

## Queensland Kindergarten Funding

# Early childhood teacher qualifications

### Qualifications

An appropriately qualified early childhood teacher (ECT) who has a teaching qualification recognised by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) must deliver the approved kindergarten program. ECT qualifications are aligned to those [approved](#) under the National Quality Framework (NQF).

The approved provider should confirm the qualifications before engaging a teacher to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements to claim for subsidies.

Use the ready reckoner on page 4 to confirm the ECT qualifications.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, an educator who is ['working towards'](#) or holds a qualification that is not approved under the NQF cannot deliver an approved kindergarten program.

### 'Access to an ECT' under the NQF

An appropriately qualified ECT must deliver the approved kindergarten program, face-to-face, for the operating hours of the program. Services that do not meet this requirement are ineligible for funding, even if they meet the 'access to an ECT' provisions of the NQF.

### Exceptional circumstances approval

Exceptional circumstances approval for actively ['working towards'](#) ECTs, granted to approved kindergarten program providers (KPPs) in 2022, has been extended to 31 December 2023.

To continue to be eligible, the educator under the original application must remain employed and provide evidence (e.g. transcripts) to the KPP of their ongoing progress in actively completing the approved qualification.

Kindergarten providers must [submit](#) a declaration to the department twice a year at the beginning of Semester 1 (Quarter 1) and Semester 2 (Quarter 3) confirming that they have sighted evidence of this progress.

## Applying for exceptional circumstances

Kindergarten providers may apply for [Exceptional Circumstances](#), if the educator delivering their program is actively '[working towards](#)' their early childhood qualification, and meets one of the following:

- the teacher must hold an approved diploma-level qualification and be enrolled in and actively working towards an ACECQA approved ECT qualification; *or*
- the teacher must be enrolled in and actively working towards an ACECQA approved ECT qualification and have completed at least 50%; *or*
- the teacher must have completed a primary or secondary teaching qualification, *and*
- has current teacher registration, *and*
- is currently enrolled in and actively working towards a Certificate III or higher early childhood education and care qualification approved by ACECQA.

[Request](#) an application form or call (07) 3035 2244.

Exceptional Circumstances approval granted under the QKF for a 'working towards' ECT does not replace requirements relating to ECTs or ECT waivers under the Education and Care Services National Law.

## 'Working Towards' ECT

A 'working towards' ECT is defined as:

- being enrolled in an ACECQA approved qualification; *and*
- having commenced the course; *and*
- is making satisfactory progress towards completion; *and*
- continues to meet the requirements to maintain their enrolment.

Instances where the educator **will not** be considered to be actively working towards an ECT qualification include if they:

- have not enrolled in any subjects for a semester/teaching period or more;
- have deferred or withdrawn from all subjects in a semester/teaching period or more; or
- have not successfully completed any subjects across two or more semesters/teaching periods.

## Service location subsidy eligibility

Kindergarten providers located in an eligible remoteness category who have applied for and been granted Exceptional Circumstances approval, are eligible for the service location subsidy.

## Planned or extended absences

If the ECT delivering the approved kindergarten program is on a planned or extended absence (e.g. a rostered day off, holidays, university placement, planned surgery, maternity leave), kindergarten providers must make every effort to engage another ECT to replace them.

You cannot claim funding for the period when a qualified ECT is not delivering the kindergarten program, except if the ECT is on unexpected leave for up to 10 working days.

## Unexpected or unplanned absences

If the ECT delivering the approved kindergarten program is ill or on unplanned leave (e.g. if the ECT has a medical emergency, a family member is unwell or there is a death in the family), kindergarten providers must make every effort to engage another ECT to replace them. In all circumstances, staff must meet the requirements of the National Law.

If the unexpected/unplanned leave is for 10 consecutive working days or less, and a qualified ECT cannot be recruited, you may engage an educator who

meets the requirements of the National Law, such as a diploma-qualified educator.

An approved provider can claim funding for the approved kindergarten program for this period, up to 10 working days, if the absence was unexpected.

## Record keeping

Approved providers must ensure that all information and records are retained and are accessible at the service, to the extent practicable, to confirm the ECT continues to meet the eligibility requirements for kindergarten subsidies.

Information demonstrating compliance must be provided to the department when requested.

## Qualifications ready reckoner

A person will meet the ECT qualification requirements for the purpose of Queensland Kindergarten Funding if <b>one</b> of the following statements applies		
✓ The person holds an approved ECT qualification on ACECQA's list.		
✓ The person holds a letter from ACECQA confirming that their qualification/s have been formally assessed and deemed to be equivalent to those of an ECT.		
✓ 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).		
✓ 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.		
✓ 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).		
✓ The person holds a primary or secondary teaching qualification.	<b>AND</b>	✓ teacher registration/ accreditation in Australia <b>AND</b> ✓ the person holds an approved Certificate III level or higher education and care qualification.

## More information

- Refer to the [Queensland Kindergarten Funding Essentials](#) on the Department of Education website.
- Contact the Grants Management team on (07) 3035 2244 or by email at [QKFS.LDC@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:QKFS.LDC@qed.qld.gov.au).
- Sessional kindergartens can contact their central governing body.