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Exceedingly high quality child care!

NSW community based not-for-profit education and care services in NSW are celebrating that their services are scoring amongst the highest quality ratings available under the new system which assesses and rates the quality of child care centres across Australia.

The NSW Branch of Australian Community Children's Services today released statistics that show that community based not-for profit child care services in NSW are being rated exceptionally highly under the National Assessment and Rating process of the National Quality Framework.

69% of those rated at the highest level *Exceeding the National Quality Standard* are not-for-profit services. After an assessment by the Department of Education and Communities against seven quality areas, a service may receive a rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standard, Meeting the Standard, Working towards the Standard or Significant Improvement Required. Important also is the finding that only 23% of the services rated as *Working Towards the National Quality Standard* are not-for-profit services.

One of the largest not-for profit providers of early education and care in NSW, KU Children's Services said that 91% of the services they operate which had completed the Assessment and Rating process have been rated as either *Exceeding the National Quality Standard* or *Meeting the Standard*. KU Children's Services Chief Executive Officer, Christine Legg said, "Although it is early days, we are pleased that our results so far validate KU's long standing commitment to high quality early education for children and their families. Our results are a great testament to our passionate and highly professional educators".

Of the 8 UnitingCare Children's Services that have been rated so far, 88% were rated as *Exceeding* or *Meeting* the National Quality Standard. Kim Gavin, the Acting Director of UCCS said, "We are proud of the achievements of the UCCS services and have every confidence that these high ratings will continue to be achieved. The results thus far are testament to UnitingCare Children's Services' provision of the very best quality early education for all children enrolled at our services."

Of the 9 SDN Children's Services that have undergone rating and assessment, 78% have received an *Exceeding National Quality Standard Rating*. Ginie Udy, SDN's Chief Executive Officer, said, "The new Assessment and Rating System has set a high bar and we are delighted that children attending our centres benefit from quality that has been externally assessed at such a high level."

The results of the large not-for-profit providers tally with the results of small stand-alone community based services; and compare extremely favourably with the NSW results of **all services as whole**, where only 44% of services have been rated as Meeting or Exceeding the Standard.

Ms Gavin said that, "Families choosing not-for-profit services can be assured that these services are aiming to provide high quality education and care, and the ratings results show they are achieving it."

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