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**MEDIA RELEASE
REPORT ON CUTTING NQF 'RED TAPE' PUBLISHED**

The Chair of the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood (SCSEEC), the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, today released a report containing recommendations to reduce administrative burden under the National Quality Framework (NQF). This is the first report on longitudinal research developed by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), and the analysis represents an important and necessary step in the NQF journey.

"A key goal of the NQF is to reduce 'red tape' on children's education and care providers by streamlining the amount of regulation that was previously faced by many providers," Minister Piccoli said.

"It has always been proposed to examine whether the NQF had been successful in reducing levels of administrative burden on providers. This report is the first step in looking at the NQF and making sure it is working in the way it was intended."

The report is presented in two parts with part one presenting high level findings on the administrative burden perceived and experienced by education and care providers, based on information gathered through surveys and meetings with over 6300 people from across the education and care sector. Part two includes actions already underway and further proposals to streamline the administrative requirements of the NQF without compromising the objectives of the National Quality Framework.

The report's key recommendations and actions underway to streamline and reduce regulatory burden are structured according to four themes:

- assess opportunities to simplify the National Quality Standard;
- reduce the total number of paperwork requirements;
- support the sector with clearer expectations and communications about administrative obligations;
- legislative amendments to reduce operational impediments.

ACECQA Board Chair Rachel Hunter said ACECQA supported the reduction of administrative burden while maintaining a focus on improving service quality.

"We have identified some administrative requirements, such as the current supervisor certificate process, that are unnecessarily burdensome and some examples of duplication between the NQF and other regulation," Ms Hunter said.

"ACECQA is working with governments to reduce regulatory burden for the sector where we can while ensuring that delivering quality education and care for children and families remains our main focus."

The *Report on the National Quality Framework & Regulatory Burden* is available to download from the SCSEEC website www.scseec.edu.au

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