1. In December 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the *National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care*. This included the commitment to establish a jointly governed, uniform National Quality Framework (NQF) for early childhood education and care (ECEC) services. Under the NQF sits a national rating and assessment process for services; national ECEC laws to commence from 1 January 2012; and a National Quality Standard.
2. The Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Bill 2011 will:
* apply the Education and Care Services National Law (the National Law) as a law of Queensland to provide a national approach to the regulation, assessment and quality improvement of early childhood education and care and outside school hours care; replace existing separate licensing and quality assurance processes for pre-school (kindergartens in Queensland), long day care, family day care and outside school hours care; and establish a public quality rating system for education and care services;
* amend the *Child Care Act 2002* so it no longer applies to services captured under the National Law;
* define terms for the Queensland context, including transitional terms such as ‘declared approved provider’ to ensure the seamless transition of existing providers and services into the National Law;
* confer jurisdiction on relevant courts and tribunals in Queensland;
* exclude or change the application of some Queensland laws as the National Law will apply corresponding Commonwealth legislation as laws of Queensland in their place, including Privacy, Freedom of Information and Ombudsman laws;
* incorporate certain provisions from the *Child Care Act 2002*, such as provisions to allow the continued sharing of relevant information between this agency and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian; and
* make necessary consequential amendments to relevant Queensland legislation.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Bill 2011 to the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Bill 2011](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/Explan%20Notes.pdf)