindergarten Program under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme?

An Approved Kindergarten Program funded under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS) must be delivered by an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT).

Qualifications of the ECT are aligned to those approved under the National Quality Framework (NQF) and should be confirmed prior to engagement to ensure eligibility for QKFS funding.

Does a service need to have an ECT?

Yes, under the NQF services are required to comply with the relevant provisions for access to, or attendance of, an ECT depending on the ages and number of children attending the service.

What if a service only requires 'access to an ECT' under the NQF?

Services solely relying on 'access to an ECT' do not meet the requirements for QKFS as the ECT is NOT delivering the program to the kindergarten children. As such, these services are not eligible to claim QKFS funding for any period the service only has access to an ECT.

Who can be recognised as an ECT in Queensland?

There are multiple ways an educator can meet the requirements of an ECT under the NQF and therefore be eligible to deliver the approved kindergarten program under the QKFS. These have been summarised in the ECT Qualifications Flow Chart, included in this information sheet.

How do I know if an ECT qualification is approved?

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is the national authority responsible for determining and publishing lists of approved qualifications. The qualification awarded should be exactly how it is listed on the approved list, including any additional conditions e.g. Transcript must show the individual completed an Award Major in Early Childhood Education.

What are the record keeping requirements for ECT qualifications?

It is the responsibility of the Approved Provider to maintain all records relevant to the eligibility of the ECT.

Approved Providers must ensure all information and records are retained and accessible at the service, to the extent practicable, to confirm the ECT meets the NQF and subsequently the QKFS Funding Category Guidelines.

A summary is provided in Table 1, demonstrating comparison of the specific records required under the QKFS Funding Category Guidelines to those required under the NQF in general.



Table 1

QKFS Eligibility Requirements	National Quality Framework	QKFS compliance/evidence
ECT that meets the qualification requirements of the NQF.	<p>ECT Requirements – National Regulations 130–134 and 241.</p> <p>List of approved ECT/ equivalent ECT qualifications (ACECQA website) – National Regulations 137.</p> <p>Records – National Regulations 145, 147, 177 and 183.</p>	<p>For ECTs, these records include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Qualifications including awards and relevant academic transcripts evidencing any additional conditions as listed on the ACECQA website ✓ ACECQA letter confirming equivalency as an ECT (This letter must state that the qualification has been assessed for equivalency and/or is an approved ECT qualification) ✓ QKFS Teacher Recognition letter issued by the Queensland Government (and evidence to demonstrate compliance with any additional requirements contained in the letter) ✓ Current teacher registration/accreditation (if required).

ECT Qualifications Flow Chart

A person will meet the ECT qualification requirements for the purpose of QKFS funding, if one of the following statements apply:

YES	The person holds an approved ECT qualification on ACECQA’s list.	
YES	The person holds a letter from ACECQA confirming that their qualifications have been formally assessed and deemed to be equivalent to those of an ECT.	
YES	The person holds a QKFS Teacher Recognition letter previously supplied by the Department of Education (and continues to comply with any additional requirements contained in the letter).	
YES	The person was employed to deliver a pre-preparatory learning program (within the meaning of the <i>Education (General Provisions) Act 2006</i> of Queensland (previously known as Bound for Success) immediately before 1 January 2012.	
YES	The person held Queensland teacher registration prior to 1 January 2012 and held, or commenced studying towards, an approved diploma level qualification on or before 31 December 2013 (and subsequently completed the qualification).	
YES	AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teacher registration/accreditation in Australia; AND • the person holds an approved Certificate III level or higher education and care qualification.

Studying Towards

In certain circumstances, a person who is classed as an actively working towards teacher may count as an ECT for the purposes of QKFS funding. Refer to the QKFS Funding Category Guidelines for further details.

To find out if an educator’s qualification is on the approved ECT qualifications list, visit the ACECQA website at www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications and use the online search tool. Should you have any concerns regarding ACECQA’s ECT qualifications list, please contact ACECQA directly on 1300 422 327 or via enquiries@acecqa.gov.au.

For more information on QKFS early childhood teacher qualifications, please refer to the QKFS Funding Category Guidelines or contact the Grants Management and Funding Unit on (07) 3035 2244 or QKFS.LDC@qed.qld.gov.au

Kindergarten services funded under the Central Governing Body (CGB) model should contact their CGB for further information.