



SAFEGUARDING THE EARLY LEARNING SECTOR: Our Urgent Call for a National Educator Register

The Australian Childcare Alliance is calling on the Australian Government to immediately develop an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) National Educator Register.

A national register would create a single source of truth, allowing authorised organisations and employers nationwide to access critical background information about any early childhood education and care educator. The ultimate goal is to enhance child safety and workforce integrity by ensuring that no individual with disqualifying behaviours is permitted to work in the sector.

The register is an online platform that maintains comprehensive records on all individuals working in early childhood education and care across Australia.

The National Educator Register will:

- Verify work history, validated by employers across all states and territories.
- Show a live feed of Working with Children Checks and any changes in status.
- Integrate with the Unique Student Identifier (USI) system to ensure all qualifications are verified, current, and free from fraud.
- Display the outcomes of previous investigations and reportable conduct, with clear definitions.
- Show current investigations, categorised by risk type and status, to support safe hiring decisions.

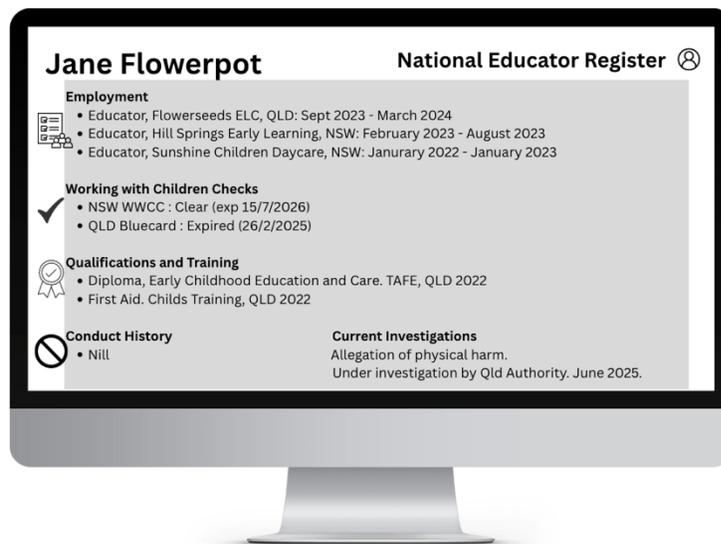
What the Australian Government needs to achieve this

Australia has established comparable systems in other sectors. For example, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) maintains a comprehensive national register of health practitioners, detailing whether they are licensed to practice, their qualifications, any work restrictions, and disciplinary history.

Like early childhood educators, health practitioners work in a sector where safety, professional qualifications, and conduct are critical to public trust.

To establish the National Educator Register, the Australian Government would need:

- Intergovernmental agreement through the Education Ministers Meeting and the National Cabinet.
- Legislative changes at both the federal and state levels are necessary to facilitate data sharing, require registration, and safeguard privacy.
- Strong governance, potentially led by ACECQA and connecting with existing infrastructure to expedite the National Educator Register.
- Secure, real-time data integrations with WWCC agencies, qualification authorities, and regulatory bodies.



This document was produced by the Australian Childcare Alliance.

We are the national peak body that represents, advocates, informs and promotes high-quality early learning services throughout Australia. Our mission is to ensure every child in Australia has access to high-quality, affordable, and sustainable early learning services.

We have over 3,000 service provider members representing over 4,500 early learning services, employing over 75,000 educators and caring for more than 360,000 families throughout Australia.

www.childcarealliance.org.au