



Supporting the provision of quality, inclusive children's services

# National Quality Framework Working Groups Session 1



# Children's Services Central

Supporting the provision of quality, inclusive children's services

## Who we are:

- Children's Services Central is the NSW Professional Support Coordinator (PSC)
- We are funded by the Australian Government
- We are a part of the Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP).





# How we support children's services

Supporting the provision of quality, inclusive children's services

- A free call number (1800) to answer any of your questions
- Innovative professional learning programs
- Individualised service support and support for new services
- A mentoring program
- General Resource Library
- Specialist Equipment Pool
- A website, including comprehensive information on professional learning, support and resources
- A range of publications and resources





# How can services access support?

Supporting the provision of quality, inclusive children's services

- Call 1800 157 818
- Professional Development Calendar
- Website – [www.cscentral.org.au](http://www.cscentral.org.au)
- Email – [info@cscentral.org.au](mailto:info@cscentral.org.au)







# What are our goals for these NQF groups?

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- Informing and influencing and inspiring
- Provide an opportunity for networking and community outreach/ mentoring/ relationships
- Establish a platform for expressing needs and desires be proactive rather than reactive
- Answering questions and encouragement to find answers
- Encourage inquiry
- Encourage innovation and creativity in meeting changes
- Personal and professional challenges
- Meet the National Quality Standards

# ...and how exactly are we going to do that?

## Every week

- Revise and debrief-Revisit Code of Conduct, NQF on the couch- therapy sessions, questions that have come up;
- Content, group inquiry and reflection;
- Homework;
- Questions and comments from the current session;
- Summary for the following week and an agreement on what will be covered.



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# Objectives for week 1

- Establish boundaries and frameworks for learning;
- Engage in content learning on Regs and NQF;
- Get to know resources and wikis;
- Learn about the Thinking Environment
- Map needs and learning goals for the period of 5 sessions;

***Decide dates for upcoming sessions***





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# A Code of Conduct....



# What you said about yourselves...

## 1. What is the location of the Working Group you have booked into?

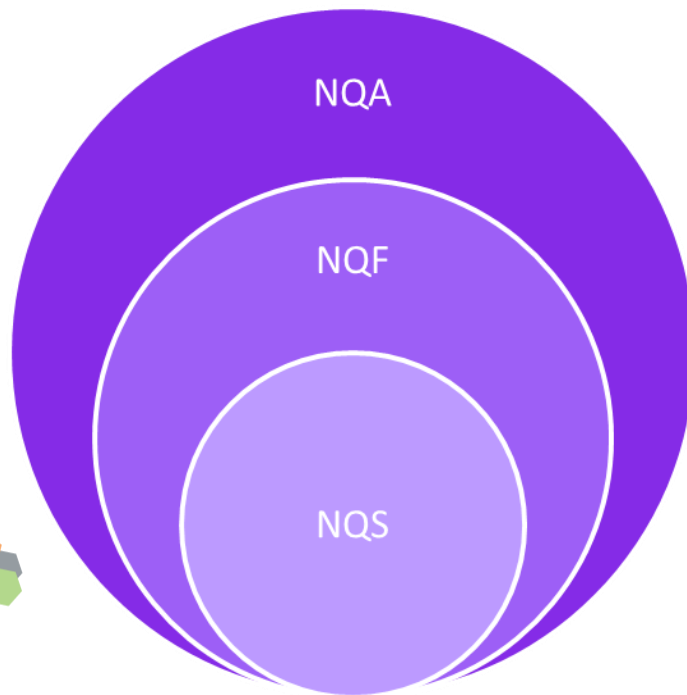
	Response Percent	Response Count
Lismore	0.0%	0
West Gosford	0.0%	0
Liverpool	0.0%	0
Rooty Hill	0.0%	0
Hornsby	0.0%	0
Batemans Bay	0.0%	0
Moree	0.0%	0
Harbord	0.0%	0
Griffith	100.0%	3
Bathurst	0.0%	0
answered question		3
skipped question		0



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# What is the National Quality Framework?



- **NQA** (National Quality Agenda)
- **NQF** (National Quality Framework)
- **NQS** (National Quality Standards)



# What are Regulations?

- Regulations are the way that laws are applied.
- Our regulations are the rules under which children's services must operate.
- We used to operate under a NSW Regulation.



As of 1<sup>st</sup> January this year we now operate under National Regulations.



We previously had a NSW Law and the Children's Services Regulation 2004.

We now have the:

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

and

Education and Care Services National Regulations  
2011



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# You have to have a copy!

It is an offence under the Regulations not to have one.

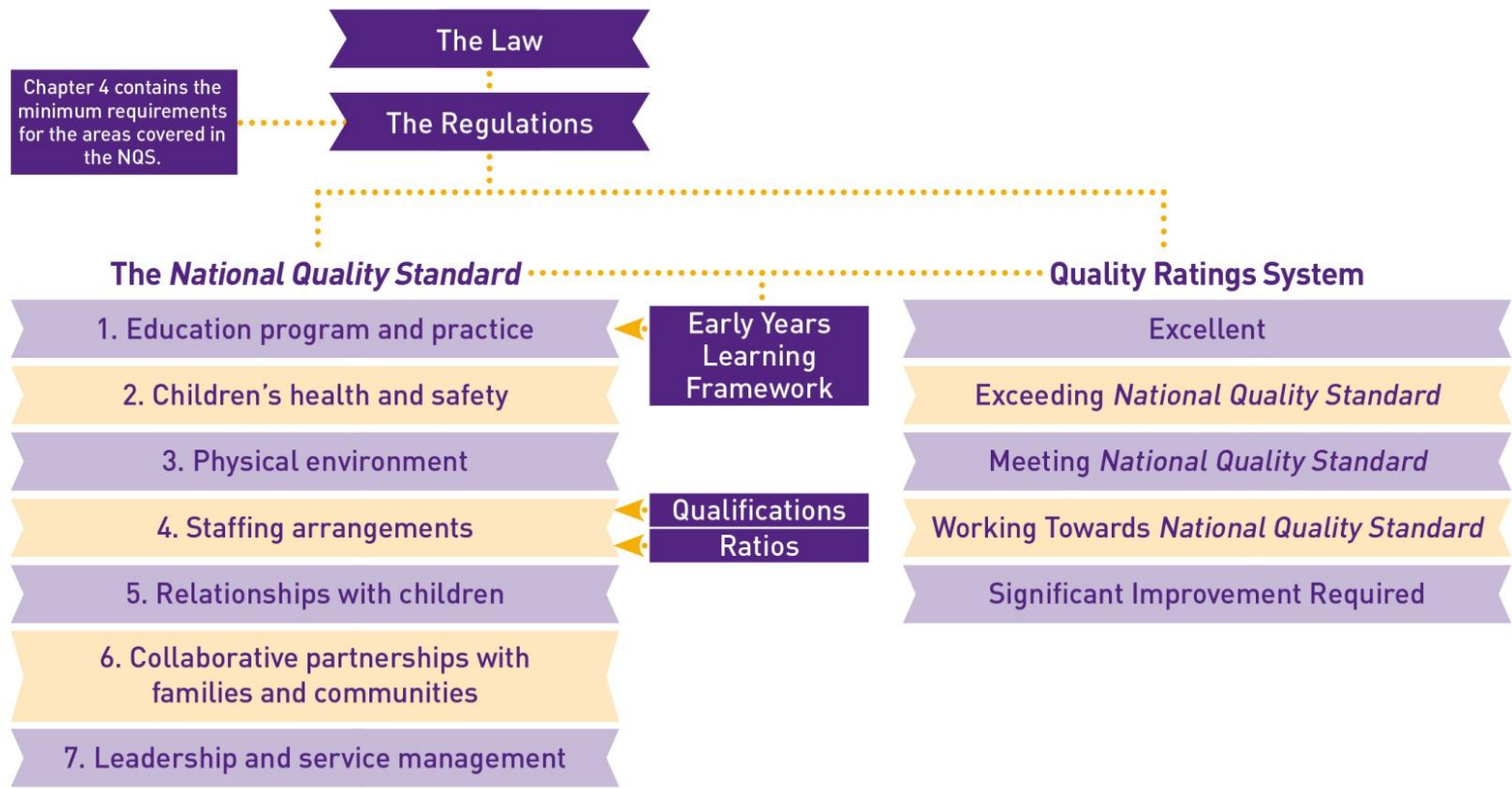
- ▶ Download it;
- ▶ View it online;
- ▶ DEEWR will send all services one on a CD.

**Chapter 4 and Chapter 7 are the main chapters you need to be aware of.**



# The Regulations and the National Quality Standard

## The National Quality Framework



# When does it all happen?

- Abide by Regulation – January 2012
- Changes to Ratios - January 2016
- Changes to Qualifications – January 2014
- QIP - April 30, 2012
- Assessment – From June 2012



# Approvals

- You had a Licence

(Children's Services Provider Licence and Service Approval)

- PROVIDER APPROVAL: nationally recognised – enables providers to apply for Service Approvals in any Australian state or territory.

- SERVICE APPROVAL: authorises an approved provider to operate a specific education and care service.



# Nominated Supervisors

- Every service must appoint a single Nominated Supervisor.
- To be a Nominated Supervisor you must have a Certified Supervisor's Certificate and be appointed by your service as the Nominated Supervisor.
- The Nominated Supervisor responsible (along with the Approved Provider) for ensuring it is following the Law and the Regulations eg ratios and qualifications.





# Certified Supervisors

- Do not have same responsibilities as a Nominated Supervisor.
- Must have specified skills and experience.
- A Supervisor's Certificate stays with the individual – not the service.



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# Responsible Person

- Under the Regulations, you must have a responsible person present whenever there are children being educated and cared for by the service.
- A responsible person can be:
  - The APPROVED PROVIDER; or
  - The NOMINATED SUPERVISOR; or
  - A CERTIFIED SUPERVISOR who has been placed in day-to-day charge of the service.



# So how do we do this?

Most services will probably choose to have a number of their staff apply for Supervisor's Certificates so that there is always someone who can be the responsible person at their service.



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# Educational Leader

- Every service must also have an Educational Leader. (designated in writing)
- They must be “suitably qualified and experienced”.
- Their role is to “lead the development and implementation of educational programs in the service”.



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# Qualifications

- Minimum Qualification: Certificate III in Children's Services (or working towards)
- 50% of staff: a Diploma or higher qualification (or working towards)





# Early Childhood teachers

Up to 24 children



Access to a teacher 20% of the time the service is open

25→29 children



1 teacher for six hours per day if the service is open less than 50 hours per week, or 60% if open for more than 50 hours per week

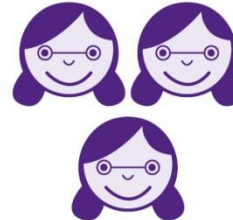
30→39 children



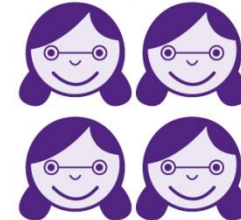
40→59 children



60→79 children



80+ children



# Ratios

- For NSW services the only change to ratios is for toddlers (25 months to 35 months). The new ratio from 2016 is 1 educator to 5 children.
- Educators must be working directly with children to be included in the ratios.
- For mixed age group ratios see the printed resource.



# General

The National Quality Standard is the standard against which services:

- ▶ Self-assess their performance in delivering quality education and care;
- ▶ Plan future improvements to their service via the Quality Improvement Plan; and

Are assessed against by the Department of Education and Communities.



# Self Assessment

- Self-assessment drives reflection on quality education and care
- Reflection determines quality improvements



# Quality Improvement Plans

- The outcome of self-assessment against the Standard is the development of a Quality Improvement Plan.
- You need to prepare your plan by 30 April 2012.
- You only need to send it to DEC when they request it.





# Assessor visits

- Assessment undertaken by DEC (assessment and compliance officers)
- Service notified, asked to submit QIP
- Then will get date of assessment and rating visit



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# When will assessment start?

- June 2012!
- All service's initial rating will be “Provisional—Not Yet Assessed under the National Quality Framework”.



# Ratings

Your service can be awarded one of 5 quality ratings:

Excellent

Can only be awarded by ACECQA

Exceeding *National Quality Standard*

Meeting *National Quality Standard*

Working Towards *National Quality Standard*

Significant Improvement Required

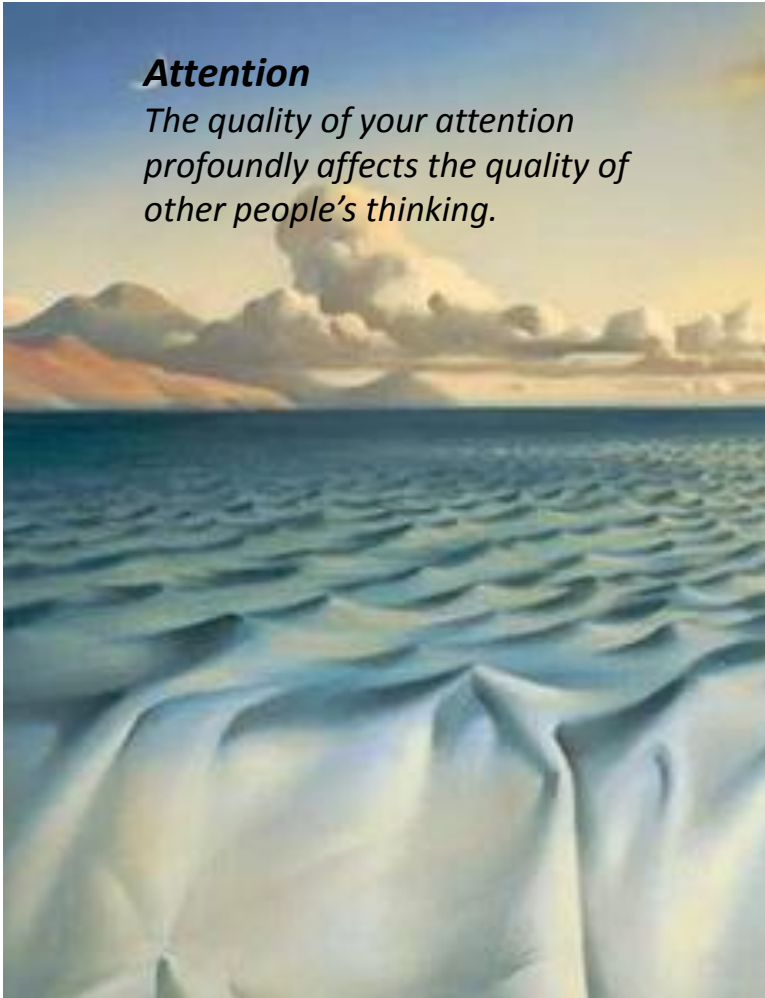
Awarded by the  
Department of Education  
and Communities (DEC)

QSC

# The thinking environment

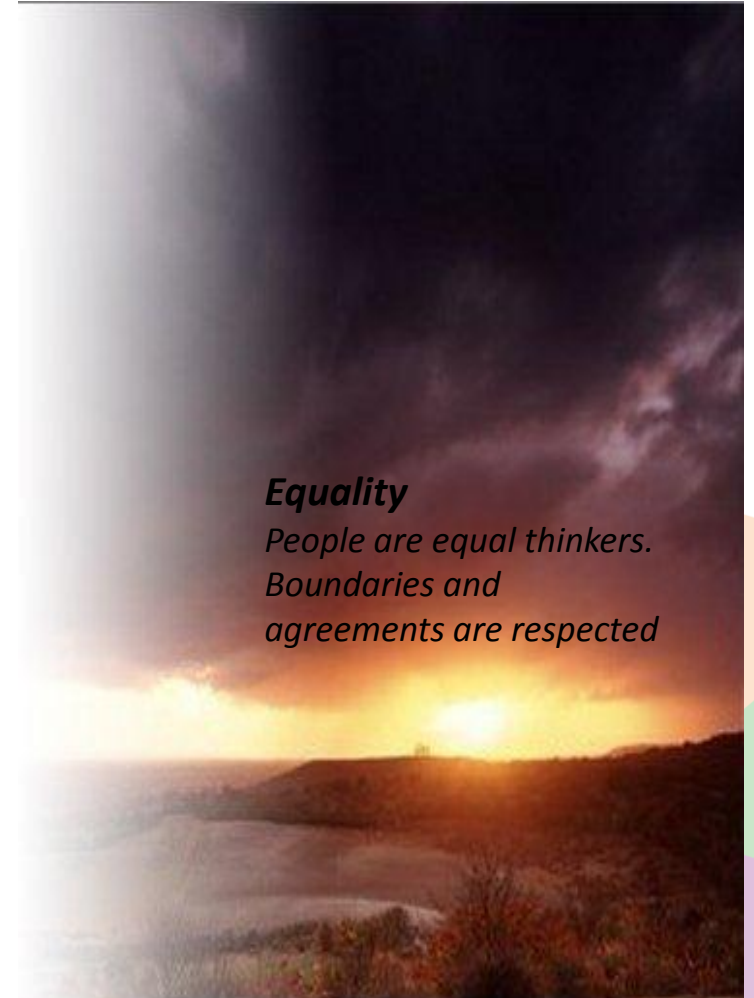
## **Attention**

*The quality of your attention  
profoundly affects the quality of  
other people's thinking.*



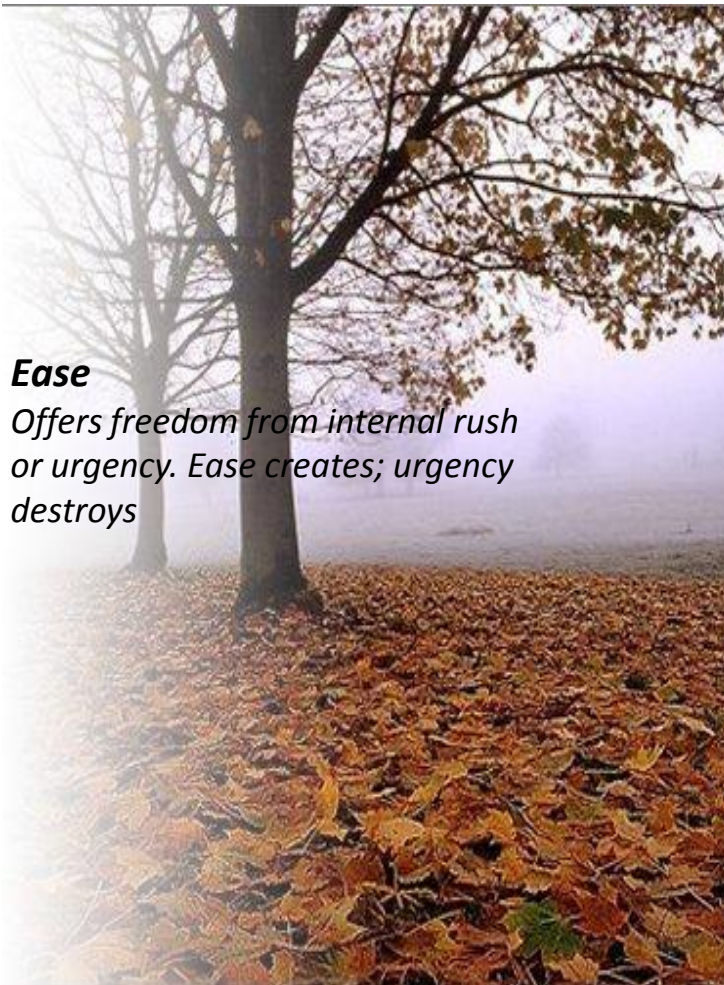
## **Equality**

*People are equal thinkers.  
Boundaries and  
agreements are respected*





# The thinking environment

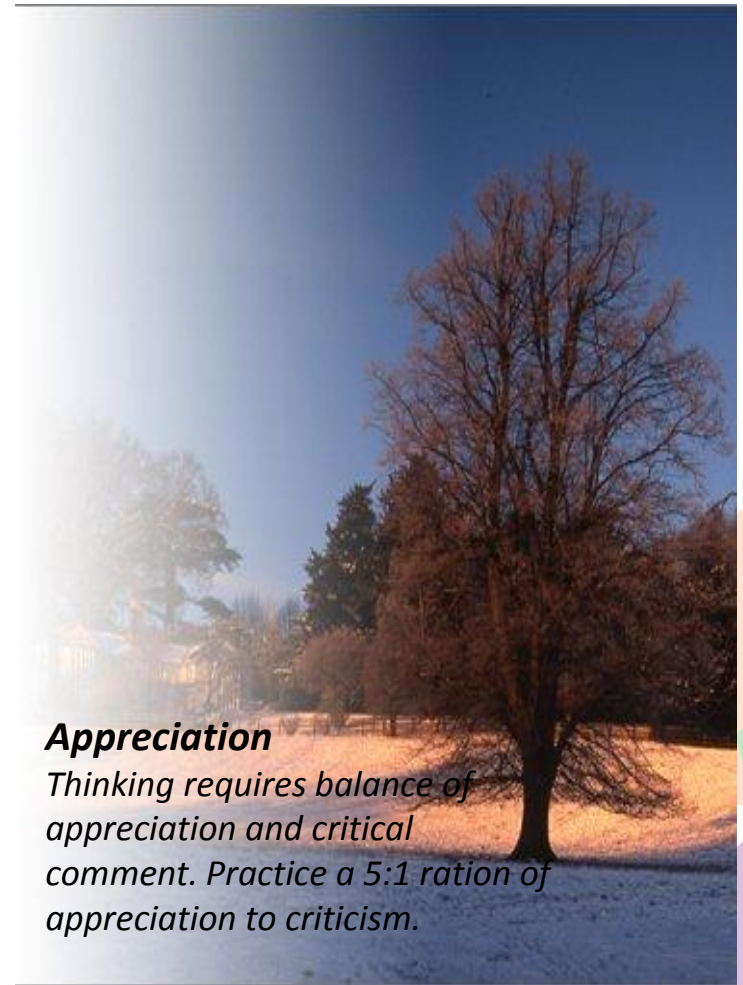


## ***Ease***

*Offers freedom from internal rush or urgency. Ease creates; urgency destroys*



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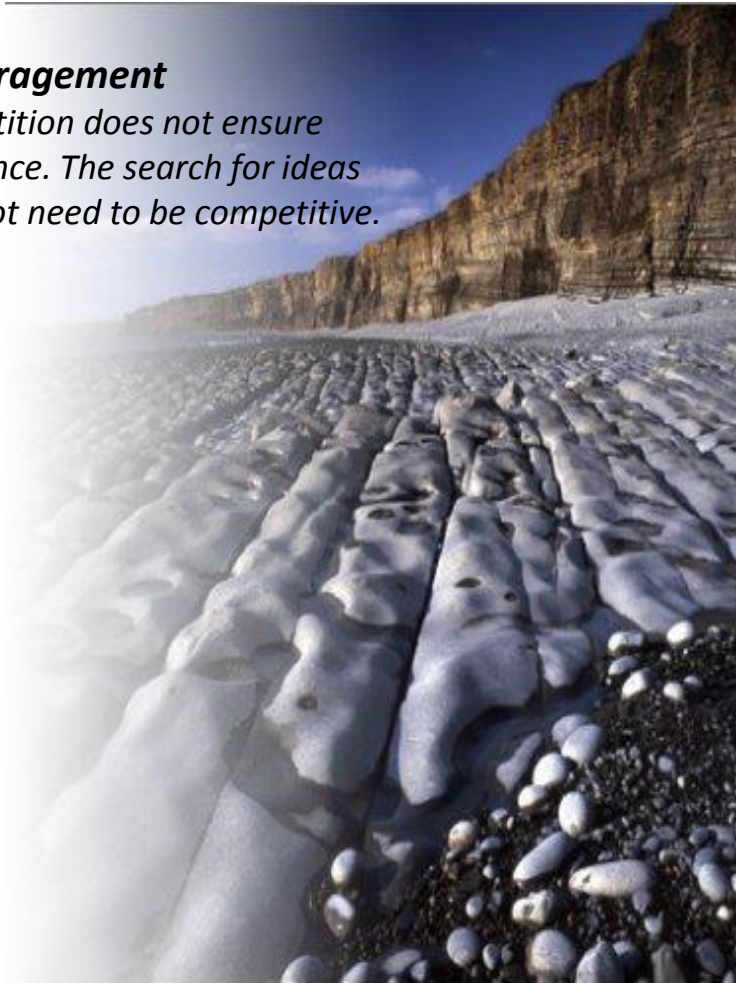
## ***Appreciation***

*Thinking requires balance of appreciation and critical comment. Practice a 5:1 ration of appreciation to criticism.*

# The thinking environment

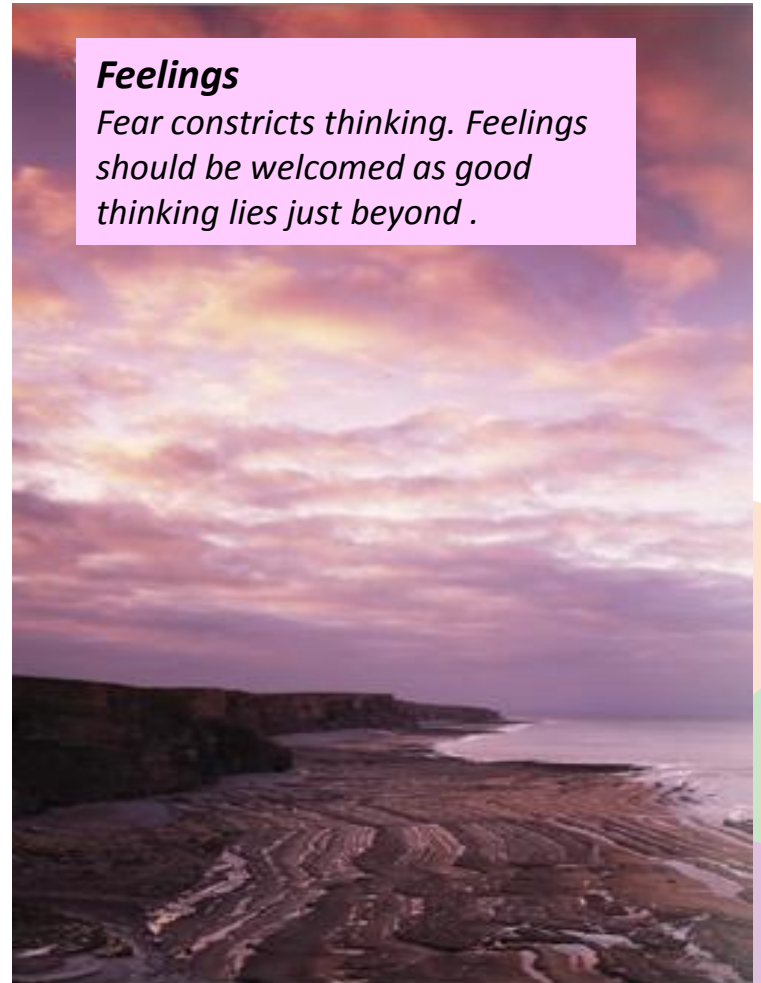
## **Encouragement**

*Competition does not ensure excellence. The search for ideas does not need to be competitive.*



## **Feelings**

*Fear constricts thinking. Feelings should be welcomed as good thinking lies just beyond .*

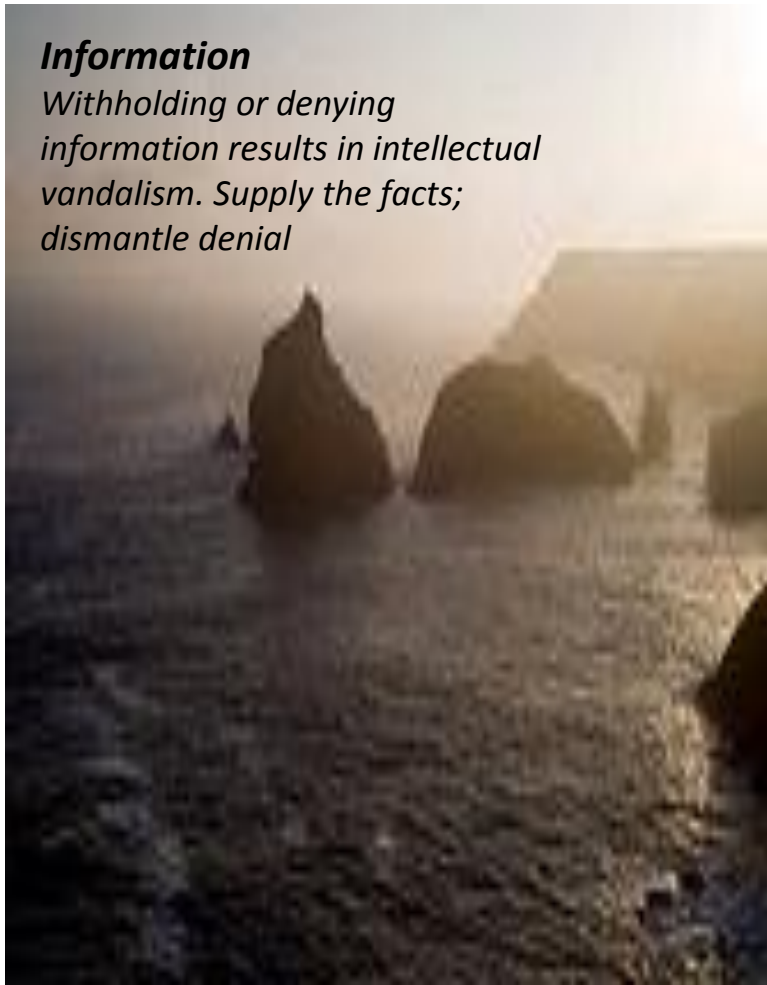




# The thinking environment

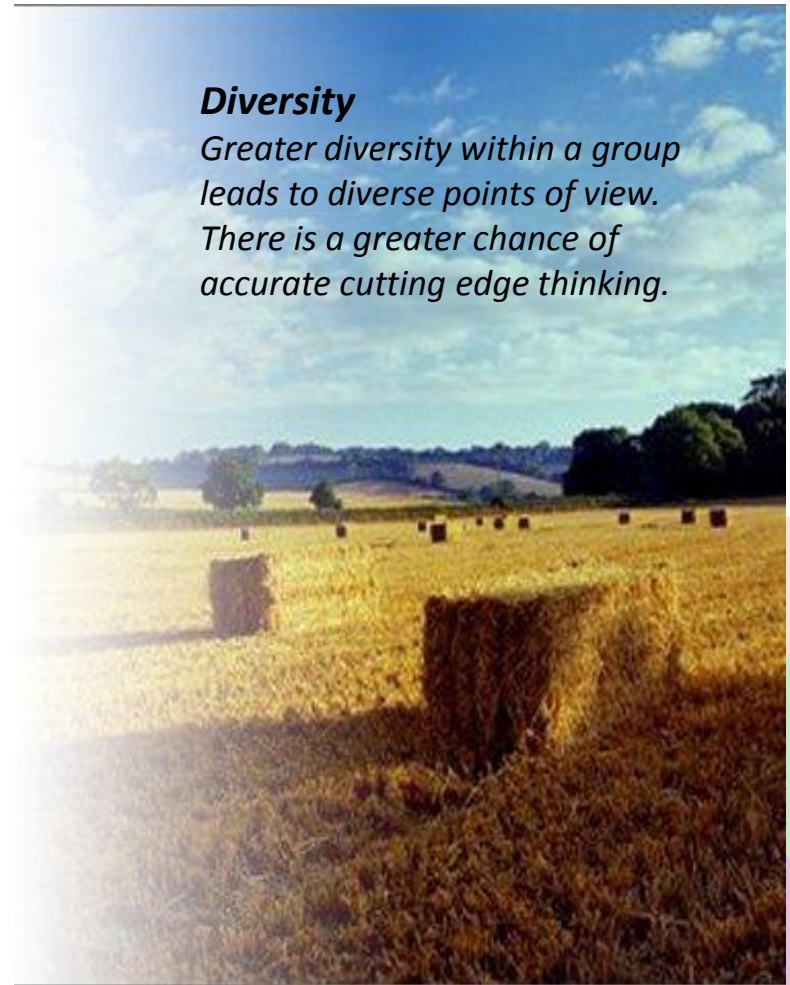
## **Information**

*Withholding or denying information results in intellectual vandalism. Supply the facts; dismantle denial*



## **Diversity**

*Greater diversity within a group leads to diverse points of view. There is a greater chance of accurate cutting edge thinking.*

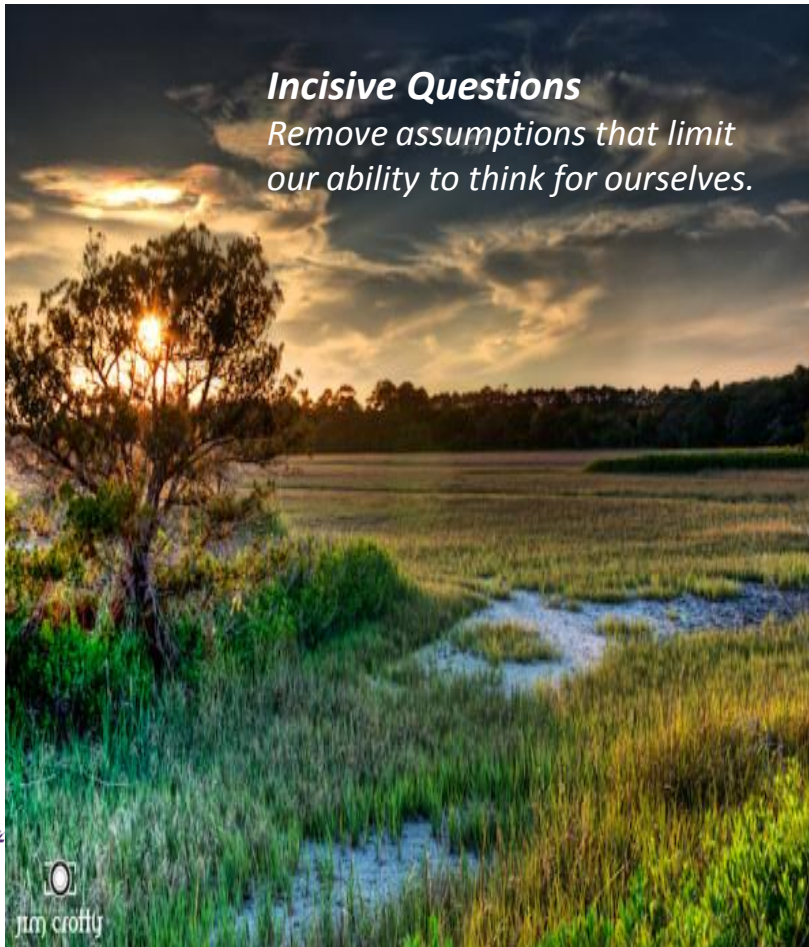




# The thinking environment

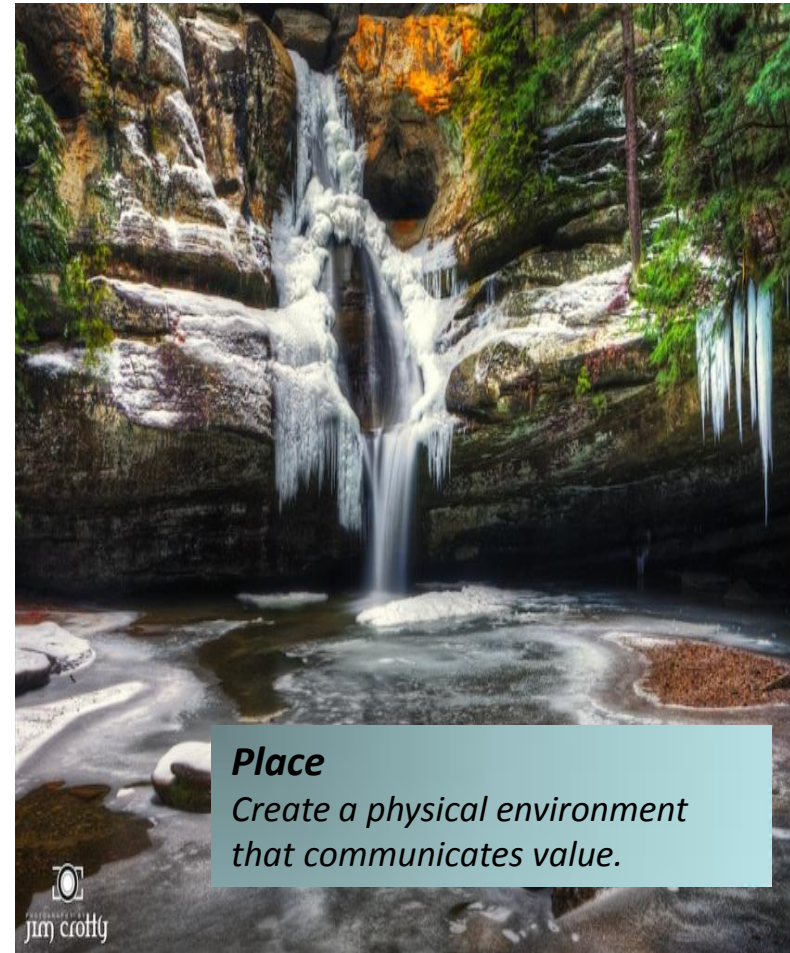
## ***Incisive Questions***

*Remove assumptions that limit our ability to think for ourselves.*



## ***Place***

*Create a physical environment that communicates value.*



# The Thinking Environment



- [www.timetothink.com](http://www.timetothink.com)
- Time to Think Nancy Kline



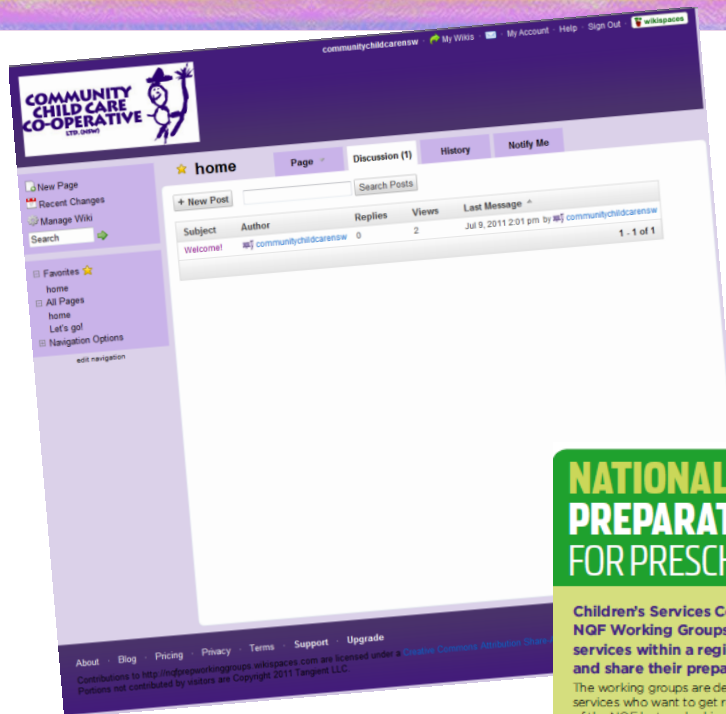
# Mapping your needs

<div></div> <div>What do you want?</div>	<div></div> <div>Your current knowledge?</div>	<div></div> <div>Team knowledge?</div>	<div></div> <div>Confidence level?</div>
<div></div> <div>Knowledge of resources?</div>	<div></div> <div>One issue you would like to resolve?</div>	<div></div> <div>Biggest challenge?</div>	<div></div> <div>First or next step?</div>





# Learning Platforms



## Community Child Care Co-operative IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Monday July 11, 2011

### Thank you for booking into a National Quality Framework Preparation Working Group!

To be sure we make the working groups a great experience, could you please answer a short survey about what you wish to gain from your participation?

Thank you.

[To complete the survey click here.](#)

## NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK: PREPARATION WORKING GROUPS FOR PRESCHOOLS & LONG DAY CARE CENTRES

Children's Services Central has set up NQF Working Groups to allow groups of services within a region to come together and share their preparation for the NQF.

The working groups are designed especially for services who want to get ready for the introduction of the NQF but are looking for direction, guidance and the value of working with other services.

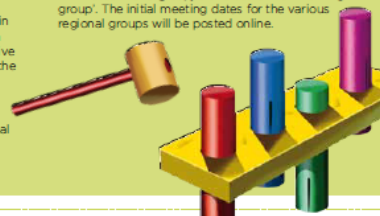
The Preparation Working Group will allow directors/co-ordinators to come together with the guidance of a skilled facilitator to start the NQF preparation process. Meetings will occur once every three weeks at a different preschool/long day care centre within the local area (initial meetings will be held in formal training venues). Groups, working with their facilitators, will map out their needs and establish how they can support each other in NQF preparation. Think of these sessions like an NQF study group! Working Groups will run for five sessions (two-hour or three-hour) initially, then the group will decide upon the continuing direction.

The Working Groups will allow directors and co-ordinators of early childhood services to get the support they need to prepare for the National Quality Framework. Each Working Group will be restricted to 20 participants to ensure full participation.

The Working Groups will be located in:

- Albury
- Bankstown
- Blacktown
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Gympie
- Marrickville
- Newcastle
- Tamworth
- Wollongong

To book into a working group, please go to [www.cscentral.org.au/pd](http://www.cscentral.org.au/pd) and search for 'working group'. The initial meeting dates for the various regional groups will be posted online.



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# Questions and conversation?

## Final comments



# Homework

## Information and knowledge

Ask your team members to read the Fact Sheets and Newsletters

**Consider self assessment and critical reflection and come prepared to work on this aspect in Session 2**



# ...and start to think about...

Planning for unpacking standards, evaluation,  
reflection, decision making....



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