

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

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

Outcome 1 - Early Childhood

DEEWR Question No.EW0190_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Accreditation

1. How many centres are regarded as 'new registration'?
2. How long do these centres have to work towards their accreditation?
3. How frequently are these centres monitored in the lead up?
4. How many child care centres have had their eligibility for CCB retracted by DEEWR following failing accreditation?
5. Where serious breaches occur, such as the case in Victoria where a family day carer had a registered sex offender residing at a home where Family Day Care was offered, would you expect immediate suspension of this provider?

Answer

1. The National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC), which is funded by the Australian Government, is responsible for the implementation and administration of the current approved Child Care Quality Assurance (CCQA) systems for Long Day Care (LDC) centres, Family Day Care (FDC) schemes and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services.

As at 1 June 2011 there were 9,988 services participating in the current Child Care Quality Assurance systems. Of these 9,988 services the number of New Registrations is:

Service Type	Number
Long Day Care	1491
Family Day Care Schemes	60
Outside School Hours Care	692
Total New Registrations	2243

2. For the current CCQA systems, services participate in the following five step accreditation process:

1. Registration (services pay an annual fee)
2. Self-study (new services are required to submit a self-study report 18 months from the date of the service's initial registration with NCAC. Accredited services submit a report every two and a half years).
3. Validation (services undergo a validation visit at the service – within 12 weeks of receipt of Self Study Report)
4. Moderation (consideration of self-study and validation – process can take 6-

- 8 weeks)
5. Accreditation Decision (timeframe from moderation to decision is a maximum of 5 days. Services advised of decision within 5 days of finalisation).

Services that do not meet the standards required for Accreditation are required to submit another Self Study Report six months from the date of the Accreditation Decision.

3. Newly registered services are required to submit a self study report within 18 months of their initial registration with the NCAC. The NCAC will conduct a validation visit at the service within three months of the service's submission of their self study report. All newly registered services are also eligible to receive a spot check by the NCAC. A Spot Check is a short unannounced visit to a child care service to check that the service is providing quality care for children.

4. No service to date has had its CCB approval suspended or cancelled for failing accreditation. However, services that do not show satisfactory progress towards becoming accredited may be sanctioned by imposing additional conditions.

5. It is a condition of continued CCB approval that all services must comply with their state or territory child care laws. Approved child care services are subject to possible sanctions if they do not comply with any condition of approval. Sanctions may include suspension or cancellation of approval or possible civil penalties.

State and Territory governments are responsible for ensuring services fulfil their obligations under state licensing requirements, including ensuring that police and working with children checks for all educators and other adult occupants or frequent visitors to the house are undertaken. Failure to comply with these obligations may result in the cancellation of the service's licence. If a service loses its licence, this will result in cancellation of its CCB approval.

NCAC validators will refer a service with an unsafe environment or practices to the relevant state and territory regulatory authority. The accreditation decision for a service will be deferred until the NCAC is advised by the relevant state or territory that the service is compliant with the regulations.