

Australian Childcare Alliance

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IS CHILDCARE READY FOR THE NATIONAL QUALITY FRAMEWORK

SURVEY JUNE 2011



The Australian Childcare Alliance represents 70% of all long day child care centres across Australia and its staff who care for more than 400,000 children

Executive Summary

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This survey has found that:

- Government needs to delay the new regulations.
- Government must be prepared to pay for the changes required, not parents.
- Childcare staff do not have sufficient understanding of the National Law, National Regulations and the National Quality Standards – 83.5% say they are not confident.
- Staff currently do not have a sound knowledge of the Early Years Learning Framework – 58.6% need more training.

Executive Summary (cont'd)

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- Licensees (Approved Providers) are not fully aware of their legal responsibilities under the National Law – 70.3 % said no.
- The cost to parents has been estimated to be at least \$13 per child per day.
- Lost places in centres due to the reforms was reported by 64.4 % of respondents and they would lose an average 8 places in each centre.

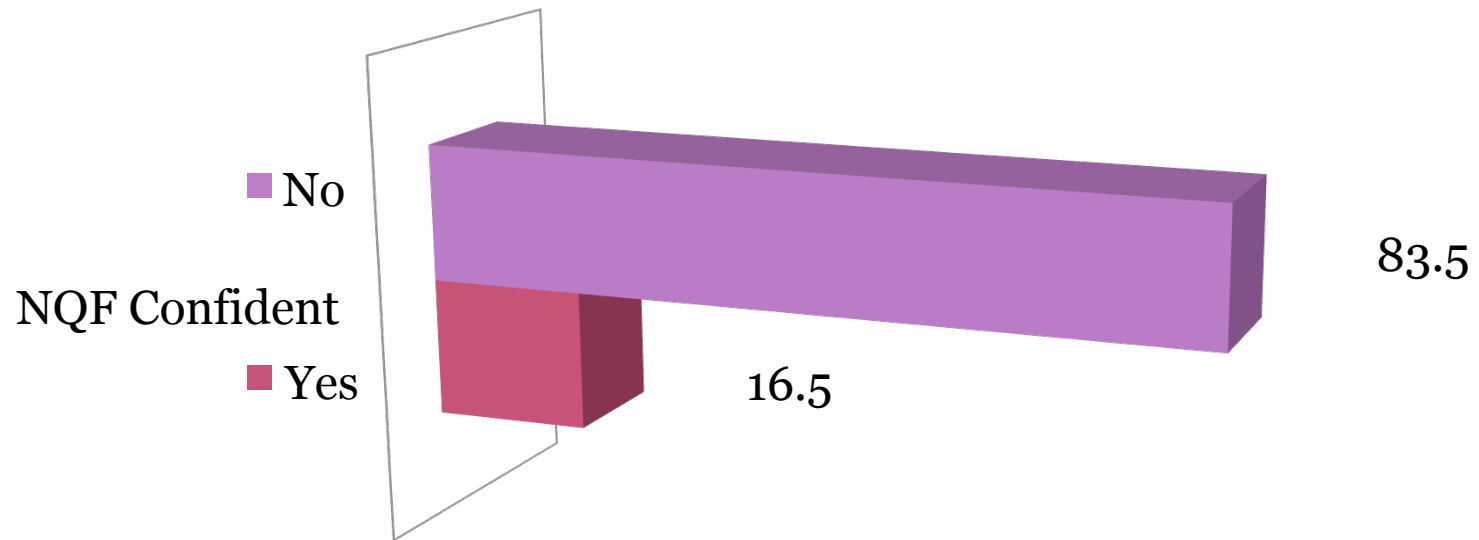
Research Methodology

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- n=414 online surveys across Australia of long day care centre's both private and community.
- Survey conducted between 8th and 11th June 2011.
- Variations of +/-1% in reported percentages are due to rounding.
- Unless otherwise stated, all charts based on total sample of licensee of long day child care.

Childcare Centres not confident in the NQF

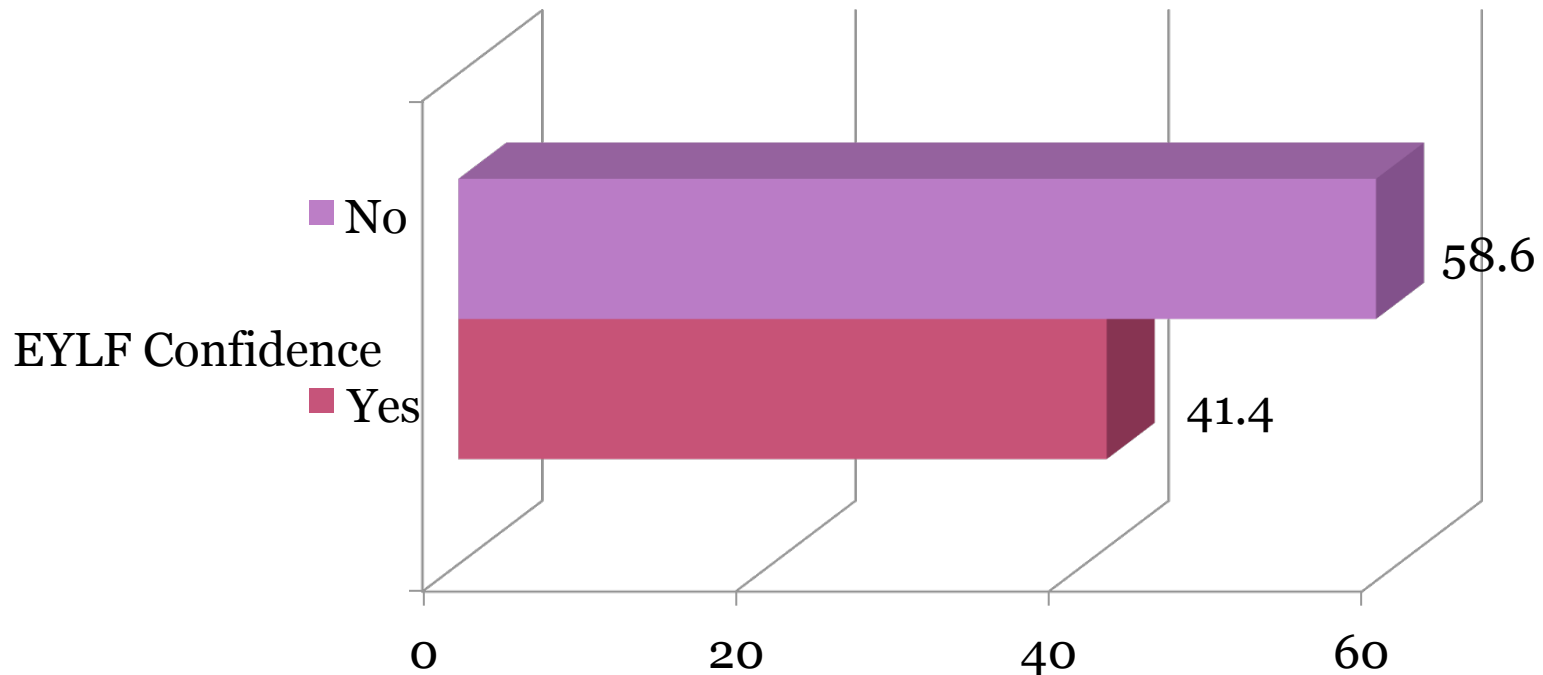
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Question: Are you confident that you and all of your staff will have sufficient understanding of the National Law, National Regulations and the National Quality Standards by 1/1/2012?

Childcare Staff with sound EYLF knowledge.

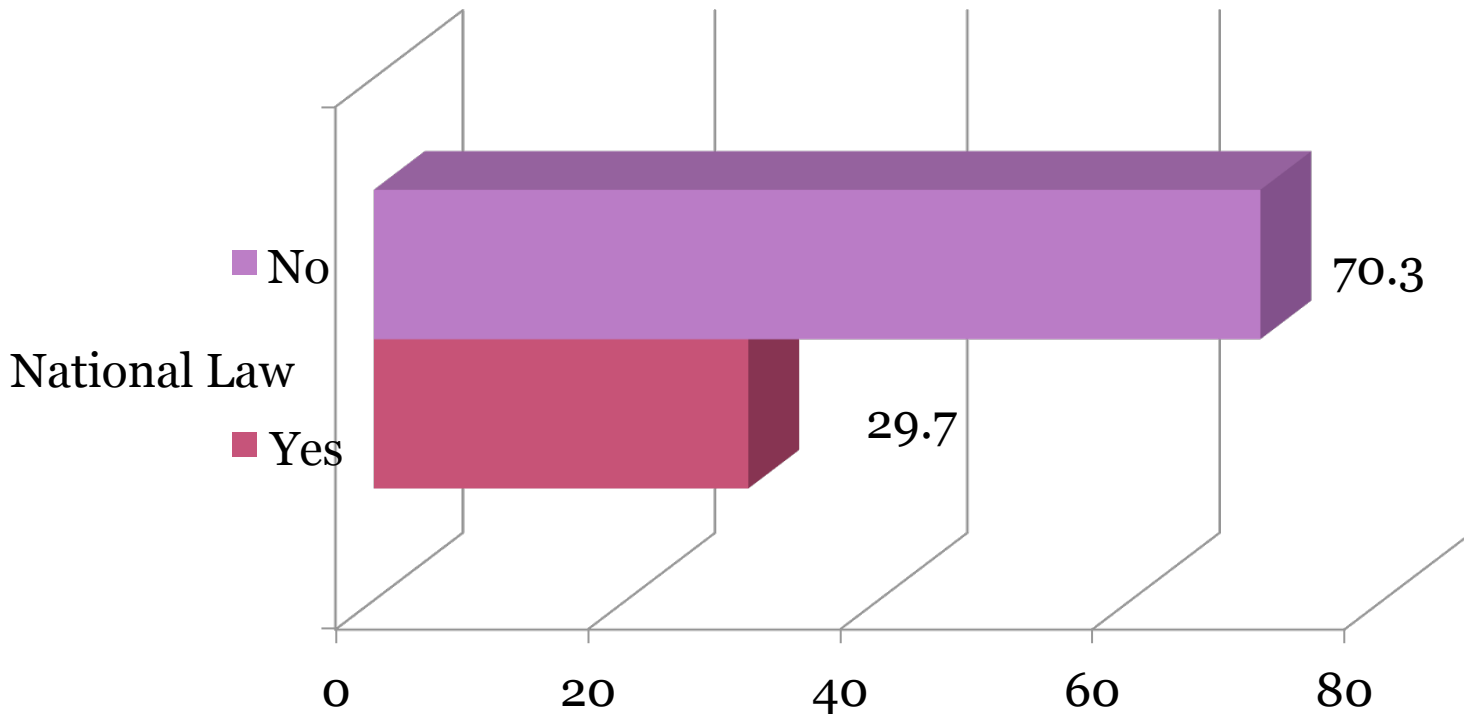
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Question: Do your staff currently have a sound knowledge of the Early Years Learning Framework?

Licensee's (Approved Providers) awareness of National Law

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Question: Are you as Licensee (Approved Provider) fully aware of your legal responsibilities under the National Law?

Effect on Families

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Licenseses reported the following consequences from the implementation of National Regulations on their centres.



Comments

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- I really have no idea how many places we are likely to lose, however I know that we will have to increase fees to meet these standards and whenever fees are increased families cancel care .
- A balance needs to be found between affordable and quality childcare. It is great to have reduced child to staff ratios however the real pain will be felt in parents hip pockets which are already hurting now. Centres know this due to the large number of debts incurred by parents.
- As there are no qualified staff in the workforce currently looking for jobs, how are we to cover the new requirements for staffing when we cant even cover the current requirements? Where will the teachers come from for the new staffing requirements? Who will train them in how to work in child care as the ones we have had previously have no clue or idea of rules, regulations and legal obligations, supervision, behavioural management or time management or Occupational safety & Health?
- I am already experiencing difficulties in recruiting suitable staff e.g.. ECT's and Diplomas. What will it be like in 2 or 3 years time?
- As a Queensland based Early Learning Centre I find it very disheartening that we have dumbed down the QLD Regulations to match those of other states to create the National Regulations. When in fact the Regulations' should have come up to our high standard, especially regarding qualifications and the role of the Director. Very disappointing.

Comments (Cont)

- There is a lot of stress, uncertainty and negativity about the impact that the NQF will have on Western Australia's childcare industry. This is being felt by a majority of childcare owners in the industry. The impact of costs due to the changes has not been reviewed and the damage this will cause will affect the Australian economy. There are specific areas causing more concern. Specifically employing teachers and child: staff ratios over lunchbreaks. Mental Health is a huge issue and raising the overall standard is still not focusing on meeting children's basic emotional needs. A parent's comment is quoted in relation to employing teachers for the childcare industry, "You will be at the bottom of the scrapheap". WA does not have a NQF Review Committee meaning we don't have a say!!!!!!!!!!!!
- With the introduction of the paid parental leave together with means tested childcare we are considering closing our nursery down as at 1 January 2011. To retain these staff members we would need to consider changing the room to accommodate another age group. Decisions need to be made now!!!
- Changes to nappy change areas will cause a major problem for two of my services the real problem is still to come if the reduction to the 2-3 age bracket ECT and extra trained staff costs will cause my company payable for payroll tax the just approved wage increase has again wiped out the increase fee increase due next month to help cover the staff and general day to day running and to cover the 1- 4 ration change. So really not sure at this stage how much the really cost will be. Really may think of getting out of childcare as the changes has and will make my services unprofitable. Name supplied.



**CENTRE
READY FOR
NQF**

SURVEY

JUNE 2011

**Australian
Childcare
Alliance**



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