



# Submission summary: Child Safety Review under the National Quality Framework (NQF)

Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Child Safety Review under the National Quality Framework. We strongly support the review's focus on strengthening child safety arrangements across the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector.

## ABOUT THIS SUBMISSION

Shaped by our vision for excellence and equity in ECEC

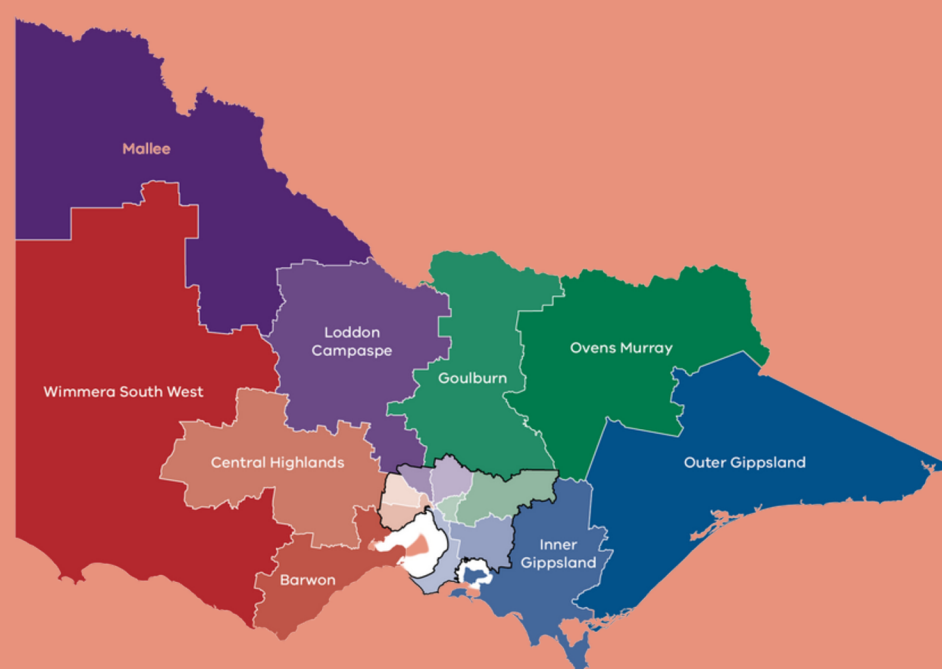
Developed through consultation with ELAA's diverse membership

Reflects experiences and insights of our members

## CONSULTATION PARTICIPANTS

- Early years management
- Committee of Management
- Stand-alone kindergarten ECEC staff groups
- Long day care services
- Privately operated facilities
- Services connected to a public school or independent school
- Integrated services
- Business partners to providers

## PARTICIPANTS LOCATION



Strong representation from regional and metropolitan Victoria

map source Department of Education (VIC)



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## OUR RESPONSE TO THE SIX KEY THEMES OF THE REVIEW



### Management of digital devices

ELAA supports tightening regulations around the use of personal digital devices when working with children.



### Child safety training

ELAA supports legislative change to introduce nationally consistent, mandatory child safety training for all staff and volunteers – including those without direct child-facing roles.



### Consistent national positions

ELAA supports establishing consistent national positions on mandatory reporting, child safe standards, and training, including consistency across federal, state and territories about mandatory reporting and definitions of inappropriate behaviour.



### Working with Children Check (WWCC)

ELAA supports conducting a fundamental review of the WWCC system and consideration of a joined-up approach for workforce screening.



### Improving the safety of the physical service environment

ELAA supports tightening the regulations on temporary waivers for physical premises to ensure they are timely and time limited.



### Additional recommendations

- Strengthen monitoring and regulation of 'related providers'.
- Increase transparency about service ownership,



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## BROAD ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

Appropriate  
funding  
required

Regulators require a significant investment in funding to best manage what is considerable change to the system and the sector. Service providers will need investment to support practice and culture change too.

Training and education of both regulators and sector staff will be key to the successful implementation of this wide ranging reform.

Training and  
education is  
the key

Clearer, more  
consistent  
definitions

The sector, at all levels, requires improved clarity and consistency of key terms and definitions to drive the changes needed.





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## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

### 01. Sector diversity and fragmentation

The sector is complex, diverse and fragmented, so implementation will need a sophisticated change management approach.

### 02. Poorly remunerated sector

As a highly feminised workforce, the sector has had a systemic issue with poor remuneration for its work, as highlighted by the Gender Based Undervaluation Review.

### 03. Workforce availability

Further changes may place pressure on finding and attracting qualified and quality staff.

### 04. Smaller service providers

Smaller, community-run services with tighter margins and staff ratios may need further support to implement changes.