

IEUA-QNT SUBMISSION

5 September 2024

Submission: Sunset Review of the Queensland Education and Care Services Regulation 2013

The Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory Branch (IEUA-QNT) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Department of Education’s sunset review of the Queensland Education and Care Services Regulation 2013 [1].

About IEUA-QNT

IEUA-QNT represents ~16,000 teachers, support staff and ancillary staff in non-government education institutions in Queensland and the Northern Territory and consistently engages in industrial and education debate at both state and national levels through its Education and Industrial Committees and through its national counterpart, the Independent Education Union of Australia, which receives input from teachers in all States and Territories.

In relation to the early childhood sector, our members work primarily in sessional kindergartens that operate under national law, but we do represent workers in early childhood settings that operate under State legislation.

Submission Points

1. We note that this review of the Queensland Education and Care Services Regulation is part of the normal sunset procedure, with the regulation set to expire in 2025.
2. We understand that there is no expectation that the regulation will be allowed to lapse and the consultation paper [2] identifies some fairly specific changes that will be incorporated into a new regulation.
3. These changes will affect only the 51 services that sit outside the national laws and we have sought approval from Department of Education officers to make a written submission, rather than completing the online survey, which is designed primarily for completion by staff located within affected services.
4. We would register our broad support for all changes that enhance child safety.
5. Although we note that alteration to compliance requirements to bring the Queensland framework into alignment with the national laws would, in some ways, represent an increase in regulatory burden for services operating under the Queensland legislation, it does appear that greater alignment is a long-term goal of reforms and we would, therefore, support changes of this nature.
6. We also note concerns in relation to further downstream changes that will be required following completion of the National Child Safety Review. In particular, we note that there is a need to consider that:

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- a. Staff with caring responsibilities may require access to personal devices during the day to meet their caring responsibilities and;
 - b. That, where CCTV is installed for compliance purposes, privacy and consent implications emerge when these devices are capturing images of children.
7. We would suggest that these matters should also be considered during the process of redrafting the Education and Care Services Regulation.
 8. We also note that Sections 10-13 of the current regulation reference the documentation of educational programs and learning/development outcomes for individual students.
 9. In that context, we draw attention to the work of our federal union (the IEUA), in collaboration with ACECQA, to clarify the level and extent of documentation required and, in particular, what might be considered duplicative and excessive.
 10. This work has been of vital importance to our members, who are able to use the resultant ACECQA Fact Sheets [3-6] to challenge unreasonable employer demands.
 11. While inclusion of specific advice regarding program documentation may not be appropriate for inclusion in the Regulation, we would welcome accompanying advice from the Department of Education that could support management of workload in the early childhood sector.

Concluding Comments

IEUA-QNT thanks the Queensland Department of Education for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the review of the Queensland Education and Care Services Regulation 2013. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in further discussion as the review progresses.

Kind regards,



Terry Burke
Branch Secretary
Independent Education Union of Australia -Queensland and Northern Territory Branch
Thursday 5 September 2024

References

1. *Education and Care Services Regulation 2013.*
2. *Consultation Paper - Review of the Education and Care Regulation 2013. 2024,* Queensland Government: Brisbane.

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3. Australian_Children's_Education_&_Care_Quality_Authority, *EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION FOR APPROVED PROVIDERS Early Childhood Information Sheet*. 2024, ACECQA: Sydney.
4. Australian_Children's_Education_&_Care_Quality_Authority, *EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION FOR APPROVED PROVIDERS School age care Information Sheet* 2024, ACECQA: Sydney.
5. Australian_Children's_Education_&_Care_Quality_Authority, *EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION FOR EDUCATORS School age care Information Sheet*. 2024, ACECQA: Sydney.
6. Australian_Children's_Education_&_Care_Quality_Authority, *EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION FOR EDUCATORS AND TEACHERS Early childhood Information Sheet*. 2024, ACECQA: Sydney.