



## OSHC questions from National Regulations Information Sessions October / November 2011

*How will the Department of Education and Communities manage the role of assessing OSHC services against the National Quality Standard?*

Mandatory competency based training in the assessment process for all the Department's assessment and compliance officers will bring reliability and validity to the assessment process and is scheduled nationally in the first quarter of next year.

*Can children under school age attend an OSHC service?*

Children who are preschool age or under may attend an OSHC service, however when those children are in attendance the OSHC service must meet the requirements that apply to services educating and caring for children who are preschool age or under.

*Can one person be the nominated supervisor for several OSHC services?*

Yes, one person can be the nominated supervisor for more than one service. However, the Department of Education and Communities encourages people who are thinking of being the nominated supervisor of several services to consider the obligations the nominated supervisor has under the National Law and Regulations. These obligations apply even if the nominated supervisor is not physically present at the service and need to be taken seriously.

*As the provider of an OSHC service how do I nominate someone to be the nominated supervisor of the service?*

In the application for service approval, the approved provider must nominate a person with a supervisor certificate (or a person who has lodged an application for a supervisor certificate) to be the nominated supervisor of the service.

The application must include that person's written consent to the nomination.

*Do OSHC services have to meet the indoor/outdoor space requirements?*

If on 31 December 2011 an OSHC service does not meet the indoor space requirements set out in regulation 107 then the regulation does not apply until the service premises are renovated or the service approval is transferred..

OSHC services must meet the outdoor space requirements set out in regulation 108 from 1 January 2012. Where a service is unable to meet outdoor space requirements, the approved provider of the service can apply to the Department of Education and Communities for a temporary or service waiver in relation to the requirement.

*If a provider is running multiple service types from the one premises, is more than one nominated supervisor required?*

An approved provider must nominate a nominated supervisor for each individual approved service the provider operates. If the provider operates multiple service types but they are a single 'approved service' then the provider only needs to nominate one nominated supervisor for that service.



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### *Does the National Law apply to OSHC services between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2012?*

Yes. Outside school hours care services must comply with the requirements of the National Law and Regulations which apply to them from 1 January 2012. There are some transitional arrangements in place to assist OSHC services in regards to approvals and physical environment.

### *Can the educational leader and the nominated supervisor at the service be the same person?*

Yes. One person can be both the nominated supervisor and the educational leader at a service.

### *Is the nominated supervisor for an OSHC service required to have a qualification?*

A nominated supervisor must have a supervisor certificate. To be eligible to receive a supervisor certificate, you must:

- be 18 years old or older; and
- be a fit and proper person; and
- have adequate knowledge and understanding of the provision of education and care to children; and
- have the ability to effectively supervise and manage an education and care service; and
- have at least one of the following:
  - at least three years experience working as an educator in an education and care service, or a children's service, or a school, or in a service regulated under a former education and care services law; or
  - an approved diploma level education and care qualification; or
  - an approved early childhood teaching qualification.

These requirements are set out in more detail in section 108 of the *Education and Care Services National Law* and regulation 47 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*.

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is responsible for publishing a list of approved diploma-level and early childhood teaching qualifications. Once finalised, the list will be available on the ACECQA website at [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au).

If you intend to be the nominated supervisor of, or placed in day to day charge of, an education and care service which primarily educates and cares for children over preschool age, you do not need to have three years experience or an approved qualification. However, if you do not have three years experience or an approved qualification and you are granted a supervisor certificate, it will be subject to the condition that you can only be the nominated supervisor of, or placed in day to day charge of, a service which primarily educates and cares for children over preschool age.

### *Do OSHC services' staff need to apply for supervisor certificates now?*

No. Supervisors at existing OSHC services will be invited to submit any applications for supervisor certificates at the same time as the provider is invited to submit applications for service and provider approvals.

### *Are educators at OSHC services required to have qualifications?*

No, there are currently no agreed national requirements for qualifications and ratios for services caring for children over preschool age.

