

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood Education and Child Care**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW1178\_12

**Senator Back asked on 16 February 2012 , Hansard page 17**

**Question**

**Formal qualifications for family day care providers**

Senator BACK: Okay. Could you give us an indicator, in terms of the future, of how many family day care providers will need to gain a formal qualification to comply before 2014?

Ms Taylor: The ratios that come in under the national quality framework from 1 January 2014 have a ratio of one to seven, with a maximum of four children under school age in that centre. Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT already have that ratio in place. In relation to the other states and their ratios I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer**

The 2010 National Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Workforce Census showed that there were 7 923 (63%) paid contact staff working in family day care with an ECEC-related qualification<sup>i</sup>. This was from a total of 12 733 Family Day Care educators who responded to the census. Of these educators, 744 did not specify their qualification level. This is point in time data which does not take into account Family Day Care educators who may have been undertaking study to gain their qualification at the time of the census.

From 1 January 2014, family day educators will need to hold or be working towards a Certificate III qualification.

The ratios for Family Day Care that come into effect under the national quality framework from 1 January 2014 have a ratio of one to seven, with a maximum of four children under school age in that service. Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT already have this ratio in place.

For the other States and Territory, their current Family Day Care ratios are:

- Western Australia and Northern Territory have a ratio of 1:7 with a maximum of five children under school age;
- New South Wales has a ratio of 1:7 with a maximum of five children under 6 years of age;
- Tasmania has a ratio of 1:7 with a maximum of five children under 5 years of age (maximum of four children for unqualified educators).

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<sup>i</sup> Relevant ECEC qualifications include early childhood teaching, primary teaching, other teaching, child care, nursing (including mothercraft nursing), other human welfare studies, behavioral science and other early childhood education and care related qualifications.