On 28 September 2013, the Australian Government announced an independent review of the Early Years Quality Fund (EYQF). The review considered the establishment and implementation process of the EYQF.

The former Assistant Minister for Education, the Hon Sussan Ley MP released the report of the Review on 10 December 2013. The report can be found at: www.education.gov.au/early-years-quality-fund

**Why did the Government undertake a review?**

In the Government’s Better Child Care and Early Learning policy, the Government committed to undertake a review of the EYQF establishment process and its operation – to examine the implementation process, including allegations that the EYQF was established as a vehicle to boost union membership.

From the outset, the Government believed that the EYQF was fundamentally inequitable; assisting only a minority of Long Day Care (LDC) services and educators and would have created significant market distortion in the child care and early learning sector.

The Government wanted all long day care services and all educators to benefit, not just some.

An application has been lodged with the Fair Work Commission seeking Equal Remuneration Orders for wage increases for early childhood educators.

Further information on the application can be found at:


**What is the Government currently doing now?**

The qualification requirements of the National Quality Framework came into effect on 1 January 2014.

To assist services meet these requirements, the Government announced on 10 December 2013, that it will redirect all available EYQF funds to a new programme to support the professional development of all educators in LDC services to improve quality outcomes for children.

The new programme, now known as the Long Day Care Professional Development Programme (LDCPDP) assists services to meet their specific professional development needs in order to support the National Quality Framework (NQF), adhere to the National Quality Standard and deliver the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) or approved learning framework. Services are able to use the funding to meet their training and skills development needs and have the flexibility to do so in-line with the circumstances of their service.

Applications for the LDCPDP are now closed.

The sector’s response to the programme has been very strong, with applications from over 5000 eligible services.

Further information regarding LDCPDP can be found at: