

Western Australia

**Education and Care Services National Law
(WA) Act 2012**

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Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012

CONTENTS

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| Part 1 — Preliminary | | |
| 1. | Short title | 20 |
| 2. | Commencement | 20 |
| 3. | Terms used | 20 |
| Part 2 — Application of Education and Care Services National Law | | |
| 4. | Application of the Education and Care Services National Law | 21 |
| 5. | Exclusion of legislation of this jurisdiction | 21 |
| 6. | Meaning of generic terms in Education and Care Services National Law for the purposes of this jurisdiction | 22 |
| 7. | Relevant tribunal or court | 22 |
| 8. | Regulatory Authority | 22 |
| 9. | Children’s services law | 23 |
| 10. | Education law | 23 |
| 11. | Former education and care services law | 23 |
| 12. | Infringements law | 24 |
| 13. | Public sector law | 24 |
| 14. | Working with children law | 24 |
| 15. | Transitional | 24 |
| Part 3 — Other local provisions | | |
| 16. | Tabling of annual report | 27 |

Contents

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 17. | National regulations under the WA national law | 27 |
| 18. | Review of Act | 27 |
| 19. | Transitional regulations | 28 |
| Part 4 — Amendments to other Acts | | |
| Division 1 — <i>Child Care Services Act 2007</i> amended | | |
| 20. | Act amended | 29 |
| 21. | Section 3 amended | 29 |
| 22. | Section 4 replaced | 29 |
| | 4. Term used: child care service | 29 |
| 23. | Section 5B inserted | 30 |
| | 5B. Application of this Act to associated children's services | 30 |
| 24. | Section 38 amended | 31 |
| 25. | Sections 53B, 53C and 53D inserted | 31 |
| | 53B. Regulations may prescribe codes of practice | 31 |
| | 53C. Preparation of draft code of practice by CEO | 32 |
| | 53D. Interim code of practice | 32 |
| Division 2 — <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> amended | | |
| 26. | Act amended | 32 |
| 27. | Section 3 amended | 33 |
| Division 4 — <i>The Criminal Code</i> amended | | |
| 30. | Act amended | 33 |
| 31. | Section 557K amended | 33 |
| Division 5 — <i>Evidence Act 1906</i> amended | | |
| 32. | Act amended | 33 |
| 33. | Section 19L amended | 34 |
| Division 6 — <i>Health Act 1911</i> amended | | |
| 34. | Act amended | 34 |
| 35. | Section 337 amended | 34 |
| Division 7 — <i>School Education Act 1999</i> amended | | |
| 36. | Act amended | 35 |
| 37. | Section 4 amended | 35 |
| 38. | Section 74A amended | 35 |
| | 74A. Educational programme for children in their early education period | 36 |

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 39. | Section 77 amended | 36 |
| 40. | Section 82 amended | 36 |
| 41. | Section 83 amended | 37 |
| 42. | Section 154 amended | 37 |
| 43. | Section 156 amended | 38 |
| 44. | Section 192 amended | 38 |
| 45. | Section 197 amended | 38 |
| 46. | Section 199 amended | 39 |
| 47. | Schedule 1 Division 1 heading inserted | 39 |
| | Division 1 — Transitional provisions for the commencement of this Act | |
| 48. | Schedule 1 Division 2 inserted | 39 |
| | Division 2 — Transitional provisions for the Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012 | |
| | 24. Term used: commencement | 39 |
| | 25. Registration extended for a period of time | 40 |
| | Division 8 — Spent Convictions Act 1988 amended | |
| 49. | Act amended | 40 |
| 50. | Schedule 3 amended | 40 |
| | Division 9 — Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 amended | |
| 51. | Act amended | 41 |
| 52. | Section 4 amended | 41 |
| 53. | Section 5 amended | 41 |
| 54. | Section 38 amended | 42 |
| | Schedule — Education and Care Services National Law | |
| | Part 1 — Preliminary | |
| 1. | Short title | 43 |
| 2. | Commencement | 43 |
| 3. | Objectives and guiding principles | 43 |
| 4. | How functions to be exercised | 44 |
| 5. | Definitions | 44 |
| 6. | Interpretation generally | 53 |
| 7. | Single national entity | 53 |
| 8. | Extraterritorial operation of Law | 53 |
| 9. | Law binds the State | 54 |

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| | Part 2 — Provider approval | |
| | Division 1 — Application for provider approval | |
| 10. | Application for provider approval | 54 |
| 11. | Form of application | 54 |
| 12. | Applicant must be fit and proper person | 55 |
| 13. | Matters to be taken into account in assessing whether fit and proper person | 55 |
| 14. | Regulatory Authority may seek further information | 57 |
| 15. | Grant or refusal of provider approval | 57 |
| 16. | Notice of decision on application | 58 |
| 17. | Duration of provider approval | 58 |
| 18. | Effect of provider approval | 58 |
| 19. | Conditions on provider approval | 58 |
| 20. | Copy of provider approval | 58 |
| | Division 2 — Reassessment | |
| 21. | Reassessment of fitness and propriety | 59 |
| | Division 3 — Amendment of provider approvals | |
| 22. | Amendment of provider approval on application | 59 |
| 23. | Amendment of provider approval by Regulatory Authority | 60 |
| 24. | Copy of amended provider approval to be provided | 60 |
| | Division 4 — Suspension or cancellation of provider approval | |
| 25. | Grounds for suspension of provider approval | 61 |
| 26. | Show cause notice before suspension | 62 |
| 27. | Decision to suspend after show cause process | 62 |
| 28. | Suspension without show cause notice | 62 |
| 29. | Notice and taking effect of suspension | 63 |
| 30. | Effect of suspension | 63 |
| 31. | Grounds for cancellation of provider approval | 63 |
| 32. | Show cause notice before cancellation | 64 |
| 33. | Decision in relation to cancellation | 65 |
| 34. | Effect of cancellation | 65 |
| 35. | Approved provider to provide information to Regulatory Authority | 66 |
| 36. | Notice to parents of suspension or cancellation | 66 |
| 37. | Voluntary suspension of provider approval | 67 |
| 38. | Surrender of provider approval by approved provider | 68 |

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| | Division 5 — Approval of executor, representative or guardian as approved provider | |
| 39. | Death of approved provider | 68 |
| 40. | Incapacity of approved provider | 69 |
| 41. | Decision on application | 70 |
| | Division 6 — Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority | |
| 42. | Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority | 71 |
| | Part 3 — Service approval | |
| | Division 1 — Application for service approval | |
| 43. | Application for service approval | 71 |
| 44. | Form of application | 72 |
| 45. | Regulatory Authority may seek further information | 72 |
| 46. | Investigation of application for service approval | 73 |
| 47. | Determination of application | 73 |
| 48. | Grant or refusal of service approval | 74 |
| 49. | Grounds for refusal | 75 |
| 50. | Notice of decision on application | 75 |
| 51. | Conditions on service approval | 75 |
| 52. | Copy of service approval to be provided | 76 |
| 53. | Annual fee | 77 |
| | Division 2 — Amendment of service approval | |
| 54. | Amendment of service approval on application | 77 |
| 55. | Amendment of service approval by Regulatory Authority | 78 |
| 56. | Notice of change to nominated supervisor | 79 |
| 57. | Copy of amended service approval to be provided | 79 |
| | Division 3 — Transfer of service approval | |
| 58. | Service approval may be transferred | 80 |
| 59. | Regulatory Authority to be notified of transfer | 80 |
| 60. | Consent of Regulatory Authority required for transfer | 80 |
| 61. | Consent taken to be given unless Regulatory Authority intervenes | 81 |
| 62. | Transfer may be subject to intervention by Regulatory Authority | 81 |
| 63. | Effect of intervention | 82 |
| 64. | Regulatory Authority may request further information | 82 |

Contents

| | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 65. | Decision after intervention | 82 |
| 66. | Regulatory Authority to notify outcome 7 days before transfer | 82 |
| 67. | Transfer of service approval without consent is void | 83 |
| 68. | Confirmation of transfer | 83 |
| 69. | Notice to parents | 84 |
| | Division 4 — Suspension or cancellation of service approval | |
| 70. | Grounds for suspension of service approval | 84 |
| 71. | Show cause notice before suspension | 85 |
| 72. | Decision in relation to suspension | 86 |
| 73. | Suspension of service approval without show cause | 86 |
| 74. | Notice and effect of decision | 86 |
| 75. | Suspension of service approval to the extent that it relates to associated children's service | 86 |
| 76. | Transfer of suspended service | 87 |
| 77. | Grounds for cancellation of service approval | 87 |
| 78. | Show cause notice before cancellation | 88 |
| 79. | Decision in relation to cancellation | 88 |
| 80. | Cancellation of service approval to the extent that it relates to associated children's service | 89 |
| 81. | Application for transfer of cancelled service | 89 |
| 82. | Decision on application to transfer cancelled service | 90 |
| 83. | Approved provider to provide information to Regulatory Authority | 90 |
| 84. | Notice to parents of suspension or cancellation | 90 |
| 85. | Voluntary suspension of service approval | 91 |
| 86. | Surrender of service approval | 91 |
| | Division 5 — Application for service waiver | |
| 87. | Application for service waiver for service | 92 |
| 88. | Form of application | 92 |
| 89. | Powers of Regulatory Authority in considering application | 92 |
| 90. | Matters to be considered | 93 |
| 91. | Decision on application | 93 |
| 92. | Revocation of service waiver | 93 |
| 93. | Effect of service waiver | 94 |

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| | Division 6 — Temporary waiver | |
| 94. | Application for temporary waiver | 94 |
| 95. | Form of application | 94 |
| 96. | Regulatory Authority may seek further information | 94 |
| 97. | Special circumstances | 95 |
| 98. | Decision on application | 95 |
| 99. | Revocation of temporary waiver | 95 |
| 100. | Effect of temporary waiver | 95 |
| | Division 7 — Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority | |
| 101. | Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority — family day care services | 96 |
| | Division 8 — Associated children’s services | |
| 102. | Application of this Law to associated children’s services | 96 |
| | Division 9 — Offences | |
| 103. | Offence to provide an education and care service without service approval | 96 |
| 104. | Offence to advertise education and care service without service approval | 97 |
| | Part 4 — Supervisor certificates | |
| | Division 1 — Application for supervisor certificate | |
| 105. | Purpose of supervisor certificate | 97 |
| 106. | Application for supervisor certificate | 97 |
| 107. | Form of application | 98 |
| 108. | Applicant must satisfy Regulatory Authority of specified matters | 98 |
| 109. | Matters to be taken into account in assessing whether fit and proper person | 98 |
| 110. | Regulatory Authority may seek further information | 99 |
| 111. | Grant or refusal of supervisor certificate | 100 |
| 112. | Grounds for refusal | 100 |
| 113. | Notice of decision on application | 101 |
| 114. | Grant of supervisor certificate to specified classes of persons | 101 |
| 115. | Conditions on certificate | 101 |
| 116. | Issue of certificate | 102 |
| 117. | Effect of supervisor certificate | 102 |

Contents

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| | Division 2 — Reassessment | |
| 118. | Reassessment of suitability | 102 |
| | Division 3 — Amendment of supervisor certificate | |
| 119. | Amendment of supervisor certificate on application | 102 |
| 120. | Amendment of supervisor certificate by Regulatory Authority | 103 |
| 121. | Notice of change of circumstances | 103 |
| 122. | Notice of change of information | 104 |
| | Division 4 — Suspension or cancellation of supervisor certificate | |
| 123. | Grounds for suspension or cancellation of supervisor certificate | 104 |
| 124. | Show cause notice before suspension or cancellation | 105 |
| 125. | Decision in relation to suspension or cancellation | 105 |
| 126. | Suspension of supervisor certificate without show cause notice | 105 |
| 127. | Notice and taking effect of suspension or cancellation | 106 |
| 128. | Suspension or cancellation of certain supervisor certificates | 106 |
| 129. | Voluntary suspension of supervisor certificate | 106 |
| 130. | Surrender of a supervisor certificate by certified supervisor | 107 |
| | Division 5 — Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority | |
| 131. | Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority | 107 |
| | Division 6 — Offence | |
| 132. | Offence to act as supervisor without supervisor certificate | 108 |
| | Part 5 — Assessments and ratings | |
| | Division 1 — Assessment and rating | |
| 133. | Assessment for rating purposes | 108 |
| 134. | Rating levels | 108 |
| 135. | Rating of approved education and care service | 108 |
| 136. | Notice to approved education and care service of rating | 109 |
| 137. | Suspension of rating assessment | 109 |

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| | Division 2 — Reassessment and re-rating | |
| 138. | Regulatory Authority may reassess and re-rate approved education and care service | 110 |
| 139. | Application for reassessment and re-rating by approved provider | 110 |
| 140. | Application of Division 1 | 111 |
| | Division 3 — Review by Regulatory Authority | |
| 141. | Review by Regulatory Authority | 111 |
| 142. | Process for review | 111 |
| 143. | Outcome of review by Regulatory Authority | 112 |
| | Division 4 — Review by Ratings Review Panel | |
| | Subdivision 1 — Application for review | |
| 144. | Application for further review by Ratings Review Panel | 112 |
| 145. | Form and time of application | 113 |
| | Subdivision 2 — Establishment of Ratings Review Panel | |
| 146. | Establishment of Ratings Review Panel | 113 |
| 147. | Review Panel pool | 114 |
| 148. | Procedure of Panel | 114 |
| 149. | Transaction of business by alternative means | 115 |
| | Subdivision 3 — Conduct of review | |
| 150. | Conduct of review | 115 |
| 151. | Decision on review by Ratings Review Panel | 116 |
| | Division 5 — Awarding of highest rating | |
| 153. | Assessment of education and care service | 117 |
| | Part 6 — Operating an education and care service | |
| 161. | Offence to operate education and care service without nominated supervisor | 117 |
| 162. | Offence to operate education and care service unless responsible person is present | 117 |
| 163. | Offence relating to appointment or engagement of family day care co-ordinators | 118 |
| 164. | Offence relating to assistance to family day care educators | 118 |
| 165. | Offence to inadequately supervise children | 119 |
| 165A. | Offence relating to children leaving the education and care service premises unauthorised | 119 |

Contents

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 166. | Offence to use inappropriate discipline | 121 |
| 167. | Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards | 121 |
| 168. | Offence relating to required programs | 122 |
| 169. | Offence relating to staffing arrangements | 123 |
| 170. | Offence relating to unauthorised persons on education and care service premises | 124 |
| 171. | Offence relating to direction to exclude inappropriate persons from education and care service premises | 125 |
| 172. | Offence to fail to display prescribed information | 126 |
| 173. | Offence to fail to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authority | 127 |
| 174. | Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority | 128 |
| 175. | Offence relating to requirement to keep enrolment and other documents | 129 |
| | Part 7 — Compliance with this Law | |
| | Division 1 — Notices | |
| 176. | Compliance directions | 130 |
| 177. | Compliance notices | 130 |
| 178. | Notice to suspend education and care by a family day care educator | 131 |
| 179. | Emergency action notices | 132 |
| | Division 2 — Enforceable undertakings | |
| 180. | Enforceable undertakings | 132 |
| 181. | Failure to comply with enforceable undertakings | 133 |
| | Division 3 — Prohibition notices | |
| 182. | Grounds for issuing prohibition notice | 134 |
| 183. | Show cause notice to be given before prohibition notice | 134 |
| 184. | Deciding whether to issue prohibition notice | 135 |
| 185. | Content of prohibition notice | 135 |
| 186. | Cancellation of prohibition notice | 135 |
| 187. | Person must not contravene prohibition notice | 136 |
| 188. | Offence to engage person to whom prohibition notice applies | 136 |

| | | |
|-------|---|-----|
| | Division 3A — Disciplinary action | |
| 188A. | Persons against whom disciplinary action may be taken | 137 |
| 188B. | Disciplinary action | 137 |
| 188C. | Limitation on section 188B(3)(b) | 138 |
| | Division 4 — Emergency removal of children | |
| 189. | Emergency removal of children | 139 |
| | Part 8 — Review | |
| | Division 1 — Internal review | |
| 190. | Reviewable decision — internal review | 140 |
| 191. | Internal review of reviewable decisions | 140 |
| | Division 2 — External review | |
| 192. | Reviewable decision — external review | 141 |
| 193. | Application for review of decision of the Regulatory Authority | 142 |
| | Division 3 — General | |
| 194. | Relationship with Act establishing administrative body | 142 |
| | Part 9 — Monitoring and enforcement | |
| | Division 1 — Authorised officers | |
| 195. | Authorisation of authorised officers | 143 |
| 196. | Identity card | 143 |
| | Division 2 — Powers of entry | |
| 197. | Powers of entry for assessing and monitoring approved education and care service | 144 |
| 198. | National Authority representative may enter service premises in company with Regulatory Authority | 145 |
| 199. | Powers of entry for investigating approved education and care service | 146 |
| 200. | Powers of entry to business premises | 147 |
| 201. | Entry to premises with search warrant | 148 |
| 202. | Seized items | 148 |
| 203. | Court may extend period | 149 |
| | Division 3 — Other powers | |
| 204. | Power to require name and address | 149 |
| 205. | Power to require evidence of age, name and address of person | 150 |

Contents

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 206. | Power of authorised officers to obtain information documents and evidence | 150 |
| | Division 4 — Offences relating to enforcement | |
| 207. | Offence to obstruct authorised officer | 151 |
| 208. | Offence to fail to assist authorised officer | 151 |
| 209. | Offence to destroy or damage notices or documents | 152 |
| 210. | Offence to impersonate authorised officer | 152 |
| 211. | Protection against self incrimination | 152 |
| 212. | Warning to be given | 153 |
| 213. | Occupier’s consent to search | 153 |
| | Division 5 — Powers of Regulatory Authority | |
| 214. | Powers of Regulatory Authority to obtain information for rating purposes | 153 |
| 215. | Power of Regulatory Authority to obtain information, documents and evidence by notice | 154 |
| 216. | Power of Regulatory Authority to obtain information, documents and evidence at education and care service | 155 |
| 217. | Offence to fail to comply with notice or requirement | 155 |
| 218. | Offence to hinder or obstruct Regulatory Authority | 155 |
| 219. | Self incrimination not an excuse | 156 |
| | Part 10 — Ministerial Council | |
| 220. | Functions of Ministerial Council | 156 |
| 221. | Powers of Ministerial Council | 157 |
| 222. | Directions | 158 |
| 223. | How Ministerial Council exercises powers | 159 |
| | Part 11 — Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority | |
| | Division 1 — The National Authority | |
| 224. | National Authority | 159 |
| 225. | Functions of National Authority | 159 |
| 226. | National Authority may advise and seek guidance of Ministerial Council | 161 |
| 227. | Powers of National Authority | 161 |
| 228. | Co-operation with participating jurisdictions and Commonwealth | 162 |
| 229. | National audit functions | 163 |

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| | Division 2 — The Board of the National Authority | |
| | Subdivision 1 — Establishment and responsibilities | |
| 230. | National Authority Board | 163 |
| 231. | Responsibilities of Board | 163 |
| 232. | Membership of Board | 164 |
| | Subdivision 2 — Members | |
| 233. | Terms of office of members | 165 |
| 234. | Remuneration | 165 |
| 235. | Vacancy in the office of member | 165 |
| 236. | Acting positions | 167 |
| 237. | Leave of absence | 168 |
| 238. | Disclosure of conflict of interest | 168 |
| | Subdivision 3 — Procedure of Board | |
| 239. | General procedure | 169 |
| 240. | Quorum | 169 |
| 241. | Chief executive officer may attend meetings of the Board | 170 |
| 242. | Presiding member | 170 |
| 243. | Voting | 170 |
| 244. | Defects in appointment of members | 170 |
| 245. | Transaction of business by alternative means | 171 |
| 246. | Delegation by Board | 171 |
| 247. | Committees | 172 |
| | Subdivision 4 — Chief executive officer of the National Authority | |
| 248. | Chief executive officer | 172 |
| 249. | Functions of chief executive officer | 173 |
| 250. | Terms and conditions of appointment | 173 |
| 251. | Remuneration | 174 |
| 252. | Vacancy in office | 174 |
| 253. | Resignation | 174 |
| 254. | Termination of appointment | 174 |
| 255. | Acting chief executive officer | 175 |
| 256. | Disclosure of interests | 175 |
| | Subdivision 5 — Staff, consultants and contractors | |
| 257. | Staff of National Authority | 176 |
| 258. | Staff seconded to National Authority | 176 |
| 259. | Consultants and contractors | 176 |

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| | Part 12 — Regulatory Authority | |
| 260. | Functions of Regulatory Authority | 176 |
| 261. | Powers of Regulatory Authority | 177 |
| 262. | Delegations | 178 |
| | Part 13 — Information, records and privacy | |
| | Division 1 — Privacy | |
| 263. | Application of Commonwealth Privacy Act | 178 |
| | Division 2 — Application of Commonwealth FOI Act | |
| 264. | Application of Commonwealth FOI Act | 179 |
| | Division 3 — Application of New South Wales State Records Act | |
| 265. | Application of State Records Act | 180 |
| | Division 4 — Registers | |
| 269. | Register of family day care educators | 181 |
| | Division 5 — Publication of information | |
| 270. | Publication of information | 181 |
| | Division 6 — Disclosure of information | |
| 271. | Disclosure of information to other authorities | 182 |
| 272. | Disclosure of information to education and care services | 183 |
| 273. | Duty of confidentiality | 184 |
| | Part 14 — Miscellaneous | |
| | Division 1 — Finance | |
| 274. | Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority Fund | 185 |
| 275. | Payments into Authority Fund | 185 |
| 276. | Payments out of Authority Fund | 186 |
| 277. | Investment of money in Authority Fund | 186 |
| 278. | Financial management duties of National Authority | 186 |
| | Division 2 — Reporting | |
| 279. | Annual report | 187 |
| 280. | Tabling and publication of annual report | 188 |
| 281. | Other reporting | 188 |
| | Division 3 — Application of Commonwealth Ombudsman Act | |
| 282. | Application of Commonwealth Ombudsman Act | 189 |
| | Division 4 — Legal proceedings | |
| 283. | Who may bring proceedings for an offence? | 189 |

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 284. | When proceedings may be brought | 190 |
| 285. | Offences by bodies corporate | 190 |
| 286. | Application of Law to partnerships and eligible associations and other entities | 190 |
| 287. | Multiple holders of an approval | 191 |
| 288. | Double jeopardy | 191 |
| 289. | Immunity | 191 |
| 290. | Immunity — education law | 192 |
| 291. | Infringement offences | 192 |
| 292. | Evidentiary certificates | 193 |
| | Division 5 — Service of notices | |
| 293. | Service of notices | 194 |
| 294. | Service by post | 195 |
| | Division 6 — False or misleading information | |
| 295. | False or misleading information or documents | 196 |
| | Division 7 — Protection from reprisal | |
| 296. | Definitions | 196 |
| 297. | Protection from reprisal | 197 |
| 298. | Proceedings for damages for reprisal | 197 |
| 299. | Application for injunction or order | 198 |
| 300. | Injunction or order | 198 |
| | Division 8 — National regulations | |
| 301. | National regulations | 198 |
| 302. | Publication of national regulations | 201 |
| 303. | Parliamentary scrutiny of national regulations | 201 |
| 304. | Effect of disallowance of national regulation | 201 |
| | Part 15 — Transitional provisions | |
| | Division 1 — Introductory | |
| 305. | Definitions | 201 |
| | Division 2 — Education and care services | |
| 306. | Approved provider | 203 |
| 307. | Service approvals | 204 |
| 308. | Approved family day care venues | 205 |
| 309. | Approval of declared out of scope services | 205 |
| 310. | Application for service waiver or temporary waiver | 206 |
| 311. | Existing applicants | 206 |
| 312. | Existing multiple approvals to merge | 207 |
| 313. | Display of accreditation and rating | 207 |

Contents

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 314. | Effect of non-compliance in 3 years before scheme commencement day | 207 |
| 315. | Certified supervisors | 208 |
| 316. | Nominated supervisors | 208 |
| 317. | Notices and undertakings | 209 |
| 318. | Offences | 209 |
| | Division 3 — National Authority | |
| 319. | First meeting of National Authority | 210 |
| 320. | First chief executive officer of National Authority | 210 |
| 321. | First annual report of National Authority | 210 |
| | Division 4 — General | |
| 322. | Information retention and sharing | 210 |
| 323. | Approved learning framework | 211 |
| 324. | Savings and transitional regulations | 211 |
| | Schedule 1 — Miscellaneous provision relating to interpretation | |
| | Part 1 — Preliminary | |
| 1. | Displacement of Schedule by contrary intention | 212 |
| | Part 2 — General | |
| 2. | Law to be construed not to exceed legislative power of Legislature | 212 |
| 3. | Every section to be a substantive enactment | 212 |
| 4. | Material that is, and is not, part of this Law | 212 |
| 5. | References to particular Acts and to enactments | 213 |
| 6. | References taken to be included in Act or Law citation etc | 213 |
| 7. | Interpretation best achieving Law’s purpose | 214 |
| 8. | Use of extrinsic material in interpretation | 214 |
| 9. | Effect of change of drafting practice and use of examples | 216 |
| 10. | Use of examples | 216 |
| 11. | Compliance with forms | 216 |
| 11A. | Penalty at end of provision | 217 |
| | Part 3 — Terms and references | |
| 12. | Definitions | 217 |
| 13. | Provisions relating to defined terms and gender and number | 221 |
| 14. | Meaning of “may” and “must” etc. | 222 |

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 15. | Words and expressions used in statutory instruments | 222 |
| 16. | Effect of express references to bodies corporate and individuals | 222 |
| 17. | Production of records kept in computers etc. | 222 |
| 18. | References to this jurisdiction to be implied | 223 |
| 19. | References to officers and holders of offices | 223 |
| 20. | Reference to certain provisions of Law | 223 |
| 21. | Reference to provisions of this Law or an Act is inclusive | 224 |
| | Part 4 — Functions and powers | |
| 22. | Performance of statutory functions | 225 |
| 23. | Power to make instrument or decision includes power to amend or repeal | 225 |
| 24. | Matters for which statutory instruments may make provision | 225 |
| 25. | Presumption of validity and power to make | 227 |
| 26. | Appointments may be made by name or office | 227 |
| 27. | Acting appointments | 227 |
| 28. | Powers of appointment imply certain incidental powers | 229 |
| 29. | Delegation of functions | 229 |
| 30. | Exercise of powers between enactment and commencement | 231 |
| | Part 5 — Distance, time and age | |
| 31. | Matters relating to distance, time and age | 234 |
| | Part 6 — Effect of repeal, amendment or expiration | |
| 32. | Time of Law ceasing to have effect | 235 |
| 33. | Repealed Law provisions not revived | 235 |
| 34. | Saving of operation of repealed Law provisions | 235 |
| 35. | Continuance of repealed provisions | 236 |
| 36. | Law and amending Acts to be read as one | 236 |
| | Part 7 — Instruments under Law | |
| 37. | Schedule applies to statutory instruments | 236 |
| | Part 8 — Application to coastal sea | |
| 38. | Application | 236 |
| | Schedule 2 — Powers of entry by search warrant | |
| 1. | Application for warrant | 237 |

Contents

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 2. | Issue of warrant | 237 |
| 3. | Application by electronic communication | 238 |
| 4. | Procedure before entry under warrant | 239 |
| 5. | Powers after entering premises | 240 |
| | Notes | |
| | Compilation table | 241 |
| | Provisions that have not come into operation | 241 |

Western Australia

Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012

No. 11 of 2012

**An Act to —
provide for a national scheme regarding the regulation of education
and care services for children; and
make consequential and other amendments to various other Acts,
and for related purposes.**

Part 1 — Preliminary

1. Short title

This is the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012*¹.

2. Commencement

This Act comes into operation as follows —

- (a) sections 1 and 2 — on the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent (*assent day*);
- (b) Part 4 Division 3 —
 - (i) on a day fixed by proclamation; or
 - (ii) if the day fixed under subparagraph (i) is before the day on which the *Health, Safety and Civil Liability (Children in Schools and Child Care Services) Act 2011* Part 2 (**Part 2**) comes into operation — immediately after Part 2 comes into operation;
- (c) the rest of the Act — on a day fixed by proclamation, and different days may be fixed for different provisions.

3. Terms used

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, the *local application provisions of this Act* are the provisions of this Act other than the Education and Care Services National Law set out in the Schedule.
- (2) In the local application provisions of this Act —
Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia) means the provisions applying in this jurisdiction because of section 4.
- (3) If a term is given a meaning in the Education and Care Services National Law set out in the Schedule, it has the same meaning in the local application provisions of this Act.

Part 2 — Application of Education and Care Services National Law

4. Application of the Education and Care Services National Law

The Education and Care Services National Law set out in the Schedule —

- (a) applies as a law of this jurisdiction; and
- (b) as so applying, may be referred to as the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)*; and
- (c) as so applying, is part of this Act.

5. Exclusion of legislation of this jurisdiction

- (1) Except as provided in section 17, the following Acts of this jurisdiction do not apply to the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* or to the instruments made under that Law —
 - (a) the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*;
 - (b) the *Interpretation Act 1984*.
- (2) The following Acts of this jurisdiction do not apply to the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* or to the instruments made under that Law, except to the extent that that Law and those instruments apply to the Regulatory Authority and the employees, decisions, actions and records of the Regulatory Authority —
 - (a) the *Auditor General Act 2006*;
 - (b) the *Financial Management Act 2006*;
 - (c) the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*;
 - (d) the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*;
 - (e) the *State Records Act 2000*.

6. Meaning of generic terms in Education and Care Services National Law for the purposes of this jurisdiction

In the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* —

child protection law means the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*;

court means the Magistrates Court of Western Australia established under the *Magistrates Court Act 2004*;

de facto relationship has the meaning given in the *Interpretation Act 1984* section 13A;

local authority means a local government established under the *Local Government Act 1995*;

magistrate means a magistrate within the meaning of the *Magistrates Court Act 2004*;

public authority has the meaning given in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 3;

registered teacher has the meaning given in the *Western Australian College of Teaching Act 2004* section 3(1);

superior court means the Supreme Court of Western Australia;

this jurisdiction means Western Australia.

7. Relevant tribunal or court

For the purposes of the definition of **relevant tribunal or court** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the State Administrative Tribunal is declared to be the relevant tribunal or court for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

8. Regulatory Authority

For the purposes of the definition of **Regulatory Authority** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the chief executive officer of the department principally assisting in the administration of the

Child Care Services Act 2007 is declared to be the regulatory authority for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

9. Children’s services law

- (1) For the purposes of the definition of ***children’s services law*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the *Child Care Services Act 2007* and the regulations made under that Act are declared to be a children’s services law for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.
- (2) For the purposes of the definition of ***children’s services regulator*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the chief executive officer of the department principally assisting in the administration of the *Child Care Services Act 2007* is declared to be a children’s services regulator for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

10. Education law

For the purposes of the definition of ***education law*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the *School Education Act 1999* and the regulations made under that Act and the *Western Australian College of Teaching Act 2004* and the regulations made under that Act are declared to be an education law for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

11. Former education and care services law

For the purposes of the definition of ***former education and care services law*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the *Child Care Services Act 2007* and the regulations made under that Act (both as in force immediately before the commencement of the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* Part 3) are declared to be a former education and care services law for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

s. 12

12. Infringements law

For the purposes of the definition of ***infringements law*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the *Criminal Procedure Act 2004* Part 2 and the regulations made for the purposes of that Part of that Act are declared to be an infringements law for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

13. Public sector law

For the purposes of the definition of ***public sector law*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* and the regulations made under that Act are declared to be a public sector law for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

14. Working with children law

For the purposes of the definition of ***working with children law*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5, the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004* and the regulations made under that Act are declared to be a working with children law for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

15. Transitional

- (1) For the purposes of the definition of ***declared approved provider*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 305, a person who held a licence, other than a licence to provide a family day care service, under the *Child Care Services Act 2007* is declared to be a declared approved provider for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.
- (2) For the purposes of the definition of ***declared approved service*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 305, a service to which a licence to provide a child care service, other than a licence to provide a family day

care service, applied under the *Child Care Services Act 2007* is declared to be a declared approved service for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

- (3) For the purposes of the definition of ***declared certified supervisor*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 305, the following persons are declared to be declared certified supervisors for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law —
- (a) for a declared approved service, a person who was a supervising officer under the *Child Care Services Act 2007* for that service;
 - (b) for a declared out of scope service, a person recognised as the coordinator of the service by the National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc.
- (4) For the purposes of the definition of ***declared nominated supervisor*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 305, the following persons are declared to be declared nominated supervisors for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law —
- (a) for a declared approved service, a person who was a supervising officer under the *Child Care Services Act 2007* for that service;
 - (b) for a declared out of scope service, a person recognised as the coordinator of the service by the National Childcare Accreditation Council Inc.
- (5) For the purposes of the definition of ***declared out of scope service*** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 305, a service that —
- (a) was delivered through the use of 2 or more individuals who each held a licence to provide a family day care service under the *Child Care Services Act 2007*; and

s. 15

- (b) provided education and care for children in residences whether or not the service also provided education and care to children at a place other than a residence,

is declared to be a declared out of scope service for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

- (6) For the purposes of the definition of **former approval** in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 305, a licence to provide a child care service, other than a licence to provide a family day care service, under the *Child Care Services Act 2007* is declared to be a former approval for this jurisdiction for the purposes of that Law.

Part 3 — Other local provisions

16. Tabling of annual report

In addition to the requirements of the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 280, the Minister must cause the annual report of the National Authority, and the report of the public sector auditor with respect to the financial statement in the report, to be laid before each House of the Western Australian Parliament as soon as is practicable after those reports have been tabled under that section.

17. National regulations under the WA national law

Where regulations may be made under the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 301 by the Governor —

- (a) the Governor means the Governor of Western Australia and includes the officer for the time being administering the Government of Western Australia; and
- (b) the *Interpretation Act 1984* sections 41, 42 and 60 apply to, and in respect of the making of, regulations by the Governor under that section.

18. Review of Act

- (1) The Minister is to carry out a review of the operation and effectiveness of this Act as soon as is practicable after the expiration of 5 years from the commencement of this section.
- (2) The Minister is to prepare a report based on the review carried out under subsection (1) and is to cause the report to be laid before each House of the Western Australian Parliament as soon as is practicable after the report is prepared, and in any event, not later than 12 months after the requirement to carry out the review arose.

s. 19

19. Transitional regulations

- (1) If there is no sufficient provision in this Act for dealing with a transitional matter the Governor may make regulations prescribing all matters that are required, necessary or convenient to be prescribed in relation to that matter.
- (2) Regulations made under subsection (1) may provide that specific provisions of the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* —
 - (a) do not apply; or
 - (b) apply with specific modifications,to or in relation to any matter.
- (3) If regulations made under subsection (1) provide that a specified state of affairs is to be taken to have existed, or not to have existed, on and from a day that is earlier than the day on which the regulations are published in the *Gazette* but not earlier than the day on which section 2 commenced, the regulations have effect according to their terms.
- (4) In subsection (3) —
specified means specified or described in the regulations.
- (5) If regulations contain a provision referred to in subsection (3), the provision does not operate so as —
 - (a) to affect in a manner prejudicial to any person (other than the State or an authority of the State), the right of that person existing before the day of publication of those regulations; or
 - (b) to impose liabilities on any person (other than the State or an authority of the State) in respect of anything done or omitted to be done before the day of publication of those regulations.
- (6) Regulations made under this section must be made within 12 months after the day on which this section commenced.

Part 4 — Amendments to other Acts

Division 1 — *Child Care Services Act 2007* amended

20. Act amended

This Division amends the *Child Care Services Act 2007*.

21. Section 3 amended

- (1) In section 3 delete the definition of *family day care service*.
- (2) In section 3 insert in alphabetical order:

family day care service means a type of child care service prescribed as a family day care service for the purposes of this Act;

national child care law means the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)*;

22. Section 4 replaced

Delete section 4 and insert:

4. Term used: child care service

For the purposes of this Act, a *child care service* is a service providing or intended to provide education and care on a regular basis to children under 13 years of age (or such other age as may be prescribed for the purposes of this section) that —

- (a) is not an education and care service under the national child care law; and
- (b) is prescribed for the purposes of this Act as a type of service to which this Act applies.

23. Section 5B inserted

Before section 5 insert:

5B. Application of this Act to associated children's services

- (1) This Act does not apply to a child care service that is an associated children's service to the extent to which the national child care law applies to that service.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), this Act applies in relation to an associated children's service provided at a place as if —
 - (a) a service approval in relation to the associated children's service, were a licence under this Act authorising the provision of the child care service at that place; and
 - (b) an approved provider who is the holder of a service approval in relation to the associated children's service, were a holder of a licence under this Act authorising the provision of the child care service at that place; and
 - (c) a person with management or control in relation to the associated children's service, the approved provider for which is a body corporate, were a managerial officer of the body corporate; and
 - (d) a nominated supervisor in relation to the associated children's service, were a supervising officer for the child care service.
- (3) Instead of amending a service approval, under section 32 as read with subsection (2), in relation to an associated children's service, the CEO is to direct the

Regulatory Authority to amend the service approval under section 55(5) of the national child care law.

- (4) If a term is given a meaning in the national child care law, it has the same meaning in this section.

24. Section 38 amended

- (1) In section 38(1) in the definition of *corresponding authority* delete “Act;” and insert:

Act or the national child care law;

- (2) In section 38(1) in the definition of *relevant information* in paragraph (b) delete “Act.” and insert:

Act or the national child care law.

25. Sections 53B, 53C and 53D inserted

Before section 53 insert:

53B. Regulations may prescribe codes of practice

- (1) Regulations made under section 52 may prescribe a code of practice to apply in relation to the provision of child care services or a particular type, or types, of child care service.
- (2) A code of practice prescribed by the regulations must have been —
- (a) submitted to the Minister in accordance with section 53C; and

- (b) approved by the Minister with or without amendments.

53C. Preparation of draft code of practice by CEO

- (1) The CEO may, with the approval of the Minister, prepare a draft code of practice for submission to the Minister for consideration.
- (2) The CEO must, if the Minister directs, prepare a draft code of practice for submission to the Minister for consideration.
- (3) For the purpose of preparing a draft code of practice, the CEO must arrange for consultation with, and invite submissions from, persons and organisations that the CEO considers would have an interest in the terms of the proposed draft code.

53D. Interim code of practice

- (1) The regulations may prescribe a code of practice even though the procedures set out in section 53C(3) have not been followed or completed.
- (2) A code of practice prescribed under this section is an interim code of practice, and has effect only for the period (not exceeding 6 months) specified in the regulations.

Division 2 — *Children and Community Services Act 2004* amended

26. Act amended

This Division amends the *Children and Community Services Act 2004*.

27. Section 3 amended

In section 3 insert in alphabetical order:

child care services means —

- (a) any education and care service as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1); or
- (b) any child care service as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 4;

[*Division 3 has not come into operation*².]

Division 4 — *The Criminal Code* amended

30. Act amended

This Division amends *The Criminal Code*.

31. Section 557K amended

In section 557K(1) insert in alphabetical order:

child care centre means a place where —

- (a) an education and care service as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1) operates; or
- (b) a child care service as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 4 is provided;

Division 5 — *Evidence Act 1906* amended

32. Act amended

This Division amends the *Evidence Act 1906*.

33. Section 19L amended

Delete section 19L(4a) and insert:

- (5A) If in criminal proceedings leave is given under the protection provisions to require disclosure of —
- (a) a child care record as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 46(1), then section 46(5) to (8) of that Act applies as if the child care record had been produced in response to a requirement referred to in section 46(2) of that Act; or
 - (b) protected information as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 273(3), then section 46(5) to (8) of the *Child Care Services Act 2007* applies as if the protected information —
 - (i) was a child care record; and
 - (ii) had been produced in response to a requirement referred to section 46(2) of that Act.

Division 6 — Health Act 1911 amended

34. Act amended

This Division amends the *Health Act 1911*.

35. Section 337 amended

After section 337(1) insert:

- (2A) In subsection (1) —
child care centre means a place where —

- (a) an education and care service as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1) operates; or
- (b) a child care service as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 4 is provided.

Division 7 — *School Education Act 1999* amended

36. Act amended

This Division amends the *School Education Act 1999*.

37. Section 4 amended

- (1) In section 4 insert in alphabetical order:

early education period for a child means the period before the child's pre-compulsory education period;

- (2) In the definition of *educational programme*:

- (a) delete "student" and insert:

student, or a child enrolled at a community kindergarten,

- (b) after "student's" insert:

or child's

38. Section 74A amended

At the end of Part 3 Division 3 insert:

74A. Educational programme for children in their early education period

- (1) An educational programme must not be provided at a government school for a child in the early education period for that child unless the Minister has approved the provision of the programme at the school.
- (2) The content and implementation of an educational programme referred to in subsection (1) is to be decided by the principal subject to the direction and control of the chief executive officer.
- (3) An organised set of learning activities provided at a government school for a child in the early education period for that child before the commencement of the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012* Part 4 Division 7 is, and is to be taken to always have been, an educational programme lawfully and validly provided to a student under this Act.

39. Section 77 amended

In section 77 delete “in which the child’s pre-compulsory” and insert:

before the child’s compulsory

40. Section 82 amended

Delete section 82(1) and insert:

- (1) This section applies to a child —
 - (a) in the child’s —

- (i) pre-compulsory education period; or
 - (ii) compulsory education period;
- and
- (b) in respect of whom an application for enrolment has been made under section 74 but who has not been enrolled in accordance with the application.

41. Section 83 amended

Delete section 83(1) and insert:

- (1) This section applies to a child —
 - (a) in the child's —
 - (i) pre-compulsory education period; or
 - (ii) compulsory education period;
 - and
 - (b) who is enrolled in a government school.

42. Section 154 amended

In section 154(1):

- (a) in paragraph (b) delete “period,” and insert:

period; or
- (b) after paragraph (b) insert:
- (c) early education period,

43. Section 156 amended

In section 156(3):

- (a) delete “both” and insert:

more

- (b) in paragraph (b) delete “period.” and insert:

period;

- (c) after paragraph (b) insert:

- (c) education for children in their early education period or for any specified part of that period.

44. Section 192 amended

In section 192 delete “children in the first year of their pre-compulsory education period.” and insert:

one or both of the following —

- (a) education for children in the first year of their pre-compulsory education period;
- (b) education for children in their early education period or for any specified part of that period.

45. Section 197 amended

In section 197(1) delete “kindergarten that is” and insert:

kindergarten, specifying the kind or kinds of education, in terms of section 192, for which it is

46. Section 199 amended

In section 199(1)(b) delete “attendance is approved by the chief executive officer.” and insert:

attendance —

- (i) is approved by the chief executive officer; or
- (ii) if the kindergarten is registered to provide the kind of education referred to in section 192(b), is in accordance with the regulations.

47. Schedule 1 Division 1 heading inserted

At the beginning of Schedule 1 insert:

Division 1 — Transitional provisions for the commencement of this Act

48. Schedule 1 Division 2 inserted

At the end of Schedule 1 insert:

Division 2 — Transitional provisions for the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012*

24. Term used: commencement

In this Division —

commencement means the commencement of the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012* section 48.

25. Registration extended for a period of time

- (1) If, immediately before commencement, a non-government school was providing a kind of education referred to in section 156(3)(c), then after commencement, the registration of the school under section 160 is to be taken to extend to the provision of that kind of education.
- (2) Subject to Part 4, the registration provided for by subclause (1) continues in force for 3 years from the commencement.

Division 8 — *Spent Convictions Act 1988* amended

49. Act amended

This Division amends the *Spent Convictions Act 1988*.

50. Schedule 3 amended

In Schedule 3 clause 1(5) in the Table delete item 5 and insert:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 5. | A person who holds, or is applying for, a licence to provide a child care service under the <i>Child Care Services Act 2007</i> . | Sections 18, 20 and 22 and Division 4 |
| 6A. | A person who holds, or is applying for — (a) a provider approval or, if that person is not an individual, each person who is, or will be, a person with management or control of an education and care service operated by the person, or to be operated by the applicant; or (b) a supervisor certificate, under the <i>Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)</i> . | Sections 18, 20 and 22 and Division 4 |

Division 9 — Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 amended

51. Act amended

This Division amends the *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*.

52. Section 4 amended

In section 4 delete the definition of *child care service* and insert:

child care service means —

- (a) an education and care service as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1); or
- (b) a child care service as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 4;

53. Section 5 amended

- (1) In section 5(1) delete the definition of *managerial officer* and insert:

managerial officer, means —

- (a) a managerial officer, as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 3, in relation to a body corporate that holds a licence under that Act; or
- (b) a person with management or control, as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1), in relation to an education and care service under that Law.

- (2) In section 5(2) delete “managerial officer in relation to a body corporate that holds a licence under the *Child Care Services Act 2007* —” and insert:

managerial officer —

54. Section 38 amended

- (1) In section 38(3)(a) delete “2007; or” and insert:

2007, or is an approved provider as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1); or

- (2) Delete section 38(3)(b) and insert:

(b) is —

- (i) a supervising officer or a managerial officer, as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 3; or
- (ii) a certified supervisor, a nominated supervisor or a person with management or control, in relation to an education and care service under the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)*,

Schedule — Education and Care Services National Law

[s. 4]

Part 1 — Preliminary

1. Short title

This Law may be cited as the Education and Care Services National Law.

2. Commencement

This Law commences in a participating jurisdiction as provided under the Act of that jurisdiction that applies this Law as a law of that jurisdiction.

3. Objectives and guiding principles

- (1) The objective of this Law is to establish a national education and care services quality framework for the delivery of education and care services to children.
- (2) The objectives of the national education and care services quality framework are —
 - (a) to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of children attending education and care services;
 - (b) to improve the educational and developmental outcomes for children attending education and care services;
 - (c) to promote continuous improvement in the provision of quality education and care services;
 - (d) to establish a system of national integration and shared responsibility between participating jurisdictions and the Commonwealth in the administration of the national education and care services quality framework;
 - (e) to improve public knowledge, and access to information, about the quality of education and care services;
 - (f) to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden for education and care services by enabling information to be shared between participating jurisdictions and the Commonwealth.

- (3) The guiding principles of the national education and care services quality framework are as follows —
- (a) that the best interests of the child are paramount;
 - (b) that children are successful, competent and capable learners;
 - (c) that the principles of equity, inclusion and diversity underlie this Law;
 - (d) that Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued;
 - (e) that the role of parents and families is respected and supported;
 - (f) that best practice is expected in the provision of education and care services.

Note: This section differs from section 3 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

4. How functions to be exercised

An entity that has functions under this Law is to exercise its functions having regard to the objectives and guiding principles of the national education and care services quality framework set out in section 3.

5. Definitions

- (1) In this Law —

approved education and care service means an education and care service for which a service approval exists;

approved family day care service means an approved education and care service that is a family day care service;

approved family day care venue means a place other than a residence where an approved family day care service is provided;

approved learning framework means a learning framework approved by the Ministerial Council;

approved provider means a person who holds a provider approval;

associated children's service means a children's service that is operated or intended to be operated by an approved provider at the same place as an approved education and care service;

Australian Accounting Standards means the standards issued or pronounced by the Australian Accounting Standards Board;

authorised officer means a person authorised to be an authorised officer under Part 9;

Authority Fund means the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority Fund established under section 274;

Board means the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority Board established under this Law;

certified supervisor means a person who holds a supervisor certificate;

chief executive officer means the chief executive officer of the National Authority appointed under this Law;

children's service means a service providing or intended to provide education and care on a regular basis to children under 13 years of age that is primarily regulated under a children's services law of a participating jurisdiction and is not an education and care service;

children's services law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a children's services law for the purposes of this Law;

children's services regulator, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a person declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be the children's services regulator for the purposes of this Law;

Commonwealth Minister means the Minister of the Commonwealth who is responsible for policies and programs relating to education and care services;

community kindergarten means a kindergarten registered under the *School Education Act 1999* Part 5;

compliance direction means a compliance direction under section 176;

compliance notice means a compliance notice under section 177;

disciplinary action means disciplinary action under Part 7 Division 3A;

education and care service means any service providing or intended to provide education and care on a regular basis to children under 13 years of age other than —

- (a) a school providing an educational program to school children in accordance with the *School Education Act 1999*; or
- (b) a community kindergarten providing an educational program to children in accordance with the *School Education Act 1999*; or
- (c) a personal arrangement; or
- (d) a service principally conducted to provide instruction in a particular activity; or

Example: Instruction in a particular activity could be instruction in sport, dance, music, culture or language or religious instruction.

- (e) a service providing education and care to patients in a hospital or patients of a medical or therapeutic care service; or
- (f) care provided under a child protection law of a participating jurisdiction; or
- (g) a prescribed class of disability service; or
- (h) a service of a prescribed class;

Example: Education and care services to which this Law applies include long day care services, family day care services and outside school hours services, unless expressly excluded.

education and care service premises means —

- (a) in relation to an education and care service other than a family day care service, each place at which an education and care service operates or is to operate; or
- (b) in relation to a family day care service —
 - (i) an office of the family day care service; or
 - (ii) an approved family day care venue; or
 - (iii) each part of a residence used to provide education and care to children as part of a family day care service or used to provide access to the part of the residence used to provide that education and care;

education law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be an education law for the purposes of this Law;

educational program means an educational programme as defined in the *School Education Act 1999*;

educator means an individual who provides education and care for children as part of an education and care service;

eligible association means an association of a prescribed class;

family day care co-ordinator means a person employed or engaged by an approved provider of a family day care service to monitor and support the family day care educators who are part of the service;

family day care educator means an educator engaged by or registered with a family day care service to provide education and care for children in a residence or at an approved family day care venue;

family day care residence means a residence at which a family day care educator educates and cares for children as part of a family day care service;

family day care service means an education and care service that is delivered through the use of 2 or more educators to provide education and care for children in residences whether or not the service also provides education and care to children at a place other than a residence;

family member, in relation to a child, means —

- (a) a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, or cousin of the child, whether of the whole blood or half-blood and whether that relationship arises by marriage (including a de facto relationship) or by adoption or otherwise; or
- (b) a relative of the child according to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander tradition; or
- (c) a person with whom the child resides in a family-like relationship; or
- (d) a person who is recognised in the child's community as having a familial role in respect of the child;

former education and care services law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a former education and care services law for the purposes of this Law;

grade 1, in relation to a school, means the first year of compulsory full-time schooling;

guardian, in relation to a child, means the legal guardian of the child;

infringements law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be an infringements law for the purposes of this Law;

Ministerial Council means the Ministerial Council consisting of the persons who from time to time hold office as Ministers of the Crown responsible for early childhood education or care in the governments of the States and Territories and the Commonwealth;

National Authority means the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority established under this Law;

national education and care services quality framework means —

- (a) this Law; and
- (b) the national regulations; and
- (c) the National Quality Standard; and
- (d) the prescribed rating system;

National Partnership Agreement means the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood and Care entered into by the States and Territories and the Commonwealth on 7 December 2009, as amended from time to time;

National Quality Framework means the national education and care services quality framework;

National Quality Standard means the National Quality Standard prescribed by the national regulations;

national regulations means the regulations made under this Law;

nominated supervisor, in relation to an education and care service, means a person —

- (a) who is a certified supervisor; and
- (b) who is nominated by the approved provider of the service under Part 3 to be the nominated supervisor of that service; and

- (c) who has consented to that nomination;

Note: A person may be both the nominated supervisor of a family day care service and the family day care co-ordinator for that service if the person meets the criteria for each role.

office, in relation to a family day care service, means —

- (a) the principal office or any other business office of the approved provider of the service; or
(b) any premises of the service from which its family day care educators are co-ordinated;

parent, in relation to a child, means a person who at law has responsibility for —

- (a) the long term care, welfare and development of the child; or
(b) the day-to-day care, welfare and development of the child;

participating jurisdiction means a State or Territory in which —

- (a) this Law applies as a Law of the State or Territory; or
(b) a law that substantially corresponds to the provisions of this Law has been enacted;

payment, in relation to a prescribed fee, includes payment by electronic or other means;

person means —

- (a) an individual; or
(b) a body corporate; or
(c) an eligible association; or
(d) a partnership; or
(e) a prescribed entity;

person with management or control, in relation to an education and care service, means —

- (a) if the provider or intended provider of the service is a body corporate, an officer of the body corporate within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth who is responsible for managing the delivery of the education and care service; or
(b) if the provider of the service is an eligible association, each member of the executive committee of the association who

has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service; or

- (c) if the provider of the service is a partnership, each partner who has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service; or
- (d) in any other case, a person who has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service;

personal arrangement means education and care provided to a child —

- (a) by a family member or guardian of a child personally, otherwise than as a staff member of, or under an engagement with, a service providing education and care on a regular basis to children under 13 years of age; or
- (b) by a friend of the family of the child personally under an informal arrangement where no offer to provide that education and care was advertised;

prescribed ineligible person means a person in a class of persons prescribed by the national regulations to be prescribed ineligible persons;

protected disclosure — see section 296;

provider approval means a provider approval —

- (a) granted under Part 2 of this Law or this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction; and
- (b) as amended under this Law or this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction —

but does not include a provider approval that has been cancelled;

public sector law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a public sector law for the purposes of this Law;

rating assessment means an assessment or reassessment of an approved education and care service under Part 5;

Ratings Review Panel means a Ratings Review Panel established under section 146;

receiving approved provider has the meaning set out in section 58;

Regulatory Authority means a person declared by a law of a participating jurisdiction to be the Regulatory Authority for that jurisdiction or for a class of education and care services for that jurisdiction;

relevant Commonwealth Department means the government department administered by the Commonwealth Minister;

relevant tribunal or court, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means the tribunal or court declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be the relevant tribunal or court for the purposes of this Law or a provision of this Law;

residence means the habitable areas of a dwelling;

school children, includes students, as defined in the *School Education Act 1999*, attending school before grade 1;

school means —

- (a) a government school; or
- (b) a non-government school that is registered or accredited under an education law of a participating jurisdiction;

serious detrimental action — see section 296;

service approval means a service approval —

- (a) granted under Part 3 of this Law or this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction; and
- (b) as amended under this Law or this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction —

but does not include a service approval that has been cancelled;

staff member, in relation to an education and care service, means any individual (other than the nominated supervisor or a volunteer) employed, appointed or engaged to work in or as part of an education and care service, whether as family day care co-ordinator, educator or otherwise;

supervisor certificate means a supervisor certificate —

- (a) issued under Part 4 of this Law or this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction; and
- (b) as amended under this Law or this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction —

but does not include a supervisor certificate that has been cancelled;

transferring approved provider has the meaning set out in section 58;

working with children card means a card issued to a person under a working with children law of a participating jurisdiction that permits that person to work with children;

working with children check means a notice, certificate or other document granted to, or with respect to, a person under a working with children law to the effect that —

- (a) the person has been assessed as suitable to work with children; or
- (b) there has been no information that if the person worked with children the person would pose a risk to the children; or
- (c) the person is not prohibited from attempting to obtain, undertake or remain in child-related employment;

working with children law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a working with children law for the purposes of this Law;

working with vulnerable people law, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a law declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a working with vulnerable people law for the purposes of this Law.

- (2) In this Law, a reference (either generally or specifically) to a law or a provision of a law (including this Law) includes a reference to the statutory instruments made or in force under the law or provision.
- (3) In this Law a reference to education and care includes a reference to education or care.
- (4) In this Law, an education and care service as defined in subsection (1) is an education and care service even if the service also provides education and care to children of or over the age of 13 years.
- (5) In this Law, a children's service as defined in subsection (1) is a children's service even if the service also provides education and care to children of or over the age of 13 years.
- (6) In this Law, a reference to this Law as applying in a jurisdiction, includes a reference to a law that substantially corresponds to this Law enacted, or applying, in a jurisdiction.

Note: This section differs from section 5 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

6. Interpretation generally

- (1) Schedule 1 applies in relation to this Law.
- (2) The National Partnership Agreement is declared to be a relevant document for the purposes of paragraph (h) of the definition of extrinsic material in clause 8(1) of Schedule 1.

7. Single national entity

- (1) It is the intention of the Parliament of this jurisdiction that this Law as applied by an Act of this jurisdiction, together with this Law as applied by Acts of other participating jurisdictions, has the effect that an entity established by this Law is one single national entity, with functions conferred by this Law as so applied.
- (2) An entity established by this Law has power to do acts in or in relation to this jurisdiction in the exercise of a function expressed to be conferred on it by this Law as applied by Acts of each participating jurisdiction.
- (3) An entity established by this Law may exercise its functions in relation to —
 - (a) one participating jurisdiction; or
 - (b) 2 or more or all participating jurisdictions collectively.

8. Extraterritorial operation of Law

It is the intention of the Parliament of this jurisdiction that the operation of this Law is to, as far as possible, include operation in relation to the following —

- (a) things situated in or outside the territorial limits of this jurisdiction;
- (b) acts, transactions and matters done, entered into or occurring in or outside the territorial limits of this jurisdiction;
- (c) things, acts, transactions and matters (wherever situated, done, entered into or occurring) that would, apart from this

Law, be governed or otherwise affected by the law of another jurisdiction.

9. Law binds the State

(1) This Law binds the State.

(2) In this section —

State means the Crown in right of this jurisdiction, and includes —

- (a) the Government of this jurisdiction; and
- (b) a Minister of the Crown in right of this jurisdiction; and
- (c) a statutory corporation, or other entity, representing the Crown in right of this jurisdiction.

Part 2 — Provider approval

Division 1 — Application for provider approval

10. Application for provider approval

(1) A person, other than a prescribed ineligible person, may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a provider approval.

(2) An application may be made by more than one person.

(3) If an application is made by more than one person —

- (a) the prescribed information requested under section 11(c) must be provided in respect of each person; and
- (b) the requirements of this Division must be complied with by and in respect of each person.

Note: This section differs from section 10 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

11. Form of application

An application under section 10 must —

- (a) be made to the Regulatory Authority of the participating jurisdiction —
 - (i) in which the applicant, or any of the applicants, is ordinarily resident; or

- (ii) if the applicant or applicants are not individuals, in which the principal office of the applicant or any of the applicants is located; and
- (b) be in writing; and
- (c) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
- (d) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Note: This section differs from section 11 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

12. Applicant must be fit and proper person

- (1) An applicant who is an individual must satisfy the Regulatory Authority that the applicant is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service.
- (2) If the applicant is not an individual, the applicant must satisfy the Regulatory Authority that —
 - (a) each person who will be a person with management or control of an education and care service to be operated by the applicant is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service; and
 - (b) the applicant is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service.
- (3) The head of a government department administering an education law of a participating jurisdiction is taken to be a fit and proper person for the purposes of this Part.

13. Matters to be taken into account in assessing whether fit and proper person

- (1) In determining whether a person is a fit and proper person under this Division, the Regulatory Authority must have regard to —
 - (a) the person's history of compliance with —
 - (i) this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction; and
 - (ii) a former education and care services law of a participating jurisdiction; and

(iii) a children's services law of a participating jurisdiction; and

(iv) an education law of a participating jurisdiction; and

Note: If a person has been served with an infringement notice for an offence under this Law, and the person has paid the penalty, the Regulatory Authority cannot consider that conduct when determining whether the person is fit and proper. See section 291(5).

(b) any decision under a former education and care services law, a children's services law or an education law of a participating jurisdiction to refuse, refuse to renew, suspend or cancel a licence, approval, registration or certification or other authorisation granted to the person under that law; and

(c) either —

(i) any prescribed matters relating to the criminal history of the person to the extent that history may affect the person's suitability for the role of provider of an education and care service; or

(ii) any check of the person under a working with vulnerable people law of a participating jurisdiction; and

(d) whether the person is bankrupt, or has applied to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors or, in the case of a body corporate, is insolvent under administration or an externally-administered body corporate.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Regulatory Authority may have regard to —

(a) whether the person has a medical condition that may cause the person to be incapable of being responsible for providing an education and care service in accordance with this Law; and

(b) whether the financial circumstances of the person may significantly limit the person's capacity to meet the person's obligations in providing an education and care service in accordance with this Law.

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) limits the circumstances in which a person may be considered not to be a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service.

14. Regulatory Authority may seek further information

- (1) For the purpose of carrying out an assessment as to whether a person is a fit and proper person, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) ask the person to provide further information; and
 - (b) undertake inquiries in relation to the person.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority asks the applicant for further information under this section, the period from the making of the request and the provision of the further information is not included in the period referred to in section 15 for the Regulatory Authority to make a decision on the application.

15. Grant or refusal of provider approval

- (1) On an application under section 10, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) grant the provider approval; or
 - (b) refuse to grant the provider approval.

Note: A provider approval is granted subject to conditions in accordance with section 19.

- (2) The Regulatory Authority must not grant a provider approval unless the Authority is satisfied as to the matters in section 12.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), the Regulatory Authority must make a decision on the application within 60 days after the Regulatory Authority receives the application.

Note: If further information is requested under section 14(2), the period between the making of the request and the provision of the information is not included in the 60 day period.

- (4) The period referred to in subsection (3) may be extended by up to 30 days with the agreement of the applicant.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority is taken to have refused to grant a provider approval if the Regulatory Authority has not made a decision under subsection (1) —
 - (a) within the relevant period required under subsection (3); or
 - (b) within the period extended under subsection (4),as the case requires.

16. Notice of decision on application

The Regulatory Authority must give written notice to the applicant of a decision under section 15 and the reasons for that decision within 7 days after the decision is made.

17. Duration of provider approval

A provider approval granted under section 15 continues in force until it is cancelled or surrendered under this Law, or this Law as applying in a participating jurisdiction.

18. Effect of provider approval

A provider approval authorises the approved provider to operate an approved education and care service and an associated children's service if the approved provider is the holder of the service approval for those services.

19. Conditions on provider approval

- (1) A provider approval may be granted subject to any conditions that are prescribed in the national regulations or that are determined by the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a provider approval is subject to the condition that the approved provider must comply with this Law.
- (3) A condition of a provider approval applies to the provider as the operator of any education and care service or associated children's service, unless the condition expressly provides otherwise.
- (4) An approved provider must comply with the conditions of the provider approval.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.
\$50 000, in any other case.

20. Copy of provider approval

If the Regulatory Authority grants a provider approval under this Part, the Regulatory Authority must provide a copy of the provider approval to the approved provider stating —

- (a) the name of the approved provider; and

- (b) if the approved provider is not an individual, the address of the principal office of the provider; and
- (c) any conditions to which the approval is subject; and
- (d) the date that the provider approval was granted; and
- (e) the provider approval number; and
- (f) any other prescribed matters.

Division 2 — Reassessment

21. Reassessment of fitness and propriety

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may at any time assess —
 - (a) whether an approved provider continues to be a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service; or
 - (b) whether a person with management or control of an education and care service operated by an approved provider continues to be a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service; or
 - (c) whether a person who becomes a person with management or control of an education and care service operated by the approved provider after the grant of the provider approval is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service.
- (2) Sections 13 and 14 apply to the reassessment.

Division 3 — Amendment of provider approvals

22. Amendment of provider approval on application

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for an amendment of the provider approval.
- (2) The application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

- (3) The Regulatory Authority must decide the application by —
 - (a) amending the provider approval in the way applied for; or
 - (b) with the applicant's written agreement, amending the provider approval in another way; or
 - (c) refusing to amend the provider approval.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority must make a decision on the application within 30 days after the Regulatory Authority receives the application.
- (5) Without limiting subsection (3), an amendment may vary a condition of the provider approval or impose a new condition on the provider approval.

Note: This section differs from section 22 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

23. Amendment of provider approval by Regulatory Authority

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may amend a provider approval at any time without an application from the approved provider.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), an amendment may vary a condition of the provider approval or impose a new condition on the provider approval.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority must give written notice to the approved provider of the amendment.
- (4) An amendment under this section has effect —
 - (a) 14 days after the Regulatory Authority gives notice of the amendment under subsection (3); or
 - (b) if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.

24. Copy of amended provider approval to be provided

If the Regulatory Authority amends a provider approval under this Division, the Regulatory Authority must —

- (a) provide an amended copy of the provider approval to the approved provider; and

- (b) make any necessary amendments to any service approval held by the provider and provide an amended copy of the service approval to the approved provider.

Division 4 — Suspension or cancellation of provider approval

25. Grounds for suspension of provider approval

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may suspend a provider approval if —
 - (a) the approved provider, or a person with management or control of an education and care service operated by the approved provider, has been charged with an indictable offence, or with an offence that if committed in this jurisdiction would be an indictable offence, or any other circumstance indicates that the approved provider, or a person with management or control of an education and care service operated by the approved provider, may not be a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service; or
 - (b) the approved provider has failed to comply with a condition of the provider approval; or
 - (c) the approved provider has failed to comply with this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction; or
 - (d) action is being taken under Part 7 (other than a compliance direction) in respect of more than one education and care service operated by the approved provider; or
 - (e) the approved provider has not operated any education and care service for a period of more than 12 months (including any period of suspension); or
 - (f) the approved provider purported to transfer or receive a transfer of an approved education and care service without the consent of the Regulatory Authority; or
 - (g) the approved provider has not paid —
 - (i) an amount due under a monetary order made under, or in relation to proceedings commenced by an allegation made under, section 188B; or
 - (ii) any outstanding prescribed fees.
- (2) In subsection (1) —

monetary order has the meaning given in the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* section 3(1).

Note: This section differs from section 25 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

26. Show cause notice before suspension

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is considering the suspension of a provider approval under section 25.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must first give the approved provider a notice (show cause notice) stating —
 - (a) that the Regulatory Authority intends to suspend the provider approval; and
 - (b) the proposed period of suspension; and
 - (c) the reasons for the proposed suspension; and
 - (d) that the approved provider may, within 30 days after the notice is given, give the Regulatory Authority a written response to the proposed suspension.

27. Decision to suspend after show cause process

After considering any written response from the approved provider received within the time allowed by section 26(2)(d), the Regulatory Authority may —

- (a) suspend the provider approval for a period not more than the prescribed period; or
- (b) decide not to suspend the provider approval.

28. Suspension without show cause notice

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may suspend the provider approval on a ground referred to in section 25 without giving the approved provider a show cause notice under section 26 if the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that there is an immediate risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or children being educated and cared for by an education and care service operated by the provider.
- (2) The suspension may not be for a period of more than 6 months.

29. Notice and taking effect of suspension

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must give the approved provider written notice of the decision to suspend the provider approval.
- (2) The notice of a decision to suspend must set out the period of suspension and the date on which it takes effect.
- (3) The decision under section 27 to suspend takes effect at the end of 14 days after the date of the decision, or, if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.
- (4) The decision under section 28 to suspend takes effect on the giving of the notice.

30. Effect of suspension

- (1) Subject to this section, if a provider approval is suspended under section 27 or 28 of this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction, all service approvals held by the provider are also suspended for the same period.
- (2) A suspension under subsection (1) applies to both education and care services and any associated children's services.
- (3) A person whose provider approval is suspended is taken not to be an approved provider for the period of the suspension.
- (4) A service approval is not suspended under subsection (1) during any period that a person is approved under section 41 to manage or control the education and care service.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority may consent under Part 3 to the transfer of a service approval that is suspended under section 27 or 28.
- (6) The suspension of the service approval ceases on the transfer taking effect, unless the conditions imposed by the Regulatory Authority on the consent to the transfer specify a later date.

31. Grounds for cancellation of provider approval

The Regulatory Authority may cancel a provider approval if —

- (a) the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that the approved provider or a person with management or control of an

education and care service operated by the approved provider is not a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service; or

- (b) the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that the continued provision of education and care services by the approved provider would constitute an unacceptable risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of any child or class of children being educated and cared for by an education and care service operated by the approved provider; or
- (c) the approved provider has been found guilty of an indictable offence or an offence that if committed in this jurisdiction would be an indictable offence; or
- (d) the approved provider has been found guilty of an offence under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction; or
- (e) the approved provider has breached a condition of the provider approval; or
- (f) the approved provider has not operated any education and care service for a period of more than 12 months (including any period of suspension).

32. Show cause notice before cancellation

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is considering the cancellation of a provider approval under section 31.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must first give the approved provider a notice (show cause notice) stating —
 - (a) that the Regulatory Authority intends to cancel the provider approval; and
 - (b) the reasons for the proposed cancellation; and
 - (c) that the approved provider may, within 30 days after the notice is given, give the Regulatory Authority a written response to the proposed cancellation.

33. Decision in relation to cancellation

- (1) After considering any written response from the approved provider received within the time allowed under section 32(2)(c), the Regulatory Authority —
 - (a) may —
 - (i) cancel the provider approval; or
 - (ii) suspend the provider approval for a period not more than the prescribed period; or
 - (iii) decide not to cancel the provider approval; and
 - (b) must give the approved provider written notice of the decision.
- (2) The decision to cancel the provider approval takes effect at the end of 14 days after the date of the decision or, if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.
- (3) The notice of a decision to cancel the provider approval must set out the date on which it takes effect.
- (4) This Law applies to a suspension of a provider approval under this section as if it were a suspension under section 27.

34. Effect of cancellation

- (1) Subject to this section, if a provider approval is cancelled under section 33 of this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction, all service approvals held by the person who was the approved provider are also cancelled.
- (2) A cancellation under subsection (1) applies to both education and care services and any associated children's services.
- (3) A service approval is not cancelled under subsection (1) if before that cancellation a person is approved under section 41 to manage or control the education and care service.
- (4) A service approval is cancelled if a person referred to in subsection (3) ceases to manage or control the service.

- (5) A provider whose provider approval is to be cancelled under section 33 may apply to the Regulatory Authority under Part 3 for consent to transfer a service approval held by the provider.
- (6) The application for consent to transfer must be made within 14 days after the date of the decision to cancel the provider approval is made.
- (7) If an application for consent to transfer is made, the service approval is suspended until the Regulatory Authority determines the application.
- (8) The suspension of the service approval ceases on the transfer taking effect, unless the conditions of the transfer specify a later date.
- (9) If the Regulatory Authority refuses to consent to the transfer, the service approval is cancelled on the making of the decision to refuse consent.

35. Approved provider to provide information to Regulatory Authority

- (1) This section applies if a show cause notice has been given to an approved provider under section 26 or 32.
- (2) The approved provider, at the request of the Regulatory Authority, must, within 7 days of the request, provide the Regulatory Authority with the contact details of the parents of all children enrolled at each education and care service operated by the approved provider.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may use the information provided under subsection (2) solely to notify the parents of children enrolled at an education and care service about the suspension or cancellation.

36. Notice to parents of suspension or cancellation

- (1) This section applies if a provider approval has been suspended or cancelled under section 27, 28, 33 or 34.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may require the person who is or was the approved provider to give written notice of the suspension or cancellation and its effect to the parents of children enrolled at all or any of the education and care services operated by that person.

- (3) A person must comply with a requirement made of that person under subsection (2).

Penalty: \$3 000, in the case of an individual.

\$15 000, in any other case.

37. Voluntary suspension of provider approval

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a suspension of the provider approval for a period of not more than 12 months.
- (2) The application must —
- (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) The approved provider must, at least 14 days before making an application under this section, notify the parents of children enrolled at the education and care services operated by the approved provider of the intention to make the application.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority must within 30 days after the application is made decide whether or not to grant the application.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority must give written notice of its decision (including the period of suspension) to the approved provider.
- (6) If the Regulatory Authority decides to grant the application, the suspension takes effect on a date agreed between the Regulatory Authority and the approved provider.
- (7) A suspension under this section remains in force for the period of time specified in the notice.
- (8) The approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority to revoke the suspension before the end of the suspension period.
- (9) If the Regulatory Authority grants the application to revoke the suspension, the suspension ceases on the date determined by agreement with the approved provider.

- (10) If a provider approval is suspended under this section, each service approval held by the provider is also suspended for the same period unless —
- (a) a person is approved under section 41 to manage or control the education and care service to which the approval relates; or
 - (b) the service approval is transferred under Division 3 of Part 3.

Note: This section differs from section 37 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

38. Surrender of provider approval by approved provider

- (1) An approved provider may surrender the provider approval by written notice to the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The notice must specify a date on which the surrender is intended to take effect which must be —
 - (a) after the notice is given; and
 - (b) after the end of the period of notice required under subsection (3).
- (3) The approved provider must notify the parents of children enrolled at the education and care services operated by the approved provider of the intention to surrender the provider approval, at least 14 days before the surrender is intended to take effect.
- (4) If a provider approval is surrendered, the approval is cancelled on the date specified in the notice.
- (5) If a provider approval is surrendered, any service approval held by the provider is also taken to be surrendered.

Note: If a service approval is surrendered, it is cancelled — see section 86. A cancelled service approval cannot be transferred — see definition of service approval and also Division 3 of Part 3.

Division 5 — Approval of executor, representative or guardian as approved provider

39. Death of approved provider

- (1) This section applies if an approved provider dies.

- (2) The nominated supervisor or any other person having day to day control of an education and care service of the approved provider must notify the Regulatory Authority of the approved provider's death within 7 days after that death.
- (3) The executor of the estate of the approved provider may continue to operate any approved education and care service of the approved provider for the relevant period provided the nominated supervisor or any certified supervisor continues to manage the day to day operation of the service.
- (4) The executor of the estate of the approved provider may transfer, surrender or apply for suspension of a service approval of the approved provider under this Law during the relevant period as if the executor were the approved provider.
- (5) The executor of the estate of the approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a provider approval.
- (6) The application must be made within 30 days of the death of the approved provider and must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (7) In this section —

relevant period means —

 - (a) the period of 30 days after the death of the approved provider; or
 - (b) if the executor of the estate of the approved provider makes an application under subsection (5) within that period, until the application is finally determined under this Law.

Note: This section differs from section 39 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

40. Incapacity of approved provider

- (1) This section applies if an approved provider has become incapacitated.

- (2) The legal personal representative or guardian of an approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a provider approval.
- (3) The application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Note: This section differs from section 40 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

41. Decision on application

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must not grant a provider approval to a person who has made an application under section 39 or 40 unless the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that the person is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service.
- (2) Sections 12, 13 and 14 apply to the assessment of a person under subsection (1).
- (3) Subject to this section, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) grant the provider approval; or
 - (b) grant the provider approval subject to conditions; or
 - (c) refuse to grant the provider approval.
- (4) An approval under this section —
 - (a) may be granted for a period of not more than 6 months; and
 - (b) may be extended for a further period of not more than 6 months —at the discretion of the Regulatory Authority.
- (5) The provider approval is granted only in relation to the operation of the approved education and care services of the approved provider for whom the applicant is the executor, legal personal representative or guardian, as the case requires.

Division 6 — Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority

42. Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority has granted a provider approval under this Part.
- (2) A Regulatory Authority of another participating jurisdiction may exercise all of the powers and perform all of the functions of the Regulatory Authority under this Part (except Division 5) in respect of the provider approval if the approved provider operates an approved education and care service in that participating jurisdiction.
- (3) A Regulatory Authority (including the Regulatory Authority of this jurisdiction) may only exercise a power to amend, suspend or cancel a provider approval after consulting with the Regulatory Authority of each participating jurisdiction in which the approved provider operates an approved education and care service.
- (4) A failure by a Regulatory Authority to comply with subsection (3) does not affect the validity of the exercise of the power.
- (5) A cancellation or suspension of a provider approval in another participating jurisdiction has effect in this jurisdiction.

Part 3 — Service approval

Division 1 — Application for service approval

43. Application for service approval

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a service approval for an education and care service.
- (2) An approved provider may only apply for a service approval for an education and care service if the approved provider is or will be the operator of the education and care service and is or will be responsible for the management of the staff members and nominated supervisor of that service.
- (3) A person who has applied for a provider approval may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a service approval, however the Regulatory Authority must not grant the service approval unless the provider approval is granted.

44. Form of application

- (1) An application for a service approval must —
 - (a) be made to the Regulatory Authority of the participating jurisdiction in which the service is to be located; and
 - (b) be in writing; and
 - (c) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (d) nominate a certified supervisor to be the nominated supervisor for the service and include that person's written consent to the nomination; and
 - (e) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (2) An application for service approval may include an associated children's service.
- (3) The approved provider can be the nominated supervisor if he or she —
 - (a) is a certified supervisor; or
 - (b) has applied for a supervisor certificate —

however the Regulatory Authority must not grant the service approval unless the supervisor certificate has been granted.

Note: This section differs from section 44 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

45. Regulatory Authority may seek further information

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may ask an applicant for a service approval to provide any further information that is reasonably required for the purpose of assessing the application.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority asks the applicant for further information under this section, the period from the making of the request until the provision of the further information is not included in the period referred to in section 48 for the Regulatory Authority to make a decision on the application.

46. Investigation of application for service approval

- (1) For the purposes of determining an application for a service approval, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) undertake inquiries and investigations, including inquiries relating to the previous licensing, accreditation or registration of the education and care service under a former education and care services law, a children’s services law or an education law of any participating jurisdiction; and
 - (b) inspect the education and care service premises; and
 - (c) inspect the policies and procedures of the service.
- (2) For the purposes of an inspection under subsection (1)(b) or (c), the Regulatory Authority may enter the education and care service premises at any reasonable time.

47. Determination of application

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), in determining an application under section 43, the Regulatory Authority must have regard to —
 - (a) the National Quality Framework; and
 - (b) except in the case of a family day care residence, the suitability of the education and care service premises and the site and location of those premises for the operation of an education and care service; and
 - (c) the adequacy of the policies and procedures of the service; and
 - (d) whether the applicant has a provider approval; and
 - (e) whether the nominated supervisor for the service is a certified supervisor and whether that person has consented in writing to the nomination; and
 - (f) any other matter the Regulatory Authority thinks fit; and
 - (g) any other prescribed matter.
- (2) In addition, the Regulatory Authority may have regard to either of the following —
 - (a) whether the applicant is capable of operating the education and care service having regard to its financial capacity and

management capability and any other matter the Regulatory Authority considers relevant;

- (b) the applicant's history of compliance with this Law or this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction, including in relation to any other education and care service it operates.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), in assessing an associated children's service for the purposes of determining whether to grant a service approval, the Regulatory Authority must have regard to the criteria under the children's services law of this jurisdiction for the grant of a children's services licence.
- (4) The criteria referred to in subsection (3) do not include criteria relating to whether the applicant is a fit and proper person.

48. Grant or refusal of service approval

- (1) On an application under section 43, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) grant the service approval; or
 - (b) refuse to grant the service approval.

Note: A service approval is granted subject to conditions in accordance with section 51.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Regulatory Authority must make a decision on the application within 90 days after the Regulatory Authority received the application.

Note: If further information is requested under section 45(2), the period between the making of the request and the provision of the information is not included in the 90 day period.

- (3) The period referred to in subsection (2) may be extended with the agreement of the applicant.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority may grant a service approval solely for an education and care service if —
 - (a) the application includes an application for an associated children's service; and
 - (b) that associated children's service does not comply with the criteria referred to in section 47(3).

- (5) The Regulatory Authority is taken to have refused to grant a service approval if the Regulatory Authority has not made a decision under subsection (1) —
- (a) within the relevant time required under subsection (2); or
 - (b) within the period extended under subsection (3) —
- as the case requires.
- (6) A service approval cannot be granted solely for an associated children's service.

49. Grounds for refusal

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must refuse to grant a service approval if —
- (a) the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that the service, if permitted to operate, would constitute an unacceptable risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of children who would be educated or cared for by the education and care service; or
 - (b) the applicant does not have a provider approval.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may refuse to grant a service approval on any other grounds prescribed in the national regulations.

50. Notice of decision on application

The Regulatory Authority must give written notice to the applicant of a decision under section 48 and the reasons for the decision within 7 days after the decision is made.

51. Conditions on service approval

- (1) A service approval is granted subject to the condition that the education and care service is operated in a way that —
- (a) ensures the safety, health and wellbeing of the children being educated and cared for by the service; and
 - (b) meets the educational and developmental needs of the children being educated and cared for by the service.
- (2) A service approval for a family day care service is granted subject to the additional condition that the approved provider must ensure that —

- (a) sufficient persons are appointed as family day care co-ordinators to monitor and support the family day care educators engaged by or registered with the service; and
 - (b) each family day care educator is adequately monitored and supported by a family day care co-ordinator.
- (3) A service approval is granted subject to a condition that the service must commence ongoing operation of the service within 6 months after the approval is granted unless the Regulatory Authority agrees to an extension of time.
- (4) A service approval is granted subject to a condition that the approved provider must hold the prescribed insurance in respect of the education and care service.
- (5) A service approval is granted subject to any other conditions prescribed in the national regulations or imposed by —
- (a) this Law; or
 - (b) the Regulatory Authority.
- (6) A condition of a service approval does not apply to an associated children's service unless the condition is expressed to apply to that associated children's service.
- (7) A condition of a service approval may be expressed to apply solely to an associated children's service only if the Regulatory Authority has first consulted with the children's services regulator.
- (8) An approved provider must comply with the conditions of a service approval held by the approved provider.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

52. Copy of service approval to be provided

If the Regulatory Authority grants a service approval under this Part, the Regulatory Authority must provide a copy of the service approval to the approved provider stating —

- (a) the name of the education and care service; and
- (b) the location of the education and care service or, if the education and care service is a family day care service, the

location of the principal office and any approved family day care venue for the service; and

- (c) any conditions to which the service approval is subject; and
- (d) the date the service approval was granted; and
- (e) the service approval number; and
- (f) the name of the approved provider; and
- (g) for a service other than a family day care service, the maximum number of children who can be educated and cared for by the service at any one time; and
- (h) the details of any service waiver under Division 5 or temporary waiver under Division 6 applying to the service; and
- (i) any other prescribed matters.

53. Annual fee

An approved provider must, in accordance with the national regulations, pay the prescribed annual fee in respect of each service approval held by the approved provider.

Division 2 — Amendment of service approval

54. Amendment of service approval on application

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for an amendment of a service approval.
- (2) An application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may ask the approved provider to provide any further information that is reasonably required for the purpose of assessing the application.
- (4) If the Regulatory Authority asks the applicant for further information under this section, the period from the making of the request and the

provision of the further information is not included in the period referred to in subsection (5).

- (5) The Regulatory Authority must make a decision on the application within 60 days after the Regulatory Authority receives the application.
- (6) The Regulatory Authority must decide the application by —
 - (a) amending the service approval in the way applied for; or
 - (b) with the applicant's written agreement, amending the service approval in another way; or
 - (c) refusing to amend the service approval.
- (7) Without limiting subsection (6), an amendment may vary a condition of the service approval or impose a new condition on the service approval.
- (8) An amendment cannot change a location of an education and care service.
- (9) The Regulatory Authority must give written notice of its decision to the approved provider.

Note: This section differs from section 54 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

55. Amendment of service approval by Regulatory Authority

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may amend a service approval at any time without an application from the approved provider.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), an amendment may vary a condition of the service approval or impose a new condition on the service approval.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority must give written notice of the amendment to the approved provider.
- (4) An amendment under this section has effect —
 - (a) 14 days after the Regulatory Authority gives notice of the amendment under subsection (3); or
 - (b) if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.

- (5) The Regulatory Authority must amend a service approval to the extent that it relates to an associated children's service in accordance with any direction by the children's services regulator if that direction is given in accordance with the children's services law of this jurisdiction.

56. Notice of change to nominated supervisor

- (1) The approved provider of an education and care service must give written notice to the Regulatory Authority in accordance with this section if the approved provider wishes to change the person nominated as the nominated supervisor of the education and care service.
- (2) The notice must —
- (a) nominate a certified supervisor to be the nominated supervisor for the service and include that person's written consent to the nomination; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) be given —
 - (i) at least 7 days before the new certified supervisor is to commence work as the nominated supervisor; or
 - (ii) if that period of notice is not possible in the circumstances, as soon as practicable and not more than 14 days after the certified supervisor commences work as the nominated supervisor.

Note: This section differs from section 56 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

57. Copy of amended service approval to be provided

If the Regulatory Authority amends a service approval under this Division, the Authority must provide an amended copy of the service approval to the approved provider.

Division 3 — Transfer of service approval

58. Service approval may be transferred

- (1) Subject to this Division, an approved provider who holds a service approval (transferring approved provider) may transfer the service approval to another approved provider (receiving approved provider).
- (2) If a service approval is transferred to a receiving approved provider the transfer includes the transfer of the service approval for any associated children's service.
- (3) A person who holds a provider approval may transfer a service approval held by the provider even if the provider approval or service approval is suspended.

59. Regulatory Authority to be notified of transfer

- (1) The transferring approved provider and the receiving approved provider must jointly notify the Regulatory Authority of the transfer —
 - (a) at least 42 days before the transfer is intended to take effect; or
 - (b) if the Regulatory Authority considers that the circumstances are exceptional, a lesser period agreed to by the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The notice must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Note: This section differs from section 59 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

60. Consent of Regulatory Authority required for transfer

A service approval cannot be transferred without the consent of the Regulatory Authority.

61. Consent taken to be given unless Regulatory Authority intervenes

The Regulatory Authority is taken to have consented to the transfer of a service approval if —

- (a) the parties have given a notification under section 59; and
- (b) 28 days before the transfer is intended to take effect, the Regulatory Authority has not notified the parties that it intends to intervene under section 62.

62. Transfer may be subject to intervention by Regulatory Authority

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may intervene in a transfer of a service approval if the Regulatory Authority is concerned as to any of the following matters —
 - (a) whether the receiving approved provider is capable of operating the education and care service having regard to its financial capacity and management capability and any other matter the Regulatory Authority considers relevant;
 - (b) the receiving approved provider's history of compliance with this Law as applying in a participating jurisdiction, including in relation to any other education and care service it operates;
 - (c) any other matter relevant to the transfer of the service approval.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must notify the transferring approved provider and the receiving approved provider of the decision to intervene.
- (3) The notice must be given at least 28 days before the date on which the transfer is intended to take effect.
- (4) A notification under subsection (2) must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - [(b) this national law provision does not apply as a law of WA.]*

Note: This section differs from section 62 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

63. Effect of intervention

If the Regulatory Authority intervenes under section 62, the transfer must not proceed unless and until the Regulatory Authority gives written consent to the transfer.

64. Regulatory Authority may request further information

If the Regulatory Authority has intervened under section 62, the Regulatory Authority may —

- (a) request further information from the transferring approved provider or receiving approved provider for the purposes of deciding whether to consent to the transfer; and
- (b) undertake inquiries in relation to the receiving approved provider for that purpose.

65. Decision after intervention

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority has intervened under section 62, it may decide —
 - (a) to consent to the proposed transfer; or
 - (b) to refuse to consent to the proposed transfer.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority consents to the proposed transfer the Regulatory Authority may impose conditions on the consent, including specifying the date on which the proposed transfer is to take effect.
- (3) The service approval must be transferred in accordance with the conditions imposed on the consent.

66. Regulatory Authority to notify outcome 7 days before transfer

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority has intervened in the transfer of a service approval, the Authority must, at least 7 days before the date on which the transfer is intended to take effect, give a notice to each party specifying that the Authority —
 - (a) consents to the transfer; or
 - (b) refuses to consent to the transfer; or
 - (c) has suspended further consideration of the transfer until further information is received and that the transfer may not

proceed until a further notice is given under this section consenting to the transfer; or

- (d) has not yet made a decision on the transfer and that the Regulatory Authority will make a decision on the transfer within 28 days and that the transfer may not proceed until a further notice is given under this section consenting to the transfer.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority consents to the transfer, the notice —
- (a) must specify —
 - (i) the date on which the transfer is to take effect; and
 - (ii) any conditions on the consent to the transfer; and
 - (b) may include notice of any condition that the Regulatory Authority has imposed on the provider approval or a service approval of the receiving approved provider because of the transfer.
- (3) If the Regulatory Authority refuses to consent to the transfer, the notice must include the reasons for the refusal.

67. Transfer of service approval without consent is void

A transfer of a service approval is void if —

- (a) it is made without the consent of the Regulatory Authority; or
- (b) it is made in contravention of the conditions imposed by the Regulatory Authority on the consent to the transfer; or
- (c) it is made to a person who is not the approved provider who gave the notification under section 59 as the receiving approved provider.

68. Confirmation of transfer

- (1) The transferring approved provider and the receiving approved provider must give written notice to the Regulatory Authority within 2 days after the transfer takes effect specifying the date of the transfer.

Penalty: \$4 000, in the case of an individual.

\$20 000, in any other case.

- (2) On receipt of a notice under this section, the Regulatory Authority must amend the service approval and provide an amended copy of the service approval to the receiving approved provider.
- (3) The amendment to the service approval is taken to take effect on the date of the transfer.
- (4) An approved provider who gives notice under this section is not guilty of an offence for a failure of any other person to give that notice.

69. Notice to parents

- (1) The receiving approved provider must give written notice to the parents of children enrolled at an education and care service of the transfer of the service approval for that service to that provider.

Penalty: \$3 000, in the case of an individual.

\$15 000, in any other case.

- (2) The notice must be given at least 2 days before the date on which the transfer of the service approval takes effect.

Division 4 — Suspension or cancellation of service approval

70. Grounds for suspension of service approval

- (1) A Regulatory Authority may suspend a service approval if —
 - (a) the Regulatory Authority reasonably believes that it would not be in the best interests of children being educated and cared for by the service for the service to continue; or
 - (b) a condition of the service approval has not been complied with; or
 - (c) the service is not being managed in accordance with this Law; or
 - [(d) has not come into operation².]*
 - (e) the approved provider has contravened this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction; or
 - (f) the approved provider has failed to comply with a direction, compliance notice or emergency order under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction in relation to the service; or

- (g) the approved provider has —
 - (i) ceased to operate the education and care service at the education and care service premises for which the service approval was granted; and
 - (ii) within 6 months of ceasing to operate the service, has not transferred the service to another approved provider; or
 - (h) the approved provider has not, within 6 months after being granted a service approval, commenced ongoing operation of the service; or
 - (i) the approved provider has not paid —
 - (i) an amount due under a monetary order made under, or in relation to proceedings commenced by an allegation made under, section 188B; or
 - (ii) any outstanding prescribed fees.
- (2) In subsection (1) —
monetary order has the meaning given in the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* section 3(1).

Note: This section differs from section 70 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

71. Show cause notice before suspension

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is considering the suspension of a service approval under section 70.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must first give the approved provider a notice (show cause notice) stating —
 - (a) that the Regulatory Authority intends to suspend the service approval; and
 - (b) the proposed period of suspension; and
 - (c) the reasons for the proposed suspension; and
 - (d) that the approved provider may, within 30 days after the notice is given, give the Regulatory Authority a written response to the proposed suspension.

72. Decision in relation to suspension

After considering any written response from the approved provider received within the time allowed by section 71(2)(d), the Regulatory Authority may —

- (a) suspend the service approval for a period not more than the prescribed period; or
- (b) decide not to suspend the service approval.

73. Suspension of service approval without show cause

The Regulatory Authority may suspend the service approval without giving the approved provider a show cause notice under section 71 if the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that there is an immediate risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or children being educated and cared for by the education and care service.

74. Notice and effect of decision

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must give the approved provider written notice of the decision to suspend.
- (2) Subject to section 76, the decision under section 72 to suspend takes effect at the end of 14 days after the date of the decision, or, if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.
- (3) Subject to section 76, the decision under section 73 to suspend takes effect on the giving of the notice.
- (4) The notice of a decision to suspend must set out —
 - (a) the period of suspension; and
 - (b) the date on which it takes effect.
- (5) A suspension of a service approval also suspends the service approval to the extent that it relates to an associated children's service.

75. Suspension of service approval to the extent that it relates to associated children's service

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority considers that a service approval should be suspended to the extent only that it applies to an associated children's service, the Regulatory Authority must refer the matter to

the children's services regulator of this jurisdiction for determination under the children's services law.

- (2) The children's services regulator must notify the Regulatory Authority if it proposes to conduct any investigation or inquiry into an associated children's service under the children's services law.
- (3) If a final determination is made under the children's services law of this jurisdiction that a service approval should be suspended to the extent that it relates to an associated children's service —
 - (a) the children's services regulator must advise the Regulatory Authority of that determination; and
 - (b) the service approval is suspended to the extent that it relates to the associated children's service in accordance with that determination.

76. Transfer of suspended service

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may consent under this Part to the transfer of a service approval that is suspended under section 72 or 73.
- (2) The suspension of the service approval ceases on the transfer taking effect, unless the conditions of the Regulatory Authority's consent to the transfer otherwise provide.

77. Grounds for cancellation of service approval

A Regulatory Authority may cancel a service approval if —

- (a) the Regulatory Authority reasonably believes that the continued operation of the education and care service would constitute an unacceptable risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of any child or class of children being educated and cared for by the education and care service; or
- (b) the service has been suspended under section 72 or 73 and the reason for the suspension has not been rectified at or before the end of the period of suspension; or
- (c) the service approval was obtained improperly; or
- (d) a condition of the service approval has not been complied with.

78. Show cause notice before cancellation

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is considering the cancellation of a service approval under section 77.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must first give the approved provider a notice (show cause notice) stating —
 - (a) that the Regulatory Authority intends to cancel the service approval; and
 - (b) the reasons for the proposed cancellation; and
 - (c) that the approved provider may, within 30 days after the notice is given, give the Regulatory Authority a written response to the proposed cancellation.

79. Decision in relation to cancellation

- (1) After considering any written response from the approved provider received within the time allowed by section 78(2)(c), the Regulatory Authority —
 - (a) may —
 - (i) cancel the service approval; or
 - (ii) suspend the service approval for a period not more than the prescribed period; or
 - (iii) decide not to cancel the service approval; and
 - (b) must give the approved provider written notice of the decision.
- (2) Subject to section 81, the decision to cancel the service approval takes effect —
 - (a) at the end of 14 days after the date of the decision; or
 - (b) if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.
- (3) The notice of a decision to cancel must set out the date on which it takes effect.
- (4) A cancellation of a service approval includes the cancellation of the service approval to the extent that it relates to an associated children's service.

- (5) This Law applies to a suspension of a service approval under this section as if it were a suspension under section 72.

80. Cancellation of service approval to the extent that it relates to associated children's service

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority considers that a service approval should be cancelled to the extent only that it applies to an associated children's service, the Regulatory Authority must refer the matter to the children's services regulator of this jurisdiction for determination under the children's services law.
- (2) The children's services regulator must notify the Regulatory Authority if it proposes to conduct any investigation or inquiry into an associated children's service under the children's services law.
- (3) If a final determination is made under the children's services law of this jurisdiction that a service approval should be cancelled to the extent that it relates to an associated children's service —
- (a) the children's services regulator must advise the Regulatory Authority of that determination; and
 - (b) the service approval is cancelled to the extent that it relates to the associated children's service in accordance with that determination.

81. Application for transfer of cancelled service

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority under this Part for consent to transfer a service approval that is to be cancelled under this Part.
- (2) The application for consent to transfer must be made within 14 days after the decision to cancel the service approval is made.
- (3) If an application for consent to transfer is made, the cancellation of the service approval does not take effect, and the service approval is suspended, until the Regulatory Authority determines the application.
- (4) An application cannot be made under this section for consent to transfer a cancelled service approval if the cancellation relates only to an associated children's service.

82. Decision on application to transfer cancelled service

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority consents to the transfer —
 - (a) the decision to cancel the service approval is revoked; and
 - (b) the suspension of the service approval ceases on the transfer taking effect, unless the conditions imposed by the Regulatory Authority on the consent to the transfer specify a later date for the suspension to cease.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority refuses to consent to the transfer, the service approval is cancelled on the making of the decision to refuse to consent.

83. Approved provider to provide information to Regulatory Authority

- (1) This section applies if a show cause notice has been given to an approved provider under section 71 or 78.
- (2) The approved provider, at the request of the Regulatory Authority, must provide the Authority with the contact details of the parents of all children enrolled at the education and care service.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may use the information provided under subsection (2) solely to notify the parents of children enrolled at an approved education and care service of a suspension or cancellation of the service approval for the service.

84. Notice to parents of suspension or cancellation

- (1) This section applies if a service approval has been suspended or cancelled under section 72, 73, 79 or 81.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may require the approved provider to give written notice of the suspension or cancellation and its effect to the parents of children enrolled at the education and care service to which the approval relates and any associated children's service.
- (3) The approved provider must comply with a requirement made under subsection (2).

Penalty: \$3 000, in the case of an individual.

\$15 000, in any other case.

85. Voluntary suspension of service approval

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for the suspension of a service approval for a period of not more than 12 months.
- (2) The application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may agree to the suspension, having regard to whether the suspension is reasonable in the circumstances.
- (4) The approved provider must, at least 14 days before making an application under this section, notify the parents of children enrolled at the education and care service and any associated children's service of the intention to make the application.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority must, within 30 days after the application is made, decide whether or not to grant the application.
- (6) If the Regulatory Authority decides to grant the application, the suspension takes effect on a date agreed between the Regulatory Authority and the approved provider.

Note: This section differs from section 85 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

86. Surrender of service approval

- (1) An approved provider may surrender a service approval by written notice to the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The notice must specify a date on which the surrender is intended to take effect which must be —
 - (a) after the notice is given; and
 - (b) after the end of the period of notice required under subsection (3).

- (3) The approved provider must notify the parents of children enrolled at the education and care service to which the approval relates and any associated children's service of the intention to surrender the service approval, at least 14 days before the surrender is intended to take effect.
- (4) If a service approval is surrendered, the approval is cancelled on the date specified in the notice.

Division 5 — Application for service waiver

87. Application for service waiver for service

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a waiver from a requirement that an approved education and care service comply with a prescribed element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations as provided for in the national regulations.
- (2) A person who applies for a service approval may apply for a service waiver under this section together with the application for the service approval.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority must not grant a service waiver to a person who applies under subsection (2) unless the service approval is granted to that person.

88. Form of application

An application under section 87 must —

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
- (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Note: This section differs from section 88 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

89. Powers of Regulatory Authority in considering application

For the purpose of determining an application under this Division, the Regulatory Authority may —

- (a) ask the applicant to provide further information; and
- (b) inspect the education and care service premises and the office of the applicant.

90. Matters to be considered

In considering whether the grant of a service waiver is appropriate, the Regulatory Authority may have regard to either or both of the following —

- (a) whether the education and care service is able to meet the prescribed element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations by alternative means that satisfy the objectives of those elements;
- (b) any matters disclosed in the application that are relevant to the application for the service waiver.

91. Decision on application

- (1) On an application under this Division, the Regulatory Authority may decide to grant the service waiver or refuse the application.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Regulatory Authority must notify the applicant within 60 days after the application is made of the Authority's decision on the application.
- (3) If an application for a service waiver has been made together with an application for service approval, the Regulatory Authority may notify the applicant of the Authority's decision on the application at the same time as the notice of the decision on the application for the service approval.
- (4) If a service waiver is granted, the Regulatory Authority must issue or reissue the service approval specifying the element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations to which the service waiver applies.

92. Revocation of service waiver

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may, at its discretion, revoke a service waiver.

- (2) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for the revocation of a service waiver applying to any education and care service that it operates.
- (3) A revocation under this section takes effect at the end of the period prescribed in the national regulations.

93. Effect of service waiver

While a service waiver is in force, the approved education and care service is taken to comply with the element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations that are specified in the service waiver.

Division 6 — Temporary waiver

94. Application for temporary waiver

An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a temporary waiver from a requirement that an approved education and care service comply with any prescribed element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations as provided for in the national regulations.

95. Form of application

An application under section 94 must —

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
- (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Note: This section differs from section 95 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

96. Regulatory Authority may seek further information

For the purpose of determining an application under this Division, the Regulatory Authority may —

- (a) ask the applicant to provide further information; and

- (b) inspect the education and care service premises and the office of the applicant.

97. Special circumstances

In considering whether the grant of a temporary waiver is appropriate, the Regulatory Authority must have regard to whether special circumstances disclosed in the application reasonably justify the grant of the temporary waiver.

98. Decision on application

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must notify the applicant within 60 days after the application is made of the Authority's decision on the application.
- (2) A temporary waiver must specify the period of the waiver which cannot be for a period of more than 12 months.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority, on the application of the approved provider, may —
 - (a) extend and further extend the period of a temporary waiver by periods of not more than 12 months; and
 - (b) grant a further temporary waiver for an education and care service under this Division.
- (4) If the Regulatory Authority grants a temporary waiver, the Regulatory Authority must issue or reissue the service approval specifying the element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations which have been temporarily waived and the period of the waiver.

99. Revocation of temporary waiver

The Regulatory Authority may, at its discretion, revoke a temporary waiver.

100. Effect of temporary waiver

While a temporary waiver is in force, the approved education and care service is not required to comply with the element or elements of the National Quality Standard and the national regulations that have been temporarily waived.

Division 7 — Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority

101. Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority — family day care services

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority has granted a service approval under this Part to an approved provider for a family day care service.
- (2) A Regulatory Authority of another participating jurisdiction may exercise all the powers and perform all the functions of a Regulatory Authority under this Part (except Division 3 or section 76, 81 or 82) in respect of the service approval if the family day care service operates in that participating jurisdiction.
- (3) A Regulatory Authority (including the Regulatory Authority of this jurisdiction) may only exercise a power to amend, suspend or cancel a service approval after consulting with the Regulatory Authority of each participating jurisdiction in which the family day care service operates.
- (4) A failure by a Regulatory Authority to comply with subsection (3) does not affect the validity of the exercise of the power.
- (5) A cancellation or suspension of a service approval for a family day care service in another participating jurisdiction has effect in this jurisdiction.

Division 8 — Associated children's services

102. Application of this Law to associated children's services

This Law does not apply to an associated children's service except as expressly provided in this Law.

Division 9 — Offences

103. Offence to provide an education and care service without service approval

- (1) A person must not provide an education and care service unless —
 - (a) the person is an approved provider in respect of that service; and

- (b) the education and care service is an approved education and care service.

Penalty: \$20 000, in the case of an individual.
\$100 000, in any other case.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a family day care educator providing education and care to children as part of an approved family day care service.

104. Offence to advertise education and care service without service approval

- (1) A person must not knowingly publish or cause to be published an advertisement for an education and care service unless it is an approved education and care service.

Penalty: \$6 000, in the case of an individual.
\$30 000, in any other case.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if an application for a service approval in respect of the education and care service has been made under this Law but has not been decided.

Part 4 — Supervisor certificates

Division 1 — Application for supervisor certificate

105. Purpose of supervisor certificate

A supervisor certificate makes the person to whom it is issued eligible to be placed in day to day charge of an approved education and care service.

106. Application for supervisor certificate

- (1) A person may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a supervisor certificate.
- (2) An applicant must be an individual of or above the age of 18 years.
- (3) An application must be made to the Regulatory Authority of the participating jurisdiction in which the applicant is ordinarily resident or intending to reside.

107. Form of application

An application under section 106 must —

- (a) be in writing signed by the applicant; and
- (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
- (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Note: This section differs from section 107 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

108. Applicant must satisfy Regulatory Authority of specified matters

- (1) An applicant must satisfy the Regulatory Authority that the applicant —
 - (a) is a fit and proper person to be a supervisor of an education and care service; and
 - (b) meets the prescribed minimum requirements for qualifications, experience and management capability.
- (2) The following persons are taken, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to satisfy the requirements of subsection (1)(a) —
 - (a) a person who is a registered teacher under an education law of a participating jurisdiction;
 - (b) a person who holds a current working with children card under the working with children law of a participating jurisdiction.

109. Matters to be taken into account in assessing whether fit and proper person

- (1) The Regulatory Authority, in determining whether it is satisfied that a person is a fit and proper person under this Division, must have regard to —
 - (a) the history of the person's compliance with —
 - (i) this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction; and
 - (ii) a former education and care services law of a participating jurisdiction; and

- (iii) a children's services law of a participating jurisdiction; and
- (iv) an education law of a participating jurisdiction; and

Note: If a person has been served with an infringement notice for an offence under this Law, and the person has paid the penalty, the Regulatory Authority cannot consider that conduct when determining whether the person is fit and proper. See section 291(5).

- (ab) any disciplinary action taken against the person; and
 - (b) any decision under a former education and care services law, a children's services law or an education law of a participating jurisdiction to refuse, refuse to renew, suspend or cancel a licence, approval, registration or certification or other authorisation granted to the person under that law; and
 - (c) the working with children check for that person, or if there is no working with children check for that person, any prescribed matters relating to the criminal history of the person to the extent that that history may affect the person's suitability for the role of supervisor of an education and care service.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Regulatory Authority may have regard to whether the person has a medical condition that may affect the person's capacity to be the supervisor of an education and care service.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) limits the circumstances in which a person may be considered not to satisfy the Regulatory Authority that he or she is a fit and proper person to be a supervisor of an education and care service.

Note: This section differs from section 109 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

110. Regulatory Authority may seek further information

- (1) For the purpose of carrying out an assessment as to whether a person is a fit and proper person to hold a supervisor certificate, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) ask the person in respect of whom the assessment is being carried out to provide further information; and

- (b) undertake inquiries or investigations in relation to the person in respect of whom the assessment is being carried out.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority asks the applicant for further information under this section, the period from the making of the request until the provision of the further information is not included in the period referred to in section 111 for the Regulatory Authority to make a decision on the application.

111. Grant or refusal of supervisor certificate

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may grant or refuse to grant a supervisor certificate on an application under section 106.

Note: A supervisor certificate is granted subject to conditions in accordance with section 115.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Regulatory Authority must make a decision on the application within 60 days after the Regulatory Authority received the application.

Note: If further information is requested under section 110, the period between the making of the request and the provision of the information is not included in the 60 day period.

- (3) The period referred to in subsection (2) may be extended by up to 30 days with the agreement of the applicant.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority is taken to have refused to grant a supervisor certificate if the Regulatory Authority has not made a decision under subsection (1) —
 - (a) within the relevant time required under subsection (2); or
 - (b) within the period extended under subsection (3),

as the case requires.

112. Grounds for refusal

The Regulatory Authority must refuse to grant a supervisor certificate if —

- (a) the Regulatory Authority is not satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to be the supervisor of an education and care service; or
- (b) the applicant is under the age of 18 years; or

116. Issue of certificate

If the Regulatory Authority grants a supervisor certificate under section 111 or 114, the Authority must issue a certificate containing the following information to the applicant —

- (a) the name of the certified supervisor or the prescribed class of person to which the certified supervisor belongs;
- (b) any conditions imposed on the supervisor certificate;
- (c) the date the supervisor certificate was granted;
- (d) the certified supervisor number;
- (e) any other prescribed information.

117. Effect of supervisor certificate

A person who is the holder of a supervisor certificate may —

- (a) be nominated as the nominated supervisor of an education and care service; and
- (b) be the responsible person present at the education and care service premises in the absence of the approved provider or the nominated supervisor.

Division 2 — Reassessment

118. Reassessment of suitability

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may at any time reassess whether a certified supervisor is a fit and proper person to be a supervisor of an education and care service.
- (2) Sections 108, 109 and 110 apply to the reassessment.

Division 3 — Amendment of supervisor certificate

119. Amendment of supervisor certificate on application

- (1) A certified supervisor may apply to the Regulatory Authority for an amendment of the supervisor certificate.
- (2) The application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and

- (a) any change in the circumstances of the supervisor that affects —
 - (i) a requirement under section 108 or 109; or
 - (ii) the information specified in the supervisor certificate under section 116; or
- (b) the suspension or cancellation of a working with children check, working with children card or teacher registration held by the certified supervisor; or
- (c) any disciplinary proceedings in relation to the certified supervisor under an education law of a participating jurisdiction.

Penalty: \$4 000.

- (2) The notice must be given within 7 days after the change occurs.

122. Notice of change of information

If the certified supervisor notifies the Regulatory Authority of a change in any of the information stated on the supervisor certificate, the Regulatory Authority may amend the supervisor certificate to show the correct information.

Division 4 — Suspension or cancellation of supervisor certificate

123. Grounds for suspension or cancellation of supervisor certificate

The Regulatory Authority may suspend or cancel a supervisor certificate —

- (a) if the Regulatory Authority is of the opinion that the certified supervisor is no longer a fit and proper person to be a supervisor of an education and care service; or
- (b) if the certified supervisor fails to comply with a condition of the supervisor certificate; or
- (c) if the certified supervisor fails to comply with a requirement of this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction in relation to a matter within the certified supervisor's control.

124. Show cause notice before suspension or cancellation

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is considering the suspension or cancellation of a supervisor certificate under section 123.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must first give the certified supervisor a notice (show cause notice) stating —
 - (a) that the Regulatory Authority intends to suspend or cancel the supervisor certificate; and
 - (b) the reasons for the proposed suspension or cancellation; and
 - (c) that the certified supervisor may, within 30 days after the notice is given, give the Regulatory Authority a written response to the proposed suspension or cancellation.

125. Decision in relation to suspension or cancellation

After considering any written response from the certified supervisor received within the time allowed by section 124(2)(c) (if applicable), the Regulatory Authority —

- (a) may —
 - (i) suspend the supervisor certificate for a period not exceeding the prescribed period; or
 - (ii) cancel the supervisor certificate; or
 - (iii) decide not to suspend or cancel the supervisor certificate; and
- (b) must give the certified supervisor notice of the decision.

126. Suspension of supervisor certificate without show cause notice

The Regulatory Authority may suspend the supervisor certificate on a ground referred to in section 123 without giving the supervisor a show cause notice under section 124 if the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that there is an immediate risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or children.

127. Notice and taking effect of suspension or cancellation

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must give the certified supervisor written notice of the decision to suspend or cancel the supervisor certificate under section 125 or 126.
- (2) The notice of a decision to suspend must set out —
 - (a) the period of suspension; and
 - (b) the date on which it takes effect.
- (3) The decision under section 125 to suspend or cancel takes effect at the end of 14 days after the date of the decision, or, if another period is specified by the Regulatory Authority, at the end of that period.
- (4) The decision to suspend under section 126 takes effect on the giving of the notice.

128. Suspension or cancellation of certain supervisor certificates

- (1) If the teacher registration of a person is suspended, the supervisor certificate of that person is suspended at the end of 14 days after that suspension unless and until the Regulatory Authority has assessed the person under section 109 as being a fit and proper person.
- (2) If the teacher registration of a person is cancelled, the supervisor certificate of that person is cancelled at the end of 14 days after that cancellation unless the Regulatory Authority has assessed the person under section 109 as being a fit and proper person.
- (3) The supervisor certificate of a person is suspended immediately if the working with children card of that person is suspended.
- (4) The supervisor certificate of a person is cancelled immediately if the working with children card of that person is cancelled.

129. Voluntary suspension of supervisor certificate

- (1) A certified supervisor may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a suspension of the supervisor certificate for a period of not more than 12 months.
- (2) An application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and

- (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may, by written notice, agree to the suspension if the Authority is satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances.
 - (4) The Regulatory Authority must, within 30 days after the application is made, decide whether or not to grant the application.
 - (5) If the Regulatory Authority decides to grant the application, the suspension takes effect on a date agreed between the Regulatory Authority and the certified supervisor.

Note: This section differs from section 129 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

130. Surrender of a supervisor certificate by certified supervisor

- (1) A certified supervisor may surrender the supervisor certificate by written notice to the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) On the surrender of the supervisor certificate, the certificate is cancelled.

Division 5 — Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority

131. Exercise of powers by another Regulatory Authority

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority has granted a supervisor certificate under this Part.
- (2) A Regulatory Authority of a participating jurisdiction may exercise all of the powers and perform all the functions of the Regulatory Authority under this Part in respect of the supervisor certificate if the certified supervisor works as a certified supervisor in that jurisdiction.
- (3) A Regulatory Authority (including the Regulatory Authority of this jurisdiction) may only exercise a power referred to in subsection (2) after consulting with the Regulatory Authority of each participating jurisdiction in which the certified supervisor is currently working as a nominated supervisor.

- (4) A failure by a Regulatory Authority to comply with subsection (3) does not affect the validity of the exercise of the power.
- (5) A cancellation or suspension of a supervisor certificate in another participating jurisdiction has effect in this jurisdiction.

Division 6 — Offence

132. Offence to act as supervisor without supervisor certificate

A person must not hold himself or herself out as being a certified supervisor unless the person holds a supervisor certificate.

Penalty: \$10 000.

Part 5 — Assessments and ratings

Division 1 — Assessment and rating

133. Assessment for rating purposes

- (1) The Regulatory Authority that granted the service approval for an education and care service may at any time assess the service in accordance with the national regulations to determine whether and at what rating level the service meets the National Quality Standard and the requirements of the national regulations.
- (2) Until an approved education and care service is first assessed under this Part, it is taken to have the prescribed provisional rating.

134. Rating levels

- (1) The rating levels for the purposes of this Law are the levels prescribed by the national regulations.
- (2) The highest rating level prescribed by the national regulations can only be given by the National Authority under this Part.

135. Rating of approved education and care service

- (1) After carrying out a rating assessment of an approved education and care service, the Regulatory Authority must determine the rating level (other than the highest rating level) —
 - (a) for each quality area stated in the National Quality Standard;and

- (c) a notice has been given under section 179 in respect of the service; or
 - (d) an action has been taken under section 189 in respect of a child or children being educated and cared for by the service.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must give the approved provider a written notice stating that notice of the outcome of the rating assessment will be given under section 136 within 60 days after —
- (a) the end of the final period for review of the decision or action referred to in subsection (1); or
 - (b) if that review is sought, the determination of the review.

Division 2 — Reassessment and re-rating

138. Regulatory Authority may reassess and re-rate approved education and care service

The Regulatory Authority may at any time reassess an approved education and care service or any aspect or element of an approved education and care service in accordance with the national regulations to determine whether and at what rating level it meets the National Quality Standard and the requirements of the national regulations for the purpose of rating that service.

139. Application for reassessment and re-rating by approved provider

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the Regulatory Authority for a reassessment and re-rating of an approved education and care service or any aspect or element of an approved education and care service which is rateable against the National Quality Standard or the national regulations.
- (2) An application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include any prescribed information that is requested by the Regulatory Authority; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) An application under this section can only be made once in every 2 year period, unless the Regulatory Authority agrees otherwise.

- (3) A review under this section must be conducted within 30 days after the application for review is received.
- (4) The period specified in subsection (3) may be extended by up to 30 days —
 - (a) if a request for further information is made under subsection (2); or
 - (b) by agreement between the approved provider and the Regulatory Authority.

143. Outcome of review by Regulatory Authority

- (1) Following a review under section 142, the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) confirm the specific rating levels or the overall rating or both; or
 - (b) amend the specific rating levels or the overall rating or both.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must give the approved provider written notice of the decision on the review within 30 days after the decision is made.
- (3) The notice must set out —
 - (a) the rating levels and overall rating for the approved education and care service; and
 - (b) the reasons for the decision.
- (4) Unless an application is made under Division 4 for a review of the rating levels, the rating levels set out in the notice are the rating levels for the approved education and care service for the purposes of this Law.

Division 4 — Review by Ratings Review Panel

Subdivision 1 — Application for review

144. Application for further review by Ratings Review Panel

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority has conducted a review of any rating levels of an approved education and care service under Division 3.

- (2) The Panel is to consist of up to 3 members appointed by the Board.
- (3) One of the members is to be appointed as chairperson.
- (4) The members are to be appointed from the Review Panel pool established under section 147.

147. Review Panel pool

- (1) The Board must establish a pool of persons to act as members of a Ratings Review Panel.
- (2) The pool may consist of persons nominated by the Regulatory Authorities of each participating jurisdiction and the Commonwealth Minister.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), the persons approved as members of the pool must have expertise or expert knowledge in one or more of the following areas —
 - (a) early learning and development research or practice;
 - (b) law;
 - (c) a prescribed area.
- (4) A member of staff of the National Authority may be approved as a member of the pool.

148. Procedure of Panel

- (1) Subject to this Law, the procedure of a Ratings Review Panel is in its discretion.
- (2) The chairperson of a Panel must convene meetings of the Panel.
- (3) A Panel must keep minutes of its deliberations setting out —
 - (a) the dates and duration of its deliberations; and
 - (b) its decisions on the review.
- (4) The Panel must seek to make decisions by consensus.
- (5) In the absence of a consensus, a decision of the Panel is a decision of the majority of the members of the Panel.
- (6) If a majority decision is not reached, the Panel is taken to have confirmed the rating levels determined by the Regulatory Authority.

- (i) any written submissions or responses made to the Ratings Review Panel by the Regulatory Authority relating to the stated grounds for review; and
 - (j) any advice received from the National Authority, at the request of the Ratings Review Panel, about how the prescribed processes for rating assessments are intended to be applied that is relevant to the review.
- (2) The Ratings Review Panel is not required to hold an oral hearing for a review.
- (3) The Ratings Review Panel may ask the Regulatory Authority to provide in writing any information in relation to the assessment.
- (4) The Ratings Review Panel may ask the approved provider for further written information in relation to its application.
- (5) The Ratings Review Panel must ensure that the approved provider is provided with a copy of, and an opportunity to respond in writing to, any documents, information or evidence provided to the Panel by the Regulatory Authority.

151. Decision on review by Ratings Review Panel

- (1) Following a review, the Ratings Review Panel may —
 - (a) confirm the rating levels determined by the Regulatory Authority; or
 - (b) amend the rating levels.
- (2) The Ratings Review Panel must make a decision on the review within 60 days after the application for review was made.
- (3) The chairperson of the Panel may extend the period for the making of a decision by a Ratings Review Panel if the chairperson considers there are special circumstances that warrant that extension.
- (4) The period for the making of a decision by a Ratings Review Panel may be extended by agreement between the chairperson of the Panel and the approved provider.
- (5) The Ratings Review Panel must give the approved provider, the Regulatory Authority and the National Authority written notice of the

control of an education and care service operated by the approved provider;

- (b) the nominated supervisor of the service;
- (c) a certified supervisor who has been placed in day to day charge of the service in accordance with the national regulations.

Penalty: \$5 000, in the case of an individual.
\$25 000, in any other case.

- (2) This section does not apply to an approved family day care service.

163. Offence relating to appointment or engagement of family day care co-ordinators

- (1) The approved provider of a family day care service must ensure that at all times one or more qualified persons are employed or engaged as family day care co-ordinators of the family day care service —
 - (a) to assist with the operation of the family day care service; and
 - (b) to support, monitor and train the family day care educators of that service.

Penalty: \$5 000, in the case of an individual.
\$25 000, in any other case.

- (2) A person is a qualified person under this section if the person has the qualifications prescribed by the national regulations.

164. Offence relating to assistance to family day care educators

- (1) The approved provider of a family day care service must ensure that, at all times that a family day care educator is educating and caring for a child as part of the service, one of the following persons is available to provide support to the family day care educator —
 - (a) the approved provider, if the approved provider is an individual, or a person with management or control of the family day care service, in any other case;
 - (b) the nominated supervisor of the service;
 - (c) a certified supervisor who has been placed in day to day charge of the family day care service in accordance with the national regulations.

Penalty: \$5 000, in the case of an individual.

\$25 000, in any other case.

- (2) For the purposes of this section, the requirement to be available to provide support to a family day care educator includes being available to be contacted by telephone to provide advice and assistance to the family day care educator.

165. Offence to inadequately supervise children

- (1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that all children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised at all times that the children are in the care of that service.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

- (2) The nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that all children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised at all times that the children are in the care of that service.

Penalty: \$10 000.

- (3) A family day care educator must ensure that any child being educated and cared for by the educator as a part of a family day care service is adequately supervised.

Penalty: \$10 000.

165A. Offence relating to children leaving the education and care service premises unauthorised

- (1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that a child who is being educated and cared for by the education and care service does not leave the education and care service premises except in accordance with subsection (4).

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

- (2) The nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that a child who is being educated and cared for by the

education and care service does not leave the education and care service premises except in accordance with subsection (4).

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

- (3) A family day care educator must ensure that a child who is being educated and cared for by the educator as part of a family day care service does not leave the residence or approved family day care venue except in accordance with subsection (4).

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

- (4) The child may only leave the relevant premises if the child —

(a) is given into the care of —

(i) a parent of the child; or

(ii) an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or

(iii) a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the premises; or

(b) leaves the premises in accordance with the written authorisation of the child's parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or

(c) is taken on an excursion in accordance with the national regulations; or

(d) is given into the care of a person or taken outside the premises —

(i) because the child requires medical, hospital or ambulance care or treatment; or

(ii) because of another emergency.

- (5) In this section —

authorised nominee has the meaning given in section 170(5);

parent does not include a parent who is prohibited by a court order from having contact with the child.

educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

- (2) A nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

Penalty: \$10 000.

- (3) A family day care educator must ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect a child being educated and cared for as part of a family day care service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury.

Penalty: \$10 000.

168. Offence relating to required programs

- (1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that a program is delivered to all children being educated and cared for by the service that —

- (a) is based on an approved learning framework; and
- (b) is delivered in a manner that accords with the approved learning framework; and
- (c) is based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child; and
- (d) is designed to take into account the individual differences of each child.

Penalty: \$4 000, in the case of an individual.

\$20 000, in any other case.

- (2) A nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that a program is delivered to all children being educated and cared for by the service that —

- (a) is based on an approved learning framework; and
- (b) is delivered in a manner that accords with the approved learning framework; and

(c) is based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child; and

(d) is designed to take into account the individual differences of each child.

Penalty: \$4 000.

169. Offence relating to staffing arrangements

(1) An approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that, whenever children are being educated and cared for by the service, the relevant number of educators educating and caring for the children is no less than the number prescribed for this purpose.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

(2) An approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that each educator educating and caring for children for the service meets the qualification requirements relevant to the educator's role as prescribed by the national regulations.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

(3) A nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that, whenever children are being educated and cared for by the service, the relevant number of educators educating and caring for the children is no less than the number prescribed for this purpose.

Penalty: \$10 000.

(4) A nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that each educator educating and caring for children for the service meets the qualification requirements relevant to the educator's role as prescribed by the national regulations.

Penalty: \$10 000.

(5) A family day care educator must ensure that the number of children being educated and cared for by the family day care educator at any one time is no more than the number prescribed for this purpose.

Penalty: \$10 000.

- (6) Subsections (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) do not apply in respect of an education and care service —
 - (a) to the extent that it holds a temporary waiver under Division 6 of Part 3 in respect of this requirement; or
 - (b) to the extent that it holds a service waiver under Division 5 of Part 3 in respect of this requirement.
- (7) The National Authority may, on application, determine qualifications, including foreign qualifications, to be equivalent to the qualifications required by the national regulations.
- (8) If a determination is made under subsection (7), any person holding the qualification is to be taken to be qualified in accordance with the national regulations.

170. Offence relating to unauthorised persons on education and care service premises

- (1) This section applies to an education and care service operating in a participating jurisdiction that has a working with children law.
- (2) The approved provider of the education and care service must ensure that an unauthorised person does not remain at the education and care service premises while children are being educated and cared for at the premises unless the person is under the direct supervision of an educator or other staff member of the service.
Penalty: \$1 000, in the case of an individual.
\$5 000, in any other case.
- (3) The nominated supervisor of the education and care service must ensure that an unauthorised person does not remain at the education and care service premises while children are being educated and cared for at the premises unless the person is under the direct supervision of an educator or other staff member of the service.
Penalty: \$1 000.
- (4) A family day care educator must ensure that an unauthorised person does not remain at the residence or approved family day care venue at which the educator is educating and caring for a child as part of a family day care service unless the unauthorised person is under the direct supervision of the educator.

Penalty: \$1 000.

(5) In this section —

authorised nominee, in relation to a child, means a person who has been given permission by a parent or family member of the child to collect the child from the education and care service or the family day care educator;

unauthorised person means a person who is not —

- (a) a person who holds a current working with children check or working with children card; or
 - (b) a parent or family member of a child who is being educated and cared for by the education and care service or the family day care educator; or
 - (c) an authorised nominee of a parent or family member of a child who is being educated and cared for by the education and care service or the family day care educator; or
 - (d) in the case of an emergency, medical personnel or emergency service personnel; or
 - (e) a person who is permitted under the working with children law of this jurisdiction to remain at the education and care service premises without holding a working with children check or a working with children card.
- (6) A reference in subsection (5) to a parent or family member of a child does not include a person —
- (a) whose access to the child is prohibited or restricted by an order of a court or tribunal of which the approved provider, nominated supervisor or family day care educator (as the case requires) is aware; or
 - (b) who is an inappropriate person within the meaning of section 171.

171. Offence relating to direction to exclude inappropriate persons from education and care service premises

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may direct an approved provider, a nominated supervisor or a family day care educator to exclude a person whom the Authority is satisfied is an inappropriate person from the education and care service premises while children are being

educated and cared for at the premises for such time as the Authority considers appropriate.

- (2) A person to whom a direction is given under subsection (1) must comply with the direction.

Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.

\$50 000, in any other case.

- (3) In this section —

inappropriate person means a person —

- (a) who may pose a risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of any child or children being educated and cared for by the education and care service; or
- (b) whose behaviour or state of mind or whose pattern of behaviour or common state of mind is such that it would be inappropriate for him or her to be on the education and care service premises while children are being educated and cared for by the education and care service.

Example: A person who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

172. Offence to fail to display prescribed information

An approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that the prescribed information about the following is positioned so that it is clearly visible to anyone from the main entrance to the education and care service premises —

- (a) the provider approval;
- (b) the service approval;
- (c) the nominated supervisor or the prescribed class of persons to which the nominated supervisor belongs;
- [(d) has not come into operation².]*
- (e) any service waivers or temporary waivers held by the service;
- (f) any other prescribed matters.

Penalty: \$3 000, in the case of an individual.

\$15 000, in any other case.

Penalty: \$4 000, in the case of an individual.

\$20 000, in any other case.

- (3) A notice under subsection (1) must be in writing and be provided within the relevant prescribed time to the Regulatory Authority that granted the provider approval.
- (4) A notice under subsection (2) must be in writing and be provided within the relevant prescribed time to —
 - (a) the Regulatory Authority that granted the service approval for the education and care service to which the notice relates; and
 - (b) in the case of a family day care service, the Regulatory Authority in each participating jurisdiction in which the family day care service operates.

174. Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority

- (1) An approved provider must notify the Regulatory Authority of the following information in relation to the approved provider or each approved education and care service operated by the approved provider —
 - (a) any change relevant to whether the approved provider is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of an education and care service;
 - (b) information in respect of any other prescribed matters.

Penalty: \$4 000, in the case of an individual.

\$20 000, in any other case.

- (2) An approved provider must notify the Regulatory Authority of the following information in relation to an approved education and care service operated by the approved provider —
 - (a) any serious incident at the approved education and care service;
 - (b) complaints alleging —
 - (i) that the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or children was or is being compromised while that child or children is or are being educated and cared for by the approved education and care service; or

- (b) in any other case, must be kept at a place, and in a manner, that they are readily accessible by an authorised officer.
- (3) A family day care educator who educates and cares for a child at a residence or approved family day care venue, as part of a family day care service, must keep the prescribed documents available for inspection by an authorised officer at that residence or venue.
- Penalty: \$4 000.

Part 7 — Compliance with this Law

Division 1 — Notices

176. Compliance directions

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that an education and care service has not complied with a provision of this Law that is prescribed by the national regulations.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may give the approved provider a written direction (a compliance direction) requiring the approved provider to take the steps specified in the direction to comply with that provision.
- (3) An approved provider must comply with a direction under subsection (2) within the period (being not less than 14 days) specified in the direction.
- Penalty: \$2 000, in the case of an individual.
\$10 000, in any other case.

177. Compliance notices

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that an education and care service is not complying with any provision of this Law.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may give the approved provider a notice (a compliance notice) requiring the approved provider to take the steps specified in the notice to comply with that provision.
- (3) An approved provider must comply with a compliance notice under subsection (2) within the period (being not less than 14 days) specified in the notice.

- (i) give the approved provider a notice directing the provider to suspend the provision of education and care of children by the family day care educator; or
 - (ii) decide not to give that direction.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority must give the family day care educator a notice of the decision under subsection (4).
- (6) If the Regulatory Authority decides not to give the direction to suspend, the Regulatory Authority must give the approved provider notice of the decision.
- (7) A person must comply with a direction under subsection (4).
Penalty: \$6 000, in the case of an individual.
\$30 000, in any other case.

179. Emergency action notices

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority is satisfied that an education and care service is operating in a manner that poses, or is likely to pose, an immediate risk to the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or children being educated and cared for by the service.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may, by written notice, direct the approved provider of the education and care service to take the steps specified in the notice to remove or reduce the risk within the time (not more than 14 days) specified in the notice.
- (3) An approved provider must comply with a direction given under subsection (2).
Penalty: \$6 000, in the case of an individual.
\$30 000, in any other case.

Division 2 — Enforceable undertakings

180. Enforceable undertakings

- (1) This section applies if a person has, or believes he or she may have, contravened, or if the Regulatory Authority alleges a person has contravened, a provision of this Law.

- (2) The Regulatory Authority may accept a written undertaking from the person under which the person undertakes to take certain actions, or refrain from taking certain actions, to comply with this Law.
- (3) A person may with the consent of the Regulatory Authority withdraw or amend an undertaking.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority may withdraw its acceptance of the undertaking at any time and the undertaking ceases to be in force on that withdrawal.
- (5) While an undertaking is in force, proceedings may not be brought for any offence constituted by the contravention or alleged contravention in respect of which the undertaking is given.
- (6) If a person complies with the requirements of an undertaking, no further proceedings may be brought for any offence constituted by the contravention or alleged contravention in respect of which the undertaking was given.
- (7) The Regulatory Authority may publish on the Regulatory Authority's website an undertaking accepted under this section.

Note: This section differs from section 180 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

181. Failure to comply with enforceable undertakings

- (1) If the Regulatory Authority considers that the person who gave an undertaking under section 180 has failed to comply with any of its terms, the Regulatory Authority may apply to the relevant tribunal or court for an order under subsection (2) to enforce the undertaking.
- (2) If the relevant tribunal or court is satisfied that the person has failed to comply with a term of the undertaking, the relevant tribunal or court may make any of the following orders —
 - (a) an order directing the person to comply with that term of the undertaking;
 - (b) an order that the person take any specified action for the purpose of complying with the undertaking;
 - (c) any other order that the relevant tribunal or court considers appropriate in the circumstances.

- (3) If the relevant tribunal or court determines that the person has failed to comply with a term of the undertaking, proceedings may be brought for any offence constituted by the contravention or alleged contravention in respect of which the undertaking was given.

Division 3 — Prohibition notices

182. Grounds for issuing prohibition notice

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may give a prohibition notice to a person who is in any way involved in the provision of an approved education and care service if it considers that there may be an unacceptable risk of harm to a child or children if the person were allowed —
- (a) to remain on the education and care service premises; or
 - (b) to provide education and care to children.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person may be involved in the provision of an approved education and care service as any of the following —
- (a) an approved provider;
 - (b) a certified supervisor;
 - (c) an educator;
 - (d) a family day care educator;
 - (e) an employee;
 - (f) a contractor;
 - (g) a volunteer —
- or in any other capacity.

183. Show cause notice to be given before prohibition notice

- (1) Before giving a person a prohibition notice, the Regulatory Authority must give the person a notice (a show cause notice) —
- (a) stating that the Regulatory Authority proposes to give the person a prohibition notice; and
 - (b) stating the reasons for the proposed prohibition; and

- (2) A person for whom a prohibition notice is in force may apply to the Regulatory Authority to cancel the notice.
- (3) The application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include the prescribed information; and
 - (c) be signed by the person.
- (4) The person may state in the application anything the person considers relevant to the Regulatory Authority's decision about whether there would be an unacceptable risk of harm to children if the person were —
 - (a) to remain at the education and care service premises; or
 - (b) to provide education and care to children.
- (5) The application may include a statement setting out any change in the person's circumstances since the prohibition notice was given or since any previous application under this section that would warrant the cancellation of the notice.
- (6) The Regulatory Authority must decide the application as soon as practicable after its receipt.

187. Person must not contravene prohibition notice

While a prohibition notice is in force under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction for a person, the person must not —

- (a) provide education and care to children for an education and care service; or
- (b) be engaged as a supervisor, educator, family day care educator, employee, contractor or staff member of, or perform volunteer services for, an education and care service; or
- (c) carry out any other activity relating to education and care services.

Penalty: \$20 000.

188. Offence to engage person to whom prohibition notice applies

An approved provider must not engage a person as a supervisor, educator, family day care educator, employee, contractor or staff

- (ii) the person with management or control of the body corporate has failed to exercise due diligence to prevent that failure.
- (2) If the Regulatory Authority of this jurisdiction considers that grounds for disciplinary action exist in respect of a person linked to a WA service, the Regulatory Authority may make an allegation to the relevant tribunal or court of this jurisdiction in respect of that person.
- (3) In proceedings commenced by an allegation under subsection (2) in respect of a person, the relevant tribunal or court of this jurisdiction, if satisfied that grounds for disciplinary action exist, may make one or more of the following orders —
 - (a) an order reprimanding the person;
 - (b) subject to section 188C, an order requiring the person to pay a fine not exceeding \$50 000;
 - (c) an order to take certain actions, or refrain from taking certain actions, to comply with this Law.
- (4) The relevant tribunal or court may make an order under subsection (3)(a) or (b) in respect of a person whether or not at the time when the order is made the person is a person linked to a WA service.

Note: Section 188B does not form part of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

188C. Limitation on section 188B(3)(b)

- (1) The power described in section 188B(3)(b) to impose a fine, and the power of a court to impose a penalty for an offence under this Law as it applies in this, or another participating jurisdiction, cannot both be exercised in respect of an act or omission of a person that is substantially the same.
- (2) A fine that exceeds the relevant maximum fine cannot be imposed under section 188B(3)(b).
- (3) In subsection (2) —

relevant maximum fine means, if the fine is to be imposed in respect of an act or omission that constitutes an offence under this Law, the maximum fine that could be imposed by a court for that offence.

Note: Section 188C does not form part of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

Division 4 — Emergency removal of children

189. Emergency removal of children

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority considers, on reasonable grounds, that there is an immediate danger to the safety or health of a child or children being educated and cared for by an education and care service.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may remove, or cause the removal of, the child or children from the education and care service premises.
- (3) In exercising a power under subsection (2) —
 - (a) the Regulatory Authority may be given such assistance by other persons (including police officers) as is reasonably required; and
 - (b) the Regulatory Authority and any person assisting the Regulatory Authority may —
 - (i) enter the education and care service premises, without warrant; and
 - (ii) use reasonable force as necessary.
- (4) If a child is removed from the education and care service premises under subsection (2), the Regulatory Authority must ensure that the child's parents are immediately notified of the situation and the child's current location.

Part 8 — Review

Division 1 — Internal review

190. Reviewable decision — internal review

A reviewable decision for internal review is a decision of the Regulatory Authority under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction —

- (a) to refuse to grant a provider approval, a service approval or a supervisor certificate; or
- (b) to amend or refuse to amend a provider approval, a service approval or a supervisor certificate; or
- (c) to impose a condition on a provider approval, a service approval or a supervisor certificate; or
- (d) to suspend —
 - (i) a provider approval under section 28; or
 - (ii) a service approval under section 73; or
 - (iii) a supervisor certificate under section 126; or
- (e) to refuse to consent to the transfer of a service approval; or
- (f) to revoke a service waiver; or
- (g) to issue a compliance direction; or
- (h) to issue a compliance notice.

191. Internal review of reviewable decisions

- (1) A person who is the subject of a reviewable decision for internal review may apply to the Regulatory Authority in writing for review of the decision.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) must be made —
 - (a) within 14 days after the day on which the person is notified of the decision; or
 - (b) if the person is not notified of the decision, within 14 days after the person becomes aware of the decision.
- (3) The person who conducts the review for the Regulatory Authority must not be a person who was involved in the assessment or

investigation of the person or service to whom or which the decision relates.

- (4) The person conducting the review may ask the person who applied for the review for further information.
- (5) A review under this section must be conducted within 30 days after the application is made.
- (6) The period specified in subsection (5) may be extended by up to 30 days —
 - (a) if a request for further information is made under subsection (4); or
 - (b) by agreement between the person who applied for the review and the Regulatory Authority.
- (7) The Regulatory Authority may, in relation to an application under subsection (1) —
 - (a) confirm the decision; or
 - (b) make any other decision that the Regulatory Authority thinks appropriate.

Division 2 — External review

192. Reviewable decision — external review

A reviewable decision for external review is —

- (a) a decision of the Regulatory Authority made under section 191 (other than a decision in relation to the issue of a compliance direction or a compliance notice); or
- (b) a decision of the Regulatory Authority under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction —
 - (i) to suspend a provider approval under section 27; or
 - (ii) to cancel a provider approval under section 33; or
 - (iii) to suspend a service approval under section 72; or
 - (iv) to cancel a service approval under section 79 or 307; or
 - (v) to suspend or cancel a supervisor certificate under section 125; or

- (vi) to direct the approved provider of a family day care service to suspend the care and education of children by a family day care educator; or
- (vii) to give a prohibition notice or to refuse to cancel a prohibition notice.

Note: A person is not entitled to a review under this section in respect of a suspension or cancellation of a service approval if that suspension or cancellation relates only to an associated children's service. Any right of review would be under the children's services law.

193. Application for review of decision of the Regulatory Authority

- (1) A person who is the subject of a reviewable decision for external review may apply to the relevant tribunal or court for a review of the decision.
- (2) An application must be made within 30 days after the day on which the applicant is notified of the decision that is to be reviewed.
- (3) After hearing the matter, the relevant tribunal or court may —
 - (a) confirm the decision of the Regulatory Authority; or
 - (b) amend the decision of the Regulatory Authority; or
 - (c) substitute another decision for the decision of the Regulatory Authority.
- (4) In determining any application under this section, the relevant tribunal or court may have regard to any decision under this Law as applying in another participating jurisdiction of a relevant tribunal or court of that jurisdiction.

Division 3 — General

194. Relationship with Act establishing administrative body

This Part applies despite any provision to the contrary in the Act that establishes the relevant tribunal or court but does not otherwise limit that Act.

- (ii) at any time during the exercise of a power under this Law when asked to do so.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (4) An authorised officer who fails to comply with subsection (3)(b) in relation to the exercise of a power ceases to be authorised to exercise the power in relation to the matter.
- (5) An authorised officer must return his or her identity card to the Regulatory Authority on ceasing to be authorised as an authorised officer for the purposes of this Law.

Penalty: \$1 000.

Division 2 — Powers of entry

197. Powers of entry for assessing and monitoring approved education and care service

- (1) An authorised officer may exercise a power under this section for any of the following purposes —
- (a) monitoring compliance with this Law;
 - (ab) monitoring compliance with a working with children law by specified persons in relation to the provision of an education and care service;
 - (b) a rating assessment of an approved education and care service under Part 5;
 - (c) obtaining information requested under section 35 or 83.
- (2) An authorised officer may, at any reasonable time and with such assistants as may reasonably be required, enter any education and care service premises and do any of the following —
- (a) inspect the premises and any plant, equipment, vehicle or other thing;
 - (b) photograph or film, or make audio recordings or make sketches of, any part of the premises or anything at the premises;
 - (c) inspect and make copies of, or take extracts from, any document kept at the premises;
 - (d) take any document or any other thing at the premises;

- (e) ask a person at the premises —
 - (i) to answer a question to the best of that person's knowledge, information and belief; or
 - (ii) to take reasonable steps to provide information or produce a document.
- (3) A power under subsection (2)(a) to (d) is limited to a document or thing that is used or likely to be used in, or in relation to, the provision of the education and care service.
- (4) If the authorised officer takes any document or thing under subsection (2), he or she must —
 - (a) give notice of the taking of the document or thing to the person apparently in charge of it or to an occupier of the premises; and
 - (b) return the document or thing to that person or the premises within 7 days after taking it.
- (5) An authorised officer may not, under this section, enter a residence unless —
 - (a) an approved education and care service is operating at the residence at the time of entry; or
 - (b) the occupier of the residence has consented in writing to the entry and the inspection.
- (6) In this section —
specified person has the meaning given in section 206(4).

Note: This section differs from section 197 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

198. National Authority representative may enter service premises in company with Regulatory Authority

- (1) A person authorised by the National Authority, in company with an authorised officer, may enter premises used by an approved education and care service within the usual hours of operation of the service at those premises.
- (2) The entry by the person authorised by the National Authority is solely for the purpose of informing the National Authority of the rating

assessment processes of the Regulatory Authority under Part 5 to assist the National Authority in promoting consistency across participating jurisdictions.

199. Powers of entry for investigating approved education and care service

- (1) An authorised officer may exercise the powers under this section to investigate an approved education and care service if the authorised officer reasonably suspects that an offence may have been or may be being committed against this Law.
- (2) The authorised officer, with any necessary assistants, may with or without the consent of the occupier of the premises, enter the education and care service premises at any reasonable time and do any of the following —
 - (a) search any part of the premises;
 - (b) inspect, measure, test, photograph or film, or make audio recordings of, any part of the premises or anything at the premises;
 - (c) take a thing, or a sample of or from a thing, at the premises for analysis, measurement or testing;
 - (d) copy, or take an extract from, a document, at the premises;
 - (e) take into or onto the premises any person, equipment and materials the authorised officer reasonably requires for exercising a power under this subsection;
 - (f) require the occupier of the premises, or a person at the premises, to give the authorised officer information to help the authorised officer in conducting the investigation.
- (3) A power under subsection (2)(b) to (d) is limited to a document or thing that is used or likely to be used in the provision of the education and care service.
- (4) An authorised officer may not, under this section, enter a residence unless —
 - (a) an approved education and care service is operating at the residence at the time of entry; or
 - (b) the occupier of the residence has consented in writing to the entry and the inspection.

200. Powers of entry to business premises

- (1) An authorised officer may exercise powers under this section if the authorised officer reasonably suspects that documents or other evidence relevant to the possible commission of an offence against this Law are present at the principal office or any other business premises of an approved provider.
- (2) The authorised officer, with the consent of the occupier of the premises, may enter the premises and do any of the following —
 - (a) search any part of the premises;
 - (b) inspect, measure, test, photograph or film, or make audio recordings of, any part of the premises or anything at the premises;
 - (c) take a thing, or a sample of or from a thing, at the premises for analysis, measurement or testing;
 - (d) copy, or take an extract from, a document, at the premises;
 - (e) take into or onto the premises any person, equipment and materials the authorised officer reasonably requires for exercising a power under this subsection;
 - (f) require the occupier of the premises, or a person at the premises, to give the authorised officer information to help the authorised officer in conducting the investigation.
- (3) An authorised officer must not enter and search the premises with the consent of the occupier unless, before the occupier consents to that entry, the authorised officer has —
 - (a) produced his or her identity card for inspection; and
 - (b) informed the occupier —
 - (i) of the purpose of the search and the powers that may be exercised; and
 - (ii) that the occupier may refuse to give consent to the entry and search or to the taking of anything found during the search; and
 - (iii) that the occupier may refuse to consent to the taking of any copy or extract from a document found on the premises during the search.

201. Entry to premises with search warrant

- (1) An authorised officer under the authority of a search warrant may enter premises if the authorised officer reasonably believes that a person is operating an education and care service in contravention of section 103 at or from the premises.
- (2) An authorised officer under the authority of a search warrant may enter any education and care service premises or any premises where the authorised officer reasonably believes that an approved education and care service is operating if the authorised officer reasonably believes that the education and care service is operating in contravention of this Law.
- (3) An authorised officer under the authority of a search warrant may enter the principal office or any other business premises of an approved provider if the authorised officer reasonably believes that documents or other evidence relevant to the possible commission of an offence against this Law are present at those premises.
- (4) Schedule 2 applies in relation to the issue of the search warrant and the powers of the authorised officer on entry.

202. Seized items

- (1) If an authorised officer has taken a thing under section 199 or 200 or under a search warrant under section 201, the authorised officer must take reasonable steps to return the thing to the person from whom it was taken if the reason for the taking no longer exists.
- (2) If the thing has not been returned within 60 days after it was taken, the authorised officer must take reasonable steps to return it unless —
 - (a) proceedings have been commenced within the period of 60 days and those proceedings (including any appeal) have not been completed; or
 - (b) a court makes an order under section 203 extending the period the thing can be retained.
- (3) If an authorised officer has taken a thing under section 199 or 200 or under a search warrant under section 201, the authorised officer must provide the owner of the thing with reasonable access to the thing.

203. Court may extend period

- (1) An authorised officer may apply to a court within the period of 60 days referred to in section 202 or within a period extended by the court under this section for an extension of the period for which the thing can be held.
- (2) The court may order the extension if satisfied that retention of the thing is necessary —
 - (a) for the purposes of an investigation into whether an offence has been committed; or
 - (b) to enable evidence of an offence to be obtained for the purposes of a prosecution.
- (3) The court may adjourn an application to enable notice of the application to be given to any person.

Division 3 — Other powers

204. Power to require name and address

- (1) This section applies if —
 - (a) an authorised officer finds a person committing an offence against this Law or a working with children law; or
 - (b) an authorised officer finds a person in circumstances that lead, or the authorised officer has information that leads, the officer to reasonably suspect the person is committing, or has committed, an offence against this Law or a working with children law.
- (2) The authorised officer may require the person to state the person's name and residential address.
- (3) The authorised officer may require the person to give evidence of the correctness of the stated name or residential address if the officer reasonably suspects the stated name or address to be false.

Note: This section differs from section 204 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

205. Power to require evidence of age, name and address of person

- (1) This section applies if —
 - (a) the national regulations require a staff member, a family day care educator or a volunteer to have attained a prescribed minimum age; and
 - (b) an authorised officer reasonably suspects that a person —
 - (i) is employed or engaged as a staff member or a family day care educator by, or is a volunteer at, an education and care service; and
 - (ii) has not attained that prescribed minimum age.
- (2) The authorised officer may require the person to state the person's correct date of birth, whether or not when requiring the person to state the person's correct name and address.
- (3) Also, the authorised officer may require the person to provide evidence of the correctness of the stated date of birth —
 - (a) at the time of making the requirement under subsection (2) if, in the circumstances, it would be reasonable to expect the person to be in possession of evidence of the correctness of the stated date of birth; or
 - (b) otherwise, within 14 days of making the requirement under subsection (2).
- (4) The authorised officer may require the person to state the person's name and residential address if —
 - (a) the person refuses or is unable to comply with a requirement under subsection (2) or (3); or
 - (b) according to the date of birth the person states, or the evidence of the person's age the person gives, the person has not attained the prescribed minimum age.

206. Power of authorised officers to obtain information documents and evidence

- (1) An authorised officer may exercise a power under this section for any of the following purposes —
 - (a) monitoring compliance with this Law;

- (ab) monitoring compliance with a working with children law by specified persons in relation to the provision of an education and care service;
 - (b) a rating assessment of an approved education and care service under Part 5;
 - (c) obtaining information requested under section 35 or 83.
- (2) An authorised officer may, by written notice, require a specified person to provide to the authorised officer, by writing signed by that person or, if the person is not an individual, by a competent officer of that person, within the time and in the manner specified in the notice, any relevant information that is specified in the notice.
- (3) The time specified in the notice must not be less than 14 days from the date the notice is issued.
- (4) In this section —
- specified person* means a person who is or has been —
- (a) an approved provider, a certified supervisor or a staff member of, or a volunteer at, an approved education and care service; or
 - (b) a family day care educator.

Note: This section differs from section 206 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

Division 4 — Offences relating to enforcement

207. Offence to obstruct authorised officer

A person must not obstruct an authorised officer in exercising his or her powers under this Law.

Penalty: \$8 000, in the case of an individual.
\$40 000, in any other case.

208. Offence to fail to assist authorised officer

A person must not —

- (a) refuse to answer a question lawfully asked by an authorised officer (other than a question asked under section 197(2)(e)); or
- (b) refuse to provide information or produce a document lawfully required by an authorised officer; or
- (c) fail to comply with a requirement made by an authorised officer under clause 5(2)(f) or (g) of Schedule 2.

Penalty: \$8 000, in the case of an individual.
\$40 000, in any other case.

Note: This section differs from section 208 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

209. Offence to destroy or damage notices or documents

A person must not, without lawful authority, destroy or damage any notice or document given or prepared or kept under this Law.

Penalty: \$8 000, in the case of an individual.
\$40 000, in any other case.

210. Offence to impersonate authorised officer

A person must not impersonate an authorised officer.

Penalty: \$8 000.

211. Protection against self incrimination

- (1) An individual may refuse or fail to give information or do any other thing that the individual is required to do by or under this Law if giving the information or doing the thing might incriminate the individual.
- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply to —
 - (a) the production of a document or part of a document that is required to be kept under this Law; or
 - (b) the giving of the individual's name or address in accordance with this Law; or
 - (c) anything required to be done under section 215 or 216.

- (3) Any document referred to in subsection (2)(a) that is produced by an individual or any information obtained directly or indirectly from that document produced by an individual is not admissible in evidence against the individual in any criminal proceedings (except for criminal proceedings under this Law) or in any civil proceedings.

212. Warning to be given

- (1) Before requiring a person to answer a question or provide information or a document under this Part or Schedule 2, an authorised officer must —
- (a) identify himself or herself to the person as an authorised officer by producing the officer's identity card; and
 - (b) warn the person that a failure to comply with the requirement or to answer the question, without reasonable excuse, would constitute an offence; and
 - (c) in the case of an individual, warn the person about the effect of section 211.
- (2) Nothing in this section prevents an authorised officer from obtaining and using evidence given to the authorised officer voluntarily by any person.
- (3) This section does not apply to a request made under section 197.

213. Occupier's consent to search

- (1) An occupier who consents in writing to the entry and inspection of his or her premises under Division 2 must be given a copy of the signed consent immediately.
- (2) If, in any proceeding, a written consent is not produced to the court, it must be presumed until the contrary is proved that the occupier did not consent to the entry and search.

Division 5 — Powers of Regulatory Authority

214. Powers of Regulatory Authority to obtain information for rating purposes

The Regulatory Authority may, for the purpose of a rating assessment —

- (a) ask the approved provider of the approved education and care service for any information and documents; and
- (b) make any inquiries it considers appropriate.

215. Power of Regulatory Authority to obtain information, documents and evidence by notice

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority reasonably suspects that an offence has or may have been committed against this Law.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may, by written notice, require a person —
 - (a) to provide to the Regulatory Authority, in writing signed by that person or, if the person is not an individual, by a competent officer of that person, within the time and in the manner specified in the notice, any relevant information that is specified in the notice; or
 - (b) to produce to the Regulatory Authority, or to a person specified in the notice acting on the Regulatory Authority's behalf, in accordance with the notice, any relevant document referred to in the notice; or
 - (c) to appear before the Regulatory Authority, or a person specified in the notice acting on the Regulatory Authority's behalf, at a time and place specified in the notice to give any evidence or to produce any relevant document specified in the notice.
- (3) The notice must —
 - (a) warn the person that failure or refusal to comply with the notice would constitute an offence; and
 - (b) warn the person about the effect of sections 217, 218 and 219.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority or the person specified in the notice acting on the Regulatory Authority's behalf may require the evidence referred to in subsection (2)(c) to be given on oath or affirmation and for that purpose may administer an oath or affirmation.
- (5) The person may give evidence under subsection (2)(c) by telephone or video conference or other electronic means unless the Regulatory Authority, on reasonable grounds, requires the person to give that evidence in person.

Note: This section differs from section 215 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

216. Power of Regulatory Authority to obtain information, documents and evidence at education and care service

- (1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority reasonably suspects that an offence has or may have been committed against this Law.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may require a person at an education and care service —
 - (a) to provide the Regulatory Authority, or a person acting on the Regulatory Authority's behalf, with any specified information that is relevant to the suspected offence; or
 - (b) to produce to the Regulatory Authority, or to a person acting on the Regulatory Authority's behalf, any specified document that is relevant to the suspected offence.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority must —
 - (a) warn the person that failure or refusal to comply with the requirement would constitute an offence; and
 - (b) warn the person about the effect of sections 217, 218 and 219.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority must not require a person to remain at the education and care service more than a reasonable time for the purposes of providing information or producing documents under subsection (2).

Note: This section differs from section 216 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

217. Offence to fail to comply with notice or requirement

A person must not refuse or fail to comply with a requirement under section 215 or 216 to the extent that the person is capable of complying with that requirement.

Penalty: \$8 000, in the case of an individual.

\$40 000, in any other case.

218. Offence to hinder or obstruct Regulatory Authority

A person must not obstruct or hinder the Regulatory Authority in exercising a power under section 215 or 216.

Penalty: \$8 000, in the case of an individual.

\$40 000, in any other case.

219. Self incrimination not an excuse

- (1) A person is not excused from complying with a notice or requirement under section 215 or 216 on the ground that complying with the notice or requirement may result in information being provided that might tend to incriminate the person.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), disclosed information is not admissible in evidence against the individual in any disciplinary proceedings or in any criminal proceedings (other than proceedings under section 218 or 295) or in any civil proceedings.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), any information obtained from a document or documents required to be kept under this Law, or required under section 215(2)(b) or 216(2)(b), that is produced by a person is admissible in evidence against the person in disciplinary proceedings or in criminal proceedings under this Law.
- (4) In this section —
disclosed information means —
 - (a) the answer by an individual to any question asked under section 215 or 216; or
 - (b) the provision by an individual of any information in compliance with section 215 or 216; or
 - [(c) this national law provision does not apply as a law of WA.]*

Note: This section differs from section 219 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

Part 10 — Ministerial Council

220. Functions of Ministerial Council

- (1) The Ministerial Council has the following functions under this Law —
 - (a) to oversee the implementation and administration of the National Quality Framework;

- (b) to promote uniformity in the application and enforcement of the National Quality Framework;
 - (c) to review and approve the National Quality Standard and set specific standards for education and care services and classes of education and care services;
 - (d) to review and approve the rating level system to be used in rating education and care services;
 - (e) to review and approve the fee structure under this Law;
 - (f) to review and approve new learning frameworks for the purposes of this Law;
 - (g) to monitor the implementation and operation of, and recommend or approve amendments to, this Law;
 - (h) to monitor the implementation and operation of the national regulations;
 - (i) to review the education and care services to which this Law applies and recommend, or amend the national regulations to provide for, the inclusion of new classes of education and care services under this Law;
 - (j) to appoint the members of the Board;
 - (k) to monitor and review the performance of the National Authority;
 - (l) any other functions given to the Ministerial Council by or under this Law.
- (2) The Ministerial Council must have regard to the objectives and guiding principles of the National Quality Framework in carrying out its functions.

221. Powers of Ministerial Council

The Ministerial Council may —

- (a) make recommendations to the Board in relation to the exercise of the National Authority's functions under this Law; and
- (b) refer any matter to the Board for consideration and advice; and
- [(c) this national law provision does not apply as a law of WA.]*

- (d) do anything necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its functions.

Note: This section differs from section 221 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

222. Directions

- (1) The Ministerial Council may give directions to the Board in relation to the carrying out of the National Authority's functions under this Law, including the following —
 - (a) reporting and accountability to the Ministerial Council and Regulatory Authorities;
 - (b) the application of the National Quality Framework;
 - (c) the rating level system to be used in rating education and care services;
 - (d) the collection and use of information.
- (2) The Ministerial Council may give directions to a Regulatory Authority with respect to the administration of the National Quality Framework.
- (3) A direction under this section cannot be about —
 - (a) a particular person or education and care service; or
 - (b) a particular application, approval, notification, assessment or proceeding; or
 - (c) the determination of a rating for a particular education and care service.
- (4) A direction must be in writing.
- (5) A direction must not be inconsistent with this Law.
- (6) A direction is not a legislative instrument or an instrument of a legislative character.
- (7) A direction to the Board under this section must be given to the Chairperson of the Board.

- (c) to report to the Regulatory Authorities and the relevant Commonwealth Department in relation to the following —
 - (i) the collection of information under this Law;
 - (ii) the evaluation of the National Quality Framework;
- (d) to establish consistent, effective and efficient procedures for the operation of the National Quality Framework;
- (e) to determine the arrangements for national auditing for the purposes of this Law;
- (f) to keep national information on the assessment, rating and regulation of education and care services;
- (g) to establish and maintain national registers of approved providers, approved education and care services and certified supervisors and to publish those registers;
- (h) to promote and foster continuous quality improvement by approved education and care services;
- (i) to publish, monitor and review ratings of approved education and care services;
- (j) to make determinations with respect to the highest level of rating for approved education and care services;
- (k) in conjunction with the Regulatory Authorities, to educate and inform education and care services and the community about the National Quality Framework;
- (l) to publish guides and resources —
 - (i) to support parents and the community in understanding quality in relation to education and care services; and
 - (ii) to support the education and care services sector in understanding the National Quality Framework;
- (m) to publish information about the implementation and administration of the National Quality Framework and its effect on developmental and educational outcomes for children;
- (n) to publish practice notes and guidelines for the application of this Law;

provision of education and care to children including information about outcomes for children and about providers of education and care services in each participating jurisdiction; and

Note: See section 270, which provides for the National Authority to publish information about approved providers.

- (b) develop protocols for communication and dispute resolution among the National Authority, the Regulatory Authorities and the relevant Commonwealth Department to provide for consistency in the implementation and administration of the National Quality Framework; and
- (c) collect, waive, reduce, defer and refund fees and enter into agreements in relation to fees in accordance with the national regulations; and
- (d) enter into agreements in relation to fees and funding with the Regulatory Authorities; and
- (e) undertake research and evaluation activities for the purpose of its functions under this Law.

228. Co-operation with participating jurisdictions and Commonwealth

- (1) The National Authority may exercise any of its functions in co-operation with or with the assistance of a participating jurisdiction or the Commonwealth, including in co-operation with or with the assistance of any of the following —
 - (a) a government agency of a participating jurisdiction or of the Commonwealth; or
 - (b) an educational body or other body established by or under a law of a participating jurisdiction or the Commonwealth; or
 - (c) a prescribed body or body in a prescribed class of bodies.
- (2) In particular, the National Authority may —
 - (a) ask a person or body referred to in subsection (1) for information that the Authority requires to carry out its functions under this Law; and
 - (b) use the information to carry out its functions under this Law.

- (4) The Board must ensure that the National Authority carries out its functions and duties and exercises its powers in a proper, effective and efficient way.
- (5) The Board has any other functions given to it under this Law.
- (6) Any report to the Ministerial Council under this Law is to be made by or through the Board.
- (7) The Board must act in accordance with any directions given to the National Authority by the Ministerial Council under section 222.
- (8) The Board must work collaboratively with the Regulatory Authorities and the relevant Commonwealth Department to support and promote the National Quality Framework.

232. Membership of Board

- (1) The Board consists of up to 13 members appointed by consensus of the Ministerial Council.
- (2) The Ministerial Council must appoint by consensus one person to be the Chairperson of the Board.
- (3) One member is to be appointed for each State and Territory from 2 persons nominated by each State or Territory Minister on the Ministerial Council.
- (4) The Commonwealth Minister may nominate up to 8 persons for appointment to the Board.
- (5) Four of the persons nominated under subsection (4) must be appointed to the Board.
- (6) The Ministerial Council must appoint by consensus one of the members referred to in subsection (3) or (5) to be the Deputy Chairperson of the Board.
- (7) The members appointed to the Board must have professional skills and expertise in one or more of the following areas —
 - (a) assessment of quality in education and care services or other relevant services;
 - (b) early childhood development;
 - (c) labour market and workforce participation and development;

- (d) in the case of the Chairperson of the Board, is absent, without leave first being granted by the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council, from 3 or more consecutive meetings of the Board; or
 - (e) in the case of any other member, is absent, without leave first being granted by the Chairperson of the Board, from 3 or more consecutive meetings of the Board of which reasonable notice has been given to the member personally or by post; or
 - (f) dies.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Ministerial Council may remove a member of the Board from office if —
- (a) the member has been found guilty of an offence (whether in a participating jurisdiction or elsewhere) that, in the opinion of the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council, renders the member unfit to continue to hold the office of member; or
 - (b) the member becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with the member's creditors or makes an assignment of the member's remuneration for their benefit; or
 - (c) the Board recommends the removal of the member, on the basis that the member has engaged in misconduct or has failed, or is unable, to properly carry out the member's functions as a member.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board may resign by written notice addressed to the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council.
- (4) A resignation takes effect on the day that it is received by the Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council (as the case requires) or a later day specified in the notice of resignation.
- (5) If the office of a member of the Board becomes vacant, the Chairperson of the Board must notify the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council of the vacancy.
- (6) If the office of the Chairperson of the Board becomes vacant, the Deputy Chairperson of the Board must notify the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council of the vacancy.

237. Leave of absence

- (1) The Chairperson of the Ministerial Council may grant the Chairperson of the Board a leave of absence on the terms and conditions determined by the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Board may grant leave of absence to any other member of the Board on the terms and conditions determined by the Chairperson of the Board.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board must notify the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council if the Chairperson of the Board grants to a member a leave of absence of more than 6 months.
- (4) If a member of the Board has been granted a leave of absence of 3 months or more, the Ministerial Council may appoint a person nominated by the Minister who nominated the member to act as a member of the Board in the place of the member during that leave of absence.

238. Disclosure of conflict of interest

- (1) If —
 - (a) a member of the Board has a direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered at a meeting of the Board; and
 - (b) the interest appears to raise a conflict with the proper performance of the member's duties in relation to the consideration of the matter —

the member must, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of the interest at a meeting of the Board.

- (2) Particulars of any disclosure made under subsection (1) must be recorded by the Board.
- (3) After a member has disclosed the nature of an interest in any matter, the member must not, unless the Ministerial Council or the Board otherwise determines —
 - (a) be present during any deliberation of the Board with respect to the matter; or

- (c) one may be a member appointed on the nomination of the Commonwealth Minister.

241. Chief executive officer may attend meetings of the Board

- (1) The chief executive officer of the National Authority, subject to the policies and procedures of the Board, may attend meetings of the Board and participate in its deliberations but —
 - (a) is not a member of the Board; and
 - (b) is not entitled to vote at a meeting of the Board.
- (2) Section 238 applies to the chief executive officer in relation to attendance at meetings of the Board as if the chief executive officer were a member of the Board.

242. Presiding member

The Chairperson (or, in the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson) is to preside at a meeting of the Board.

243. Voting

- (1) At a meeting of the Board each member will have a deliberative vote.
- (2) A decision supported by a majority of the votes cast at the meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present is the decision of the Board.
- (3) In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson (or the Deputy Chairperson if the Chairperson is not present), will have a second or casting vote.
- (4) The Board must keep a record of all decisions made at a meeting.
- (5) If a decision of the Board to recommend a matter to the Ministerial Council is not arrived at unanimously, the Chairperson of the Board must advise the Ministerial Council of the reasons for and extent of the minority opinions.

244. Defects in appointment of members

A decision of the Board is not invalidated by any defect or irregularity in the appointment of any member (or acting member) of the Board.

delegated function, power or duty to a member of staff of the entity or department.

- (3) The chief executive officer of the National Authority may subdelegate a delegated power, function or duty to a member of the staff of the National Authority.

247. Committees

- (1) The Board may establish committees to assist it in carrying out its functions.
- (2) The Board must determine —
- (a) the membership and functions of a committee; and
 - (b) the procedure at or in relation to meetings of the committee including —
 - (i) the convening of meetings; and
 - (ii) the quorum for meetings; and
 - (iii) the selection of a committee member to be the chairperson of the committee; and
 - (iv) the manner in which questions arising at meetings of the committee are to be decided; and
 - (c) the procedures for reporting to the Board.
- (3) A committee must give the Board any reports, documents and information relating to the committee's functions and activities that the Board requests.
- (4) The Board must report to the Ministerial Council on any committees it establishes.

Subdivision 4 — Chief executive officer of the National Authority

248. Chief executive officer

- (1) Subject to this section, the Chairperson of the Board is to appoint a person as chief executive officer of the National Authority.
- (2) The appointment may only be made after the Ministerial Council has first endorsed the appointment on the recommendation of the Board.

- (6) The chief executive officer of the National Authority is taken, while holding that office, to be a member of the staff of the National Authority.

251. Remuneration

The chief executive officer is to be paid the remuneration and allowances decided by the Board.

252. Vacancy in office

The office of the chief executive officer of the National Authority becomes vacant if —

- (a) the chief executive officer resigns from office by written notice addressed to the Chairperson of the Board; or
- (b) the appointment of the chief executive officer is terminated by the Board under this Law; or
- (c) the chief executive officer dies.

253. Resignation

- (1) The chief executive officer may resign the office by written notice addressed to the Chairperson of the Board.
- (2) The resignation takes effect on the day that it is received by the Chairperson of the Board or a later day specified in the notice of resignation.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board must notify the Ministerial Council of that resignation.

254. Termination of appointment

- (1) The Board may terminate the appointment of the chief executive officer —
 - (a) for misconduct or for physical or mental incapacity that significantly impacts on the ability of the chief executive officer to perform the role; or
 - (b) if the Board is satisfied that the performance of the chief executive officer has been unsatisfactory; or

- (c) if the chief executive officer engages in paid employment outside the duties of his or her office without the approval of the Chairperson of the Board; or
 - (d) if the chief executive officer has been found guilty of an offence (whether in a participating jurisdiction or elsewhere) that, in the opinion of the Board, makes the chief executive officer unfit to continue to be appointed.
- (2) The Board must terminate the appointment of the chief executive officer if the chief executive officer —
- (a) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with the chief executive officer's creditors or makes an assignment of the chief executive officer's remuneration for their benefit; or
 - (b) is absent, except on a leave of absence approved by the Chairperson of the Board, for 14 consecutive days or for 28 days in any period of 12 months; or
 - (c) fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with section 256.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board must notify the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council of the termination of the appointment of the chief executive officer.

255. Acting chief executive officer

- (1) The Board may appoint a person to act as the chief executive officer —
- (a) during any vacancy in the office of chief executive officer; or
 - (b) during any period that the chief executive officer —
 - (i) is absent from duty; or
 - (ii) is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of that office.
- (2) The period of the acting appointment must not exceed 6 months.

256. Disclosure of interests

The chief executive officer must give written notice to the Chairperson of the Board as soon as possible of any direct or indirect

personal or pecuniary interest that the chief executive officer has, or acquires, or may acquire, that conflicts or could conflict with the proper carrying out of the chief executive officer's functions.

Subdivision 5 — Staff, consultants and contractors

257. Staff of National Authority

- (1) The National Authority may, for the purpose of carrying out its functions, employ staff.
- (2) The staff of the National Authority are to be employed on the terms and conditions determined by the National Authority from time to time.
- (3) Subsection (2) is subject to any relevant industrial award or agreement that applies to the staff.

258. Staff seconded to National Authority

The National Authority may, in consultation with the relevant Regulatory Authority or the relevant Commonwealth Department, make arrangements for the secondment of staff.

259. Consultants and contractors

- (1) The National Authority may engage persons with suitable qualifications and experience as consultants or contractors.
- (2) The terms and conditions of engagement of consultants or contractors are as decided by the National Authority from time to time.

Part 12 — Regulatory Authority

260. Functions of Regulatory Authority

The Regulatory Authority has the following functions under this Law in relation to this jurisdiction —

- (a) to administer the National Quality Framework;
- (b) to assess approved education and care services against the National Quality Standard and the national regulations and determine the ratings of those services;
- (c) to monitor and enforce compliance with this Law;

- (d) to receive and investigate complaints arising under this Law;
- (e) in conjunction with the National Authority and the relevant Commonwealth Department, to educate and inform education and care services and the community in relation to the National Quality Framework;
- (f) to work in collaboration with the National Authority to support and promote continuous quality improvements in education and care services;
- (g) to undertake information collection, review and reporting for the purposes of —
 - (i) the regulation of education and care services; and
 - (ii) reporting on the administration of the National Quality Framework; and
 - (iii) the sharing of information under this Law;
- (h) any other functions conferred on the Regulatory Authority under this Law.

261. Powers of Regulatory Authority

- (1) The Regulatory Authority has the power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for, or in connection with, or that are incidental to the carrying out of its functions under this Law.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Regulatory Authority has the following powers under this Law in relation to this jurisdiction —
 - (a) to collect, hold and use information obtained under this Law by the Regulatory Authority or the National Authority about the provision of education and care to children including information about outcomes for children and information about providers of education and care services in each participating jurisdiction;
 - (b) subject to the *Privacy Act 1988* of the Commonwealth, to collect, hold and use information about providers of education and care services, family day care educators and certified supervisors;
 - (c) to maintain and publish registers of approved providers, approved education and care services and certified supervisors;

- (d) to publish information about the National Quality Framework, including ratings and prescribed information about compliance with this Law;
- (e) to collect, waive, reduce, defer and refund fees (including late payment fees) and enter into agreements in relation to fees;
- (f) to enter into agreements relating to fees and funding with the National Authority;
- (g) to exercise any other powers conferred on it by this Law.

262. Delegations

- (1) The Regulatory Authority may in writing delegate any of its functions and powers under this Law (other than this power of delegation) to —
 - (a) any person employed under a public sector law of this jurisdiction; or
 - (b) a prescribed person or a person in a prescribed class of persons.
- (2) A delegate of the Regulatory Authority must disclose to the Regulatory Authority, at the request of the Authority, any direct or indirect personal or pecuniary interest the delegate may have in relation to the delegated functions and powers.

Part 13 — Information, records and privacy

Division 1 — Privacy

263. Application of Commonwealth Privacy Act

- (1) The Privacy Act applies as a law of a participating jurisdiction for the purposes of the National Quality Framework.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Privacy Act applies —
 - (a) as if a reference to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner were a reference to the Office of the National Education and Care Services Privacy Commissioner; and
 - (b) as if a reference to the Privacy Commissioner were a reference to the National Education and Care Services Privacy Commissioner; and

- (c) with any other modifications made by the national regulations.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2)(c), the national regulations may —
 - (a) provide that the Privacy Act applies under subsection (1) as if a provision of the Privacy Act specified in the national regulations were omitted; or
 - (b) provide that the Privacy Act applies under subsection (1) as if an amendment to the Privacy Act made by a law of the Commonwealth, and specified in the national regulations, had not taken effect; or
 - (c) confer jurisdiction on a tribunal or court of a participating jurisdiction.
- (4) In this section —
Privacy Act means the *Privacy Act 1988* of the Commonwealth, as in force from time to time.

Division 2 — Application of Commonwealth FOI Act

264. Application of Commonwealth FOI Act

- (1) The FOI Act applies as a law of a participating jurisdiction for the purposes of the National Quality Framework.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the FOI Act applies —
 - (a) as if a reference to the Office of the Freedom of Information Commissioner were a reference to the Office of the National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information Commissioner; and
 - (b) as if a reference to the Freedom of Information Commissioner were a reference to the National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information Commissioner; and
 - (c) with any other modifications made by the national regulations.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the national regulations may —
 - (a) provide that the FOI Act applies under subsection (1) as if a provision of the FOI Act specified in the national regulations were omitted; or

- (b) provide that the FOI Act applies under subsection (1) as if an amendment to the FOI Act made by a law of the Commonwealth, and specified in the national regulations, had not taken effect; or
 - (c) confer jurisdiction on a tribunal or court of a participating jurisdiction.
- (4) In this section —
FOI Act means the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* of the Commonwealth, as in force from time to time.

Division 3 — Application of New South Wales State Records Act

265. Application of State Records Act

- (1) The State Records Act applies as a law of a participating jurisdiction for the purposes of the National Quality Framework except to the extent that this Law applies to a Regulatory Authority and the records of a Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The national regulations may modify the State Records Act for the purposes of this Law.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the national regulations may —
 - (a) provide that the State Records Act applies under subsection (1) as if a provision of the State Records Act specified in the national regulations were omitted; or
 - (b) provide that the State Records Act applies under subsection (1) as if an amendment to the State Records Act made by a law of New South Wales, and specified in the national regulations, had not taken effect; or
 - (c) confer jurisdiction on a tribunal or court of a participating jurisdiction.
- (4) In this section —
State Records Act means the *State Records Act 1998* of New South Wales, as in force from time to time.

Division 4 — Registers

[266-268. Have not come into operation².]

269. Register of family day care educators

- (1) The approved provider of a family day care service must keep at its principal office a register of each family day care educator and any other person engaged by or registered with a family day care service to educate and care for a child.
- (2) The register must contain the prescribed information in respect of each family day care educator engaged by or registered with a family day care service to educate and care for children.
- (3) The approved provider must provide any information on the register of family day care educators and any changes to that information to the Regulatory Authority on request.

Division 5 — Publication of information

270. Publication of information

- (1) The National Authority and the Regulatory Authority may publish the following information about approved providers, approved education and care services and certified supervisors —
 - (a) the name of each provider, service or supervisor;
 - (b) except in the case of approved family day care services, the address of each education and care service premises;
 - (c) in the case of approved family day care services, the address of the principal office of each service;
 - [(d) has not come into operation².]*
 - (e) other prescribed information in respect of approved education and care services.

[(2)-(4) Have not come into operation².]

- (5) The Regulatory Authority may publish the prescribed information about —
 - (a) enforcement actions taken under this Law, including information about compliance notices, prosecutions, enforceable undertakings, suspension or cancellation of approvals or certificates; and
 - (b) any prescribed matters.

- (6) Information published under this section must not include information that could identify or lead to the identification of an individual other than —
- (a) an approved provider or certified supervisor; or
 - (b) a person who is being prosecuted for an offence against this Law; or
 - (c) a person against whom disciplinary action has been taken.

Note: This section differs from section 270 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

Division 6 — Disclosure of information

271. Disclosure of information to other authorities

- (1) The Regulatory Authority and any government department, public authority and local authority may disclose information in respect of education and care services to each other for the purposes of this Law.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority may disclose information in respect of education and care services to the National Authority or a Regulatory Authority of a participating jurisdiction or a person acting for that Authority —
 - (a) for the purposes of this Law; or
 - (b) for the purposes of research and the development of national policy with respect to education and care services.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may disclose information in respect of education and care services to the relevant Commonwealth Department or a person acting for the relevant Commonwealth Department —
 - (a) for the purposes of this Law; or
 - (b) for the purposes of research and the development of national policy with respect to education and care services; or
 - (c) for a purpose relating to the funding of education and care services; or
 - (d) for a purpose relating to the payment of benefits or allowances to persons using education and care services.

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- (4) The Regulatory Authority must disclose to the Regulatory Authorities of other participating jurisdictions the suspension or cancellation of a working with children check, working with children card or teacher registration of a nominated supervisor or certified supervisor of which it is notified under this Law.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority may disclose to the head of the government department responsible for the administration of a working with children law any prohibition notice issued under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction in respect of the person.
- (6) A disclosure of information under this section is subject to —
- (a) Division 1; and
 - (b) any protocol approved by the National Authority for the purposes of this section.
- (7) Information provided under this section must not include information that could identify or lead to the identification of an individual other than —
- (a) an approved provider or a certified supervisor; or
 - (b) a family day care educator who has been suspended from providing education and care to children as part of a family day care service; or
 - (c) a person to whom a prohibition notice applies; or
 - (d) a person who is being prosecuted for an offence against this Law.

272. Disclosure of information to education and care services

- (1) If requested by an approved provider, the Regulatory Authority may disclose the following information —
- (a) whether a person named in the request is subject to a prohibition notice issued under this Law as applying in any participating jurisdiction;
 - (b) whether a family day care educator named in the request has been suspended from providing education and care to children as part of a family day care service.
- (2) A disclosure of information under this section is subject to —
- (a) Division 1; and

- (b) any protocol approved by the National Authority for the purposes of this section.

273. Duty of confidentiality

- (1) An individual who is, or who has been, a person exercising functions under this Law must not disclose to another person protected information.

Penalty: \$5 000.

- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply if —

- (a) the information is disclosed in the exercise of a function under, or for the purposes of, or in accordance with, this Law; or
- (b) the disclosure is authorised or required by any law of a participating jurisdiction, or is otherwise required or permitted by law; or
- (c) the disclosure is with the agreement of the person to whom the information relates; or
- (d) the information relates to proceedings before a court or tribunal and the proceedings are or were open to the public; or
- (e) the information is, or has been accessible to the public, including because it was published for the purposes of, or in accordance with, this Law; or
- (f) the disclosure is otherwise authorised by the Ministerial Council.

- (3) In this section —

protected information means information —

- (a) that is personal to a particular individual and that identifies or could lead to the identification of the individual; and
- (b) that comes to a person's knowledge in the course of, or because of, the person exercising functions under this Law.

Part 14 — Miscellaneous

Division 1 — Finance

274. Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority Fund

- (1) The Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority Fund is established.
- (2) The Authority Fund is a fund to be administered by the National Authority.
- (3) The National Authority may establish accounts with any financial institution for money in the Authority Fund.
- (4) The Authority Fund does not form part of the consolidated fund or consolidated account of a participating jurisdiction or the Commonwealth.

275. Payments into Authority Fund

There is payable into the Authority Fund —

- (a) all money provided by a participating jurisdiction or the Commonwealth for the purposes of the Fund; and
- (b) the proceeds of the investment of money in the Fund; and
- (c) all grants, gifts and donations made to the National Authority, but subject to any trusts declared in relation to the grants, gifts or donations; and
- (d) all money directed or authorised to be paid into the Fund by or under this Law, any law of a participating jurisdiction or any law of the Commonwealth; and
- (e) any other money and property prescribed by the national regulations; and
- (f) any other money or property received by the National Authority in connection with the exercise of its functions.

276. Payments out of Authority Fund

Payments may be made from the Authority Fund for the purpose of —

- (a) paying any costs or expenses, or discharging any liabilities, incurred by the National Authority in the administration or enforcement of this Law or in the performance of its functions or duties or the exercise of its powers; and
- (b) paying any remuneration or allowances payable under this Law by the National Authority; and
- (c) allocating, transferring or reimbursing money to a participating jurisdiction in accordance with the national regulations; and
- (d) any other payments recommended by the National Authority and approved by the Ministerial Council.

277. Investment of money in Authority Fund

The National Authority may invest money in the Authority Fund in accordance with the national regulations.

278. Financial management duties of National Authority

The National Authority must —

- (a) ensure that its operations are carried out efficiently, effectively and economically; and
- (b) keep proper books and records in relation to the Authority Fund; and
- (c) ensure that expenditure is made from the Authority Fund for lawful purposes only and, as far as possible, reasonable value is obtained for money expended from the Fund; and
- (d) ensure that its procedures, including internal control procedures, afford adequate safeguards with respect to —
 - (i) the correctness, regularity and propriety of payments made from the Authority Fund; and
 - (ii) receiving and accounting for payments made to the Authority Fund; and
 - (iii) prevention of fraud or mistake; and

- (e) take any action necessary to ensure the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for inclusion in its annual report; and
- (f) take any action necessary to facilitate the audit of those financial statements in accordance with this Law; and
- (g) arrange for any further audit by a qualified person of the books and records kept by the National Authority in relation to the Authority Fund, if directed to do so by the Ministerial Council.

Division 2 — Reporting

279. Annual report

- (1) The Board must, within 4 months after the end of each financial year, submit an annual report of the National Authority for the financial year to the Ministerial Council.
- (2) The annual report must include —
 - (a) an audited financial statement for the period to which the report relates; and
 - (b) a report about the National Authority's performance of its functions under this Law during the period to which the annual report relates; and
 - (c) an assessment of the implementation and administration of the National Quality Framework; and
 - (d) all directions given to the National Authority by the Ministerial Council and the Authority's response; and
 - (e) all directions given to the Regulatory Authorities by the Ministerial Council and the Regulatory Authorities' responses; and
 - (f) a report on any committees established by the Board; and
 - (g) any other matter determined by the Ministerial Council.
- (3) The financial statement is to be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.
- (4) The financial statement is to be audited by a public sector auditor and a report is to be provided by the auditor.

- (5) The Ministerial Council may extend, or further extend, the period for submission of an annual report to the Council by a total period of up to 3 months.
- (6) In this section —
public sector auditor means —
 - (a) the Auditor-General (however described) of a participating jurisdiction or the Commonwealth; or
 - (b) an auditor employed, appointed or otherwise engaged by an Auditor-General of a participating jurisdiction or the Commonwealth.

280. Tabling and publication of annual report

- (1) The Ministerial Council must make arrangements for the tabling of the annual report of the National Authority, and the report of the public sector auditor with respect to the financial statement in the report, in the Parliament of a participating jurisdiction determined by the Ministerial Council.
- (2) As soon as practicable after the annual report has been tabled in the Parliament determined under subsection (1), the National Authority must publish a copy of the report on its website.

281. Other reporting

- (1) The National Authority may make any reports to the Ministerial Council that it considers necessary in the performance of its functions.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Board must provide to the Ministerial Council any other reports and documents and information relating to the operations of the National Authority that the Ministerial Council requires.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board may provide to the responsible Minister of a participating jurisdiction and the Commonwealth Minister any reports and documents and information relating to the operations of the National Authority that the responsible Minister requires.
- (4) The reports, documents and information referred to in subsection (2) must be provided within the time set by the Ministerial Council.

Division 3 — Application of Commonwealth Ombudsman Act

282. Application of Commonwealth Ombudsman Act

- (1) The Ombudsman Act applies as a law of a participating jurisdiction for the purposes of this Law except to the extent that this Law applies to a Regulatory Authority and the employees, decisions, actions and records of a Regulatory Authority.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Ombudsman Act applies —
 - (a) as if a reference to the Commonwealth Ombudsman were a reference to the Education and Care Services Ombudsman; and
 - (b) with any other modifications made by the national regulations.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the national regulations may —
 - (a) provide that the Ombudsman Act applies under subsection (1) as if a provision of the Ombudsman Act specified in the regulations were omitted; or
 - (b) provide that the Ombudsman Act applies under subsection (1) as if an amendment to the Ombudsman Act made by a law of the Commonwealth, and specified in the regulations, had not taken effect; or
 - (c) confer jurisdiction on a tribunal or court of a participating jurisdiction.
- (4) In this section —

Ombudsman Act means the *Ombudsman Act 1976* of the Commonwealth, as in force from time to time.

Division 4 — Legal proceedings

283. Who may bring proceedings for an offence?

- (1) The following persons may bring proceedings for an offence under this Law —
 - (a) the Regulatory Authority;
 - (b) a person authorised by the Regulatory Authority;
 - (c) a police officer.

- (2) In a proceeding for an offence against this Law or the regulations it must be presumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that the person bringing the proceeding was authorised to bring it.

284. When proceedings may be brought

Proceedings for an offence under this Law must be commenced within 2 years of the date of the alleged offence.

285. Offences by bodies corporate

- (1) If a body corporate commits an offence against this Law, any person with management or control of the body corporate who failed to exercise due diligence to prevent the contravention that is the subject of the offence also commits that offence and is liable to the penalty for that offence.
- (2) The penalty for an offence referred to in this section is the penalty applicable to an individual.

286. Application of Law to partnerships and eligible associations and other entities

- (1) If this Law would otherwise require or permit something to be done by a partnership, the thing may be done by one or more of the partners on behalf of the partnership.
- (2) If this Law would otherwise require or permit something to be done by an eligible association, the thing may be done by one or more of the members of the executive committee on behalf of the association.
- (3) If this Law would otherwise require or permit something to be done by a prescribed entity, the thing may be done by one or more of the persons with management or control of the entity on behalf of the entity.
- (4) An offence against this Law that would otherwise be committed by the partnership is taken to have been committed by each partner who is a person with management or control of the partnership.
- (5) An offence against this Law that would otherwise be committed by an eligible association is taken to have been committed by each person who is a person with management or control of the association.

- (6) An offence against this Law that would otherwise be committed by a prescribed entity is taken to have been committed by each person who is a person with management or control of that entity.
- (7) The penalty for an offence that is taken to be committed under this section is the penalty applicable to an individual.

287. Multiple holders of an approval

If more than one person holds a provider approval or service approval under this Law each holder of the approval is jointly and severally responsible for compliance with this Law.

288. Double jeopardy

If a person has been convicted or found guilty in another participating jurisdiction for an offence against this Law as it applies in that jurisdiction, proceedings cannot be brought in this jurisdiction against the same person in respect of an offence concerning the same subject-matter.

289. Immunity

- (1) A member of the Board of the National Authority, a committee of the Board or a Ratings Review Panel is not personally liable for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith —
 - (a) in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function under this Law; or
 - (b) in the reasonable belief that the action or omission was in the exercise of the power or the performance of the function under this Law.
- (2) Any liability resulting from an act or omission that would, but for subsection (1), attach to an individual referred to in that subsection attaches instead to the National Authority.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority (if an individual) or a member of the governing body of the Regulatory Authority is not personally liable for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith —
 - (a) in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function under this Law; or

(b) in the reasonable belief that the action or omission was in the exercise of the power or the performance of the function under this Law.

(4) Any liability resulting from an act or omission that would, but for subsection (3), attach to an individual referred to in that subsection attaches instead to the State.

290. Immunity — education law

(1) This section applies if the Regulatory Authority becomes aware of misconduct by a registered teacher or other person who could be subject to disciplinary action under an education law of a participating jurisdiction.

(2) The Regulatory Authority may refer the matter to the relevant disciplinary body under the education law.

(3) If the Regulatory Authority refers a matter under subsection (2), a prosecution cannot be brought under this Law for an offence in relation to that matter.

291. Infringement offences

(1) An authorised officer or other person authorised by the Regulatory Authority may serve an infringement notice on a person for a contravention of —

(a) section 172, 173 or 176; or

(b) offences against the national regulations that are prescribed for the purposes of this section.

(2) The infringement penalty for an offence for which an infringement notice may be served on a person is the amount which is 10 per cent of the maximum penalty that could be imposed on the person in respect of that offence.

(3) An infringement notice must be in the form prescribed or contain the information prescribed by the infringements law of this jurisdiction.

(4) Subject to this section, the infringements law of this jurisdiction applies to infringement notices served under this section in this jurisdiction and for that purpose —

(a) this law is taken to be a prescribed Act under Part 2 of the infringements law; and

- (b) an offence against a provision referred to in subsection (1)(a) or prescribed under subsection (1)(b) is taken to be an offence prescribed under section 5(1) of the infringements law; and
 - (c) the infringement penalty referred to in subsection (2) for an offence is taken to be the modified penalty prescribed under the infringements law for that offence; and
 - (d) the matters to be prescribed under section 6 of the infringements law are to be prescribed in the national regulations.
- (5) The payment of an infringement penalty expiates the offence and is not to be considered in —
- (a) assessing whether a person is a fit and proper person to be involved in the provision of, or to be a supervisor of, an education and care service; or
 - (b) assessing an approved education and care service under Part 5.

Note: This section differs from section 291 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

292. Evidentiary certificates

A certificate purporting to be signed by the chief executive officer of the National Authority or by a Regulatory Authority and stating any of the following matters is prima facie evidence of the matter —

- (a) a stated document is one of the following things made, given, issued or kept under this Law —
 - (i) an appointment, approval or decision;
 - (ii) a notice, direction or requirement;
 - (iii) a supervisor certificate;
 - (iv) a register, or an extract from a register;
 - (v) a record, or an extract from a record;
- (b) a stated document is another document kept under this Law;
- (c) a stated document is a copy of a document mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b);

- (d) on a stated day, or during a stated period, a stated person was or was not an approved provider or a certified supervisor;
- (e) on a stated day, or during a stated period, an education and care service was or was not an approved education and care service;
- (f) on a stated day, or during a stated period, an approval was or was not subject to a stated condition;
- (g) on a stated day, an approval or supervisor certificate was suspended or cancelled;
- (h) on a stated day, or during a stated period, an appointment as authorised officer was, or was not, in force for a stated person;
- (i) on a stated day, a stated person was given a stated notice or direction under this Law;
- (j) on a stated day, a stated requirement was made of a stated person.

Division 5 — Service of notices

293. Service of notices

- (1) If this Law requires or permits a notice to be served on a person, the notice may be served —
 - (a) on an individual by —
 - (i) delivering it to the individual personally; or
 - (ii) leaving it at, or by sending it by post to, the address notified to the sender by the individual as an address at which service of notices under this Law will be accepted or otherwise the address of the place of residence or business of the individual last known to the person serving the document; or
 - (iii) sending it by facsimile transmission to a facsimile number notified to the sender by the individual as an address at which service of notices under this Law will be accepted; or
 - (iv) sending it by email to an internet address notified to the sender by the individual as an address at which service of notices under this Law will be accepted; or

- (b) on a person other than an individual by —
 - (i) leaving it at, or by sending it by post to, the address notified to the sender by the person as an address at which service of notices under this Law will be accepted or otherwise the address of the head office, a registered office or the principal place of business of the person; or
 - (ii) sending it by facsimile transmission to a facsimile number notified to the sender by the person as an address at which service of notices under this Law will be accepted; or
 - (iii) sending it by email to an internet address notified to the sender by the person as an address at which service of notices under this Law will be accepted.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies whether the word “deliver”, “give”, “notify”, “send” or “serve” or another expression is used.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not affect the power of a court or tribunal to authorise service of a notice otherwise than as provided in that subsection.

294. Service by post

If a notice authorised or required to be served (whether the word “deliver”, “give”, “notify”, “send” or “serve” or another expression is used) on a person is served by post, service of the notice —

- (a) may be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter containing the document; and
- (b) in Australia or in an external Territory — is, unless evidence sufficient to raise doubt is adduced to the contrary, taken to have been effected on the fourth day after the letter was posted; and
- (c) in another place — is, unless evidence sufficient to raise doubt is adduced to the contrary, taken to have been effected at the time when the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of the post.

Division 6 — False or misleading information

295. False or misleading information or documents

- (1) A person must not give the Regulatory Authority or an authorised officer under this Law any information or document that the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: \$6 000, in the case of an individual.

\$30 000, in any other case.

- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in respect of the giving of a document, if the person when giving the document —
- (a) informs the Regulatory Authority or authorised officer, to the best of the person's ability, how it is false or misleading; and
 - (b) gives the correct information to the Regulatory Authority or authorised officer if the person has, or can reasonably obtain, the correct information.

Division 7 — Protection from reprisal

296. Definitions

In this Division —

protected disclosure means a disclosure of information or provision of documents to the Regulatory Authority —

- (a) pursuant to a request under this Law; or
- (b) where the person making the disclosure has a reasonable belief that —
 - (i) an offence against this Law has been or is being committed; or
 - (ii) the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or children being educated and cared for by an education and care service is at risk;

serious detrimental action includes dismissal, involuntary transfer, loss of promotion and demotion.

297. Protection from reprisal

- (1) A person must not take serious detrimental action against a person in reprisal for a protected disclosure.
Penalty: \$10 000, in the case of an individual.
\$50 000, in any other case.
- (2) A person takes serious detrimental action in reprisal for a protected disclosure if—
 - (a) the person takes or threatens to take the action because—
 - (i) a person has made, or intends to make, a protected disclosure; or
 - (ii) the person believes that a person has made or intends to make the protected disclosure; or
 - (b) the person incites or permits another person to take or threaten to take the action for either of those reasons.
- (3) In determining whether a person takes serious detrimental action in reprisal, it is irrelevant whether or not a reason referred to in subsection (2) is the only or dominant reason as long as it is a substantial reason.

298. Proceedings for damages for reprisal

- (1) A person who takes serious detrimental action against a person in reprisal for a protected disclosure is liable in damages to that person.
- (2) The damages may be recovered in proceedings as for a tort in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- (3) Any remedy that may be granted by a court with respect to a tort, including exemplary damages, may be granted by a court in proceedings under this section.
- (4) The right of a person to bring proceedings for damages does not affect any other right or remedy available to the person arising from the serious detrimental action.

299. Application for injunction or order

A person who believes that serious detrimental action has been taken or may be taken against him or her in reprisal for a protected disclosure may apply to the superior court for —

- (a) an order requiring the person who has taken the serious detrimental action to remedy that action; or
- (b) an injunction.

300. Injunction or order

(1) If, on receipt of an application under section 299, the superior court is satisfied that a person has taken or intends to take serious detrimental action against a person in reprisal for a protected disclosure, the court may —

- (a) order the person who took the serious detrimental action to remedy that action; or
- (b) grant an injunction in any terms the court considers appropriate.

(2) The superior court, pending the final determination of an application under section 299, may —

- (a) make an interim order in the terms of subsection (1)(a); or
- (b) grant an interim injunction.

Division 8 — National regulations

301. National regulations

(1) The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Law.

(2) The national regulations may provide for any matter that is required or permitted to be prescribed or necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Law.

(3) Without limiting subsection (1), the national regulations may provide for the following —

- (a) fees (including application fees and annual fees) for approvals and certificates and other things done under this Law;

- (b) the indexation of fees;
- (c) standards for education and care services;
- (d) requirements for educational programs, including the quality of those programs and their development, documentation and delivery;
- (e) requirements and standards to be complied with for the safety, health and wellbeing of children being educated and cared for by an education and care service;
- (f) requirements and standards to be complied with for safety, security, cleanliness, comfort, hygiene and repair of premises, outdoor spaces, fencing, gates, resources and equipment used for providing education and care services;
- (g) requirements and standards about the premises to be used to provide an education and care service including siting, design, layout, space, security and entitlement to occupy;
- (h) requirements and standards for the staffing of education and care services including the recruitment (and conduct of criminal history or other security checks) and the appointment of staff, performance improvement, professional standards, professional development, numbers and qualifications of educators (including minimum age and requirements concerning groups of children of different ages and composition) and staffing rosters and arrangements;
- (i) requirements and standards about educators' relationships with children, interactions and behaviour guidance and inclusion policies and practice for education and care services;
- (j) requirements and standards for partnerships between education and care services and the community in which they are located and the families of children being educated and cared for by education and care services, including requirements for services to link to other support services for children and families;
- (k) requirements and standards as to the leadership and management of education and care services including governance and fitness and propriety of all staff members and volunteers, management of grievances and complaints and the provision of information to families;

- (l) the records, policies and procedures to be kept by approved providers and family day care educators including enrolment and attendance information;
 - (m) requirements and standards about first aid and management of children's medical conditions including —
 - (i) the training of educators and staff members; and
 - (ii) plans, policies and procedures used to manage medical conditions and first aid; and
 - (iii) the keeping and storage of first aid kits and medications;
 - (n) information required to be submitted for applications made under this Law;
 - (o) requirements and standards for the provision and display of information by approved providers;
 - (p) the publication of information about enforcement actions taken under this Law, including notice and review of proposals to publish information;
 - (q) matters relating to the application of this Law to partnerships, eligible associations or prescribed entities;
 - (r) requirements relating to the receipt and payment and distribution of fees and monetary penalties payable under this Law.
- (4) The national regulations —
- (a) may be of a general or limited application; and
 - (b) may differ according to differences in time, place (including jurisdiction) or circumstances; and
 - (c) may differ according to the type or class of education and care service and the ages of children being educated and cared for by a service; and
 - (d) may exempt any education and care service or any type or class of education and care service from complying with all or any of the regulations; and
 - (e) may leave any matter or thing to be from time to time determined, applied, dispensed with or regulated by a Regulatory Authority; and

declared approved family day care venue, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a place other than a residence that is declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared approved family day care venue for the purposes of this Law;

declared approved provider, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a person or a person in a class of persons declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared approved provider for the purposes of this Law;

declared approved service, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means an education and care service that is declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared approved service for the purposes of this Law;

declared certified supervisor, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a person or a person in a class of persons declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared certified supervisor for the purposes of this Law;

declared compliance notice, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means an order or notice under a former education and care services law that is declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared compliance notice for the purposes of this Law;

declared enforceable undertaking, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means an undertaking entered into under a former education and care services law that is declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared enforceable undertaking under this Law;

declared nominated supervisor, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means a person or a person in a class of persons declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared nominated supervisor for the purposes of this Law;

declared out of scope service, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means an education and care service —

- (a) for which a former approval was not required under a former education and care services law; and
- (b) that is declared by a law of that jurisdiction to be a declared out of scope service for the purposes of this Law;

former approval, in relation to a participating jurisdiction, means an approval, licence or other authorisation under a former education and

provider approval with a copy of the provider approval setting out the relevant matters in section 20.

*Modified by regulations³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 31 January 2013

307. Service approvals

- (1) Any person who immediately before the scheme commencement day held a former approval in respect of a declared approved service (other than a declared approved family day care service) is taken to hold a service approval in respect of that service under this Law.
- (2) Any person who immediately before the scheme commencement day held a former approval with respect to a declared approved family day care service is taken to hold a service approval for that family day care service under this Law.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply if the person is a prescribed ineligible person.
- (4) If subsection (1) or (2) applies, the declared approved service is taken from the scheme commencement day to be an approved education and care service.
- (5) This section does not apply to a former approval that was under suspension under the former education and care services law immediately before the scheme commencement day because the person who held that approval was not a fit and proper person (however described) to operate the declared approved service.
- (6) If a former approval was under suspension under the former education and care services law immediately before the scheme commencement day for a reason other than the reason in subsection (5), the service approval for the education and care service under this Law is taken to be suspended under this Law for the period of the suspension.
- (7) The Regulatory Authority must determine before the expiry of the period of suspension referred to in subsection (6) (other than for a voluntary suspension) whether —
 - (a) the suspension should be cancelled or a further period of suspension should be imposed; or
 - (b) the service approval should be cancelled.

- (8) Any conditions imposed on the former approval under the former education and care services law are taken to be conditions on the service approval unless the conditions are inconsistent with this Law.
- (9) The Regulatory Authority must, on or before 30 June 2012*, provide each person who is taken under this section to hold a former approval in respect of a declared approved service with a copy of the service approval for the service setting out the relevant matters in section 52.

*Modified by regulations³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 31 January 2013

308. Approved family day care venues

A declared approved family day care venue existing under a former education and care services law immediately before the scheme commencement day is taken on and after the scheme commencement day to be an approved family day care venue under this Law.

309. Approval of declared out of scope services

A person who operated a declared out of scope service immediately before the scheme commencement day is taken under this Law to hold a provider approval and a service approval for the declared out of scope service for the period from and including 1 January 2012* —

*Modified by regulations³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 1 August 2012

- (a) to 30 June 2012*, unless paragraph (b) applies; or

*Modified by regulations³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 31 January 2013

- (b) if the person applies under this Law to the Regulatory Authority for a provider approval and for a service approval and the applications are received by the Regulatory Authority on or before 30 June 2012*, to the date on which those applications are finally determined under this Law.

*Modified by regulations³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 31 January 2013

310. Application for service waiver or temporary waiver

- (1) This section applies to an education and care service that was exempt under a former education and care services law from a requirement of that law.
- (2) The education and care service is taken to comply with an equivalent requirement under this Law for the period from and including 1 January 2012* —

*Modified by regulations ³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 1 August 2012

- (a) to 31 March 2012*, unless paragraph (b) applies; or

*Modified by regulations ³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 1 November 2012

- (b) if the provider of the education and care service applies to the Regulatory Authority under this Law for a temporary waiver or service waiver under this Law in respect of that requirement and the application is received by the Regulatory Authority on or before 31 March 2012*, to the date on which the application is finally determined under this Law.

*Modified by regulations ³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 1 November 2012

311. Existing applicants

- (1) This section applies if a person has made an application for a former approval under a former education and care services law in respect of an education and care service before the scheme commencement day.
- (2) The applicant is taken to be an applicant for a provider approval and a service approval under this Law.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority may —
 - (a) ask the applicant for more information; and
 - (b) inspect —
 - (i) the premises of the service and the offices of the applicant; and
 - (ii) any documents relating to the applicant; and

(c) exercise any power under section 14 or section 46 in relation to the application.

(4) This section does not apply if the applicant is a prescribed ineligible person.

312. Existing multiple approvals to merge

(1) If the holder of a former approval held more than one former approval in respect of the same premises, the former approvals are taken to be one service approval in respect of those premises for the purposes of this Law.

(2) This section does not apply to a former approval for a family day care service.

(3) This section does not apply to a former approval to which section 311 applies.

313. Display of accreditation and rating

(1) This section applies to a declared approved service that is taken under this Part to be an approved education and care service.

(2) The approved provider must display the provisional rating of that approved education and care service in accordance with section 172 until a first rating assessment is completed and a rating level given to the service after that assessment is published under Part 5.

(3) If the education and care service was accredited by the National Child Care Accreditation Council before the scheme commencement day, the approved provider of the education and care service must continue to display that accreditation at the service together with the provisional rating until a first rating assessment is completed and a rating (other than a provisional rating) given to the service after that assessment is published under Part 5.

314. Effect of non-compliance in 3 years before scheme commencement day

(1) In determining whether to suspend or cancel under Part 2 a provider approval referred to in section 306, the Regulatory Authority —

(a) may take into account any non-compliance by the approved provider with a former education and care services law that

occurred in the period of 3 years immediately preceding the scheme commencement day; but

- (b) must not suspend or cancel the provider approval solely on the basis of that non-compliance.
- (2) In determining whether to suspend or cancel under Part 3 a service approval referred to in section 307(1), the Regulatory Authority —
- (a) may take into account any non-compliance by the approved provider with a former education and care services law that occurred in the period of 3 years immediately preceding the scheme commencement day; but
 - (b) must not suspend or cancel the service approval solely on the basis of that non-compliance.

315. Certified supervisors

- (1) A person who was a declared certified supervisor immediately before the scheme commencement day is taken to be a certified supervisor under this Law.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority must, on or before 30 June 2012*, provide each person who is taken under this section to be a certified supervisor with a copy of the supervisor certificate setting out the relevant matters in section 116.

*Modified by regulations³ to apply for W.A. as if amended to read 31 January 2013

- (3) Subsection (1) applies even if the declared certified supervisor was suspended immediately before the scheme commencement day but the person's supervisor certificate under this Law is taken to be suspended for the remaining period that the person was suspended as a declared certified supervisor.

316. Nominated supervisors

- (1) A person who immediately before the scheme commencement day was a declared nominated supervisor —
 - (a) for a declared approved service that is taken under section 307 to be an approved education and care service; or

Division 3 — National Authority

319. First meeting of National Authority

Despite section 239, the Ministerial Council is to convene the first meeting of the Board of the National Authority.

320. First chief executive officer of National Authority

- (1) Despite section 248, the first chief executive officer of the National Authority is to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Ministerial Council on the basis of a consensus recommendation of the Ministerial Council.
- (2) The appointment is to be on the remuneration and other terms and conditions set out in the appointment.
- (3) Any amount payable to the first chief executive officer under the appointment is payable from the Authority Fund.

321. First annual report of National Authority

Despite section 279, the first annual report of the National Authority —

- (a) is to be made within 4 months after the end of the financial year ending 30 June 2012; and
- (b) is to cover the period from the first meeting of the National Authority until 30 June 2012.

Division 4 — General

322. Information retention and sharing

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must, in accordance with the national regulations, keep all prescribed information held by the Regulatory Authority (or any regulatory body under the former education and care services law) in relation to —
 - (a) the licensing or approval of education and care services under the former education and care services law; and
 - (b) the monitoring and enforcement of the former education and care services law in relation to education and care services.

Schedule 1 — Miscellaneous provision relating to interpretation

[s. 6]

Part 1 — Preliminary

1. Displacement of Schedule by contrary intention

The application of this Schedule may be displaced, wholly or partly, by a contrary intention appearing in this Law.

Part 2 — General

2. Law to be construed not to exceed legislative power of Legislature

- (1) This Law is to be construed as operating to the full extent of, but so as not to exceed, the legislative power of the Legislature of this jurisdiction.
- (2) If a provision of this Law, or the application of a provision of this Law to a person, subject matter or circumstance, would, but for this clause, be construed as being in excess of the legislative power of the Legislature of this jurisdiction —
 - (a) it is a valid provision to the extent to which it is not in excess of the power; and
 - (b) the remainder of this Law, and the application of the provision to other persons, subject matters or circumstances, is not affected.
- (3) This clause applies to this Law in addition to, and without limiting the effect of, any provision of this Law.

3. Every section to be a substantive enactment

Every section of this Law has effect as a substantive enactment without introductory words.

4. Material that is, and is not, part of this Law

- (1) The heading to a Part, Division or Subdivision into which this Law is divided is part of this Law.
- (2) A Schedule to this Law is part of this Law.

- (2) A reference in this Law to a provision of this Law or of an Act includes a reference to —
- (a) the provision as originally enacted, and as amended from time to time since its original enactment; and
 - (b) if the provision has been omitted and re-enacted (with or without modification) since the enactment of the reference — the provision as re-enacted, and as amended from time to time since its re-enactment.
- (3) Subclauses (1) and (2) apply to a reference in this Law to a law of the Commonwealth or another jurisdiction as they apply to a reference in this Law to an Act and to a provision of an Act.

7. Interpretation best achieving Law's purpose

- (1) In the interpretation of a provision of this Law, the interpretation that will best achieve the purpose or object of this Law is to be preferred to any other interpretation.
- (2) Subclause (1) applies whether or not the purpose is expressly stated in this Law.

8. Use of extrinsic material in interpretation

- (1) In this clause —
- extrinsic material* means relevant material not forming part of this Law, including, for example —
- (a) material that is set out in the document containing the text of this Law as printed by the Government Printer; and
 - (b) a relevant report of a Royal Commission, Law Reform Commission, commission or committee of inquiry, or a similar body, that was laid before the Parliament of this jurisdiction before the provision concerned was enacted; and
 - (c) a relevant report of a committee of the Parliament of this jurisdiction that was made to the Parliament before the provision was enacted; and
 - (d) a treaty or other international agreement that is mentioned in this Law; and
 - (e) an explanatory note or memorandum relating to the Bill that contained the provision, or any relevant document, that was

9. Effect of change of drafting practice and use of examples

If —

- (a) a provision of this Law expresses an idea in particular words; and
- (b) a provision enacted later appears to express the same idea in different words for the purpose of implementing a different legislative drafting practice, including, for example —
 - (i) the use of a clearer or simpler style; or
 - (ii) the use of gender-neutral language;

the ideas must not be taken to be different merely because different words are used.

10. Use of examples

If this Law includes an example of the operation of a provision —

- (a) the example is not exhaustive; and
- (b) the example does not limit, but may extend, the meaning of the provision; and
- (c) the example and the provision are to be read in the context of each other and the other provisions of this Law, but, if the example and the provision so read are inconsistent, the provision prevails.

11. Compliance with forms

- (1) If a form is prescribed or approved by or for the purpose of this Law, strict compliance with the form is not necessary and substantial compliance is sufficient.
- (2) If a form prescribed or approved by or for the purpose of this Law requires —
 - (a) the form to be completed in a specified way; or
 - (b) specified information or documents to be included in, attached to or given with the form; or
 - (c) the form, or information or documents included in, attached to or given with the form, to be verified in a specified way,

the form is not properly completed unless the requirement is complied with.

commencement, in relation to this Law or an Act or a provision of this Law or an Act, means the time at which this Law, the Act or provision comes into operation;

Commonwealth means the Commonwealth of Australia but, when used in a geographical sense, does not include an external Territory;

confer, in relation to a function, includes impose;

contravene includes fail to comply with;

country includes —

- (a) a federation; or
- (b) a state, province or other part of a federation;

date of assent, in relation to an Act, means the day on which the Act receives the Royal Assent;

definition means a provision of this Law (however expressed) that —

- (a) gives a meaning to a word or expression; or
- (b) limits or extends the meaning of a word or expression;

document includes —

- (a) any paper or other material on which there is writing; or
- (b) any paper or other material on which there are marks, figures, symbols or perforations having a meaning for a person qualified to interpret them; or
- (c) any disc, tape or other article or any material from which sounds, images, writings or messages are capable of being reproduced (with or without the aid of another article or device);

electronic communication means —

- (a) a communication of information in the form of data, text or images by means of guided or unguided electromagnetic energy, or both; or
- (b) a communication of information in the form of sound by means of guided or unguided electromagnetic energy, or both, where the sound is processed at its destination by an automated voice recognition system;

estate includes easement, charge, right, title, claim, demand, lien or encumbrance, whether at law or in equity;

expire includes lapse or otherwise cease to have effect;

number means —

- (a) a number expressed in figures or words; or
- (b) a letter; or
- (c) a combination of a number so expressed and a letter;

oath, in relation to a person allowed by law to affirm, declare or promise, includes affirmation, declaration or promise;

office includes position;

omit, in relation to a provision of this Law or an Act, includes repeal;

party includes an individual or a body politic or corporate;

penalty includes forfeiture or punishment;

power includes authority;

prescribed means prescribed by, or by regulations made or in force for the purposes of or under, this Law;

printed includes typewritten, lithographed or reproduced by any mechanical means;

proceeding means a legal or other action or proceeding;

property means any legal or equitable estate or interest (whether present or future, vested or contingent, or tangible or intangible) in real or personal property of any description (including money), and includes things in action;

provision, in relation to this Law or an Act, means words or other matter that form or forms part of this Law or the Act, and includes —

- (a) a Chapter, Part, Division, Subdivision, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sub-subparagraph or Schedule of or to this Law or the Act; or
- (b) a section, clause, subclause, item, column, table or form of or in a Schedule to this Law or the Act; or
- (c) the long title and any preamble to the Act;

record includes information stored or recorded by means of a computer;

repeal includes —

- (a) revoke or rescind; or
- (b) repeal by implication; or

14. Meaning of “may” and “must” etc.

- (1) In this Law, the word may, or a similar word or expression, used in relation to a power indicates that the power may be exercised or not exercised, at discretion.
- (2) In this Law, the word must, or a similar word or expression, used in relation to a power indicates that the power is required to be exercised.
- (3) This clause has effect despite any rule of construction to the contrary.

15. Words and expressions used in statutory instruments

- (1) Words and expressions used in a statutory instrument have the same meanings as they have, from time to time, in this Law, or relevant provisions of this Law, under or for the purposes of which the instrument is made or in force.
- (2) This clause has effect in relation to an instrument except so far as the contrary intention appears in the instrument.

16. Effect of express references to bodies corporate and individuals

In this Law, a reference to a person generally (whether the expression “person”, “party”, “someone”, “anyone”, “no-one”, “one”, “another” or “whoever” or another expression is used) —

- (a) does not exclude a reference to a body corporate or an individual merely because elsewhere in this Law there is particular reference to a body corporate (however expressed); and
- (b) does not exclude a reference to a body corporate or an individual merely because elsewhere in this Law there is particular reference to an individual (however expressed).

17. Production of records kept in computers etc.

If a person who keeps a record of information by means of a mechanical, electronic or other device is required by or under this Law —

- (a) to produce the information or a document containing the information to a court, tribunal or person; or

column, table or form by a number and without reference to this Law — the reference is a reference to —

- (i) the Division, designated by the number, of the Part in which the reference occurs; and
- (ii) the Subdivision, designated by the number, of the Division in which the reference occurs; and
- (iii) the subsection, designated by the number, of the section in which the reference occurs; and
- (iv) the paragraph, designated by the number, of the section, subsection, Schedule or other provision in which the reference occurs; and
- (v) the paragraph, designated by the number, of the clause, subclause, item, column, table or form of or in the Schedule in which the reference occurs; and
- (vi) the subparagraph, designated by the number, of the paragraph in which the reference occurs; and
- (vii) the sub-subparagraph, designated by the number, of the subparagraph in which the reference occurs; and
- (viii) the section, clause, subclause, item, column, table or form, designated by the number, of or in the Schedule in which the reference occurs;

as the case requires.

21. Reference to provisions of this Law or an Act is inclusive

In this Law, a reference to a portion of this Law or an Act includes —

- (a) a reference to the Chapter, Part, Division, Subdivision, section, subsection or other provision of this Law or the Act referred to that forms the beginning of the portion; and
- (b) a reference to the Chapter, Part, Division, Subdivision, section, subsection or other provision of this Law or the Act referred to that forms the end of the portion.

Example: A reference to “sections 5 to 9” includes both section 5 and section 9.

It is not necessary to refer to “sections 5 to 9 (both inclusive)” to ensure that the reference is given an inclusive interpretation.

the provisions as in force from time to time, unless the statutory instrument otherwise expressly provides.

- (3) A statutory instrument may —
 - (a) apply generally throughout this jurisdiction or be limited in its application to a particular part of this jurisdiction; or
 - (b) apply generally to all persons, matters or things or be limited in its application to —
 - (i) particular persons, matters or things; or
 - (ii) particular classes of persons, matters or things; or
 - (c) otherwise apply generally or be limited in its application by reference to specified exceptions or factors.
- (4) A statutory instrument may —
 - (a) apply differently according to different specified factors; or
 - (b) otherwise make different provision in relation to —
 - (i) different persons, matters or things; or
 - (ii) different classes of persons, matters or things.
- (5) A statutory instrument may authorise a matter or thing to be from time to time determined, applied or regulated by a specified person or body.
- (6) If this Law authorises or requires a matter to be regulated by statutory instrument, the power may be exercised by prohibiting by statutory instrument the matter or any aspect of the matter.
- (7) If this Law authorises or requires provision to be made with respect to a matter by statutory instrument, a statutory instrument made under this Law may make provision with respect to a particular aspect of the matter despite the fact that provision is made by this Law in relation to another aspect of the matter or in relation to another matter.
- (8) A statutory instrument may provide for the review of, or a right of appeal against, a decision made under the statutory instrument, or this Law, and may, for that purpose, confer jurisdiction on any court, tribunal, person or body.
- (9) A statutory instrument may require a form prescribed by or under the statutory instrument, or information or documents included in,

Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012

Schedule Education and Care Services National Law

Schedule 1 Miscellaneous provision relating to interpretation

cl. 27

- (3) The appointer may —
 - (a) determine the terms and conditions of the appointment, including remuneration and allowances; and
 - (b) terminate the appointment at any time.
- (4) The appointment, or the termination of the appointment, must be in, or evidenced by, writing signed by the appointer.
- (5) The appointee must not act for more than 1 year during a vacancy in the office.
- (6) If the appointee is acting in the office otherwise than because of a vacancy in the office and the office becomes vacant, then, subject to subclause (2), the appointee may continue to act until —
 - (a) the appointer otherwise directs; or
 - (b) the vacancy is filled; or
 - (c) the end of a year from the day of the vacancy;whichever happens first.
- (7) The appointment ceases to have effect if the appointee resigns by writing signed and delivered to the appointer.
- (8) While the appointee is acting in the office —
 - (a) the appointee has all the powers and functions of the holder of the office; and
 - (b) this Law and other laws apply to the appointee as if the appointee were the holder of the office.
- (9) Anything done by or in relation to a person purporting to act in the office is not invalid merely because —
 - (a) the occasion for the appointment had not arisen; or
 - (b) the appointment had ceased to have effect; or
 - (c) the occasion for the person to act had not arisen or had ceased.
- (10) If this Law authorises the appointer to appoint a person to act during a vacancy in the office, an appointment to act in the office may be made by the appointer whether or not an appointment has previously been made to the office.

- (b) a specified officer, or the holder of a specified office, by reference to the title of the office concerned.
- (2) The delegation may be —
- (a) general or limited; and
 - (b) made from time to time; and
 - (c) revoked, wholly or partly, by the delegator.
- (3) The delegation, or a revocation of the delegation, must be in, or evidenced by, writing signed by the delegator or, if the delegator is a body, by a person authorised by the body for the purpose.
- (4) A delegated function may be exercised only in accordance with any conditions to which the delegation is subject.
- (5) The delegate may, in the performance of a delegated function, do anything that is incidental to the delegated function.
- (6) A delegated function that purports to have been exercised by the delegate is taken to have been properly exercised by the delegate unless the contrary is proved.
- (7) A delegated function that is properly exercised by the delegate is taken to have been exercised by the delegator.
- (8) If, when exercised by the delegator, a function is dependent on the delegator's opinion, belief or state of mind, then, when exercised by the delegate, the function is dependent on the delegate's opinion, belief or state of mind.
- (9) If —
- (a) the delegator is a specified officer or the holder of a specified office; and
 - (b) the person who was the specified officer or holder of the specified office when the delegation was made ceases to be the holder of the office;
- then —
- (c) the delegation continues in force; and
 - (d) the person for the time being occupying or acting in the office concerned is taken to be the delegator for the purposes of this clause.

- (c) to do another thing;

then —

- (d) the power may be exercised; and
- (e) anything may be done for the purpose of enabling the exercise of the power or of bringing the appointment, instrument or other thing into effect;

before the empowering provision commences.

- (2) If a provision of a Western Australian Act (the empowering provision) that does not commence on its enactment would, had it commenced, amend a provision of this Law so that it would confer a power —

- (a) to make an appointment; or
- (b) to make a statutory instrument of a legislative or administrative character; or
- (c) to do another thing;

then —

- (d) the power may be exercised; and
- (e) anything may be done for the purpose of enabling the exercise of the power or of bringing the appointment, instrument or other thing into effect;

before the empowering provision commences.

- (3) If —

- (a) this Law has commenced and confers a power to make a statutory instrument (the basic instrument-making power); and
- (b) a provision of a Western Australian Act that does not commence on its enactment would, had it commenced, amend this Law so as to confer additional power to make a statutory instrument (the additional instrument-making power);

then —

- (c) the basic instrument-making power and the additional instrument-making power may be exercised by making a single instrument; and

- (d) any provision of the instrument that required an exercise of the additional instrument-making power is to be treated as made under subclause (2).
- (4) If an instrument, or a provision of an instrument, is made under subclause (1) or (2) that is necessary for the purpose of —
- (a) enabling the exercise of a power mentioned in the subclause; or
 - (b) bringing an appointment, instrument or other thing made or done under such a power into effect;
- the instrument or provision takes effect —
- (c) on the making of the instrument; or
 - (d) on such later day (if any) on which, or at such later time (if any) at which, the instrument or provision is expressed to take effect.
- (5) If —
- (a) an appointment is made under subclause (1) or (2); or
 - (b) an instrument, or a provision of an instrument, made under subclause (1) or (2) is not necessary for a purpose mentioned in subclause (4);
- the appointment, instrument or provision takes effect —
- (c) on the commencement of the relevant empowering provision; or
 - (d) on such later day (if any) on which, or at such later time (if any) at which, the appointment, instrument or provision is expressed to take effect.
- (6) Anything done under subclause (1) or (2) does not confer a right, or impose a liability, on a person before the relevant empowering provision commences.
- (7) After the enactment of a provision mentioned in subclause (2) but before the provision's commencement, this clause applies as if the references in subclauses (2) and (5) to the commencement of the empowering provision were references to the commencement of the provision mentioned in subclause (2) as amended by the empowering provision.

- (8) In the application of this clause to a statutory instrument, a reference to the enactment of the instrument is a reference to the making of the instrument.

Note: This clause differs from clause 30 to Schedule 1 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

Part 5 — Distance, time and age

31. Matters relating to distance, time and age

- (1) In the measurement of distance for the purposes of this Law, the distance is to be measured along the shortest road ordinarily used for travelling.
- (2) If a period beginning on a given day, act or event is provided or allowed for a purpose by this Law, the period is to be calculated by excluding the day, or the day of the act or event, and —
- (a) if the period is expressed to be a specified number of clear days or at least a specified number of days — by excluding the day on which the purpose is to be fulfilled; and
 - (b) in any other case — by including the day on which the purpose is to be fulfilled.
- (3) If the last day of a period provided or allowed by this Law for doing anything is not a business day in the place in which the thing is to be or may be done, the thing may be done on the next business day in the place.
- (4) If the last day of a period provided or allowed by this Law for the filing or registration of a document is a day on which the office is closed where the filing or registration is to be or may be done, the document may be filed or registered at the office on the next day that the office is open.
- (5) If no time is provided or allowed for doing anything, the thing is to be done as soon as possible, and as often as the prescribed occasion happens.
- (6) If, in this Law, there is a reference to time, the reference is, in relation to the doing of anything in a jurisdiction, a reference to the legal time in the jurisdiction.

- (7) For the purposes of this Law, a person attains an age in years at the beginning of the person's birthday for the age.

Part 6 — Effect of repeal, amendment or expiration

32. Time of Law ceasing to have effect

If a provision of this Law is expressed —

- (a) to expire on a specified day; or
- (b) to remain or continue in force, or otherwise have effect, until a specified day;

this provision has effect until the last moment of the specified day.

33. Repealed Law provisions not revived

If a provision of this Law is repealed or amended by a Western Australian Act, or a provision of a Western Australian Act, the provision is not revived merely because the Western Australian Act or the provision of the Western Australian Act —

- (a) is later repealed or amended; or
- (b) later expires.

Note: This clause differs from clause 33 to Schedule 1 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

34. Saving of operation of repealed Law provisions

- (1) The repeal, amendment or expiry of a provision of this Law does not —
- (a) revive anything not in force or existing at the time the repeal, amendment or expiry takes effect; or
 - (b) affect the previous operation of the provision or anything suffered, done or begun under the provision; or
 - (c) affect a right, privilege or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the provision; or
 - (d) affect a penalty incurred in relation to an offence arising under the provision; or
 - (e) affect an investigation, proceeding or remedy in relation to such a right, privilege, liability or penalty.

- (2) Any such penalty may be imposed and enforced, and any such investigation, proceeding or remedy may be begun, continued or enforced, as if the provision had not been repealed or amended or had not expired.

35. Continuance of repealed provisions

If a Western Australian Act repeals some provisions of this Law and enacts new provisions in substitution for the repealed provisions, the repealed provisions continue in force until the new provisions commence.

Note: This clause differs from clause 35 to Schedule 1 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

36. Law and amending Acts to be read as one

This Law and all Western Australian Acts amending this Law are to be read as one.

Note: This clause differs from clause 36 to Schedule 1 of the national law as set out in the Schedule to the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (Victoria).

Part 7 — Instruments under Law

37. Schedule applies to statutory instruments

- (1) This Schedule applies to a statutory instrument, and to things that may be done or are required to be done under a statutory instrument, in the same way as it applies to this Law, and things that may be done or are required to be done under this Law, except so far as the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires.
- (2) The fact that a provision of this Schedule refers to this Law and not also to a statutory instrument does not, by itself, indicate that the provision is intended to apply only to this Law.

Part 8 — Application to coastal sea

38. Application

This Law has effect in and relation to the coastal sea of this jurisdiction as if that coastal sea were part of this jurisdiction.

Schedule 2 — Powers of entry by search warrant

1. Application for warrant

- (1) An authorised officer may apply to a magistrate of a participating jurisdiction for a search warrant in relation to premises if the officer believes on reasonable grounds that —
 - (a) a person is or has been operating an education and care service at the premises in contravention of this Law; or
 - (b) documents or other evidence relevant to the possible commission of an offence against this Law are present at the premises.
- (2) The authorised officer must prepare a written application that states the grounds on which the warrant is sought.
- (3) The written application must be sworn.
- (4) The magistrate may refuse to consider the application until the authorised officer gives the magistrate all the information the magistrate requires about the application in the way the magistrate requires.

2. Issue of warrant

- (1) The magistrate may issue the warrant in respect of premises only if the magistrate is satisfied there are reasonable grounds to believe that —
 - (a) a person is operating an education and care service at the premises in contravention of this Law; or
 - (b) documents or other evidence relevant to the possible commission of an offence against this Law are present at the premises.
- (2) The warrant must state —
 - (a) that a stated authorised officer may, with necessary and reasonable help and force —
 - (i) enter the premises and any other premises necessary for entry; and
 - (ii) exercise the authorised officer's powers under this Schedule; and

- (b) the matter for which the warrant is sought; and
- (c) the evidence that may be seized under the warrant; and
- (d) the hours of the day or night when the premises may be entered; and
- (e) the date, within 14 days after the warrant's issue, the warrant ends.

3. Application by electronic communication

- (1) An authorised officer may apply for a warrant by phone, facsimile, email, radio, video conferencing or another form of communication if the authorised officer considers it necessary because of —
 - (a) urgent circumstances; or
 - (b) other special circumstances, including the authorised officer's remote location.
- (2) The application —
 - (a) may not be made before the authorised officer prepares the written application under clause 1(2); but
 - (b) may be made before the written application is sworn.
- (3) The magistrate may issue the warrant (the original warrant) only if the magistrate is satisfied —
 - (a) it was necessary to make the application under subclause (1); and
 - (b) the way the application was made under subclause (1) was appropriate.
- (4) After the magistrate issues the original warrant —
 - (a) if there is a reasonably practicable way of immediately giving a copy of the warrant to the authorised officer, for example, by sending a copy by fax or email, the magistrate must immediately give a copy of the warrant to the authorised officer; or
 - (b) otherwise —
 - (i) the magistrate must tell the authorised officer the date and time the warrant is issued and the other terms of the warrant; and

- (ii) the authorised officer must complete a form of warrant including by writing on it —
 - (A) the magistrate's name; and
 - (B) the date and time the magistrate issued the warrant; and
 - (C) the other terms of the warrant.
- (5) The copy of the warrant referred to in subclause (4)(a), or the form of warrant completed under subclause (4)(b) (in either case the duplicate warrant), is a duplicate of, and as effectual as, the original warrant.
- (6) The authorised officer must, at the first reasonable opportunity, send to the magistrate —
 - (a) the written application complying with clause 1(2) and (3); and
 - (b) if the authorised officer completed a form of warrant under subclause (4)(b), the completed form of warrant.
- (7) The magistrate must keep the original warrant and, on receiving the documents under subclause (6), file the original warrant and documents in the court.
- (8) Despite subclause (5), if —
 - (a) an issue arises in a proceeding about whether an exercise of a power was authorised by a warrant issued under this clause; and
 - (b) the original warrant is not produced in evidence —

the onus of proof is on the person relying on the lawfulness of the exercise of the power to prove a warrant authorised the exercise of the power.
- (9) This clause does not limit clause 1.

4. Procedure before entry under warrant

- (1) Before entering premises under a warrant, an authorised officer must do or make a reasonable attempt to do the following —
 - (a) identify himself or herself to a person present at the premises who is an occupier of the premises by producing the authorised officer's identity card;

- (b) give the person a copy of the warrant;
 - (c) tell the person the authorised officer is permitted by the warrant to enter the premises;
 - (d) give the person an opportunity to allow the authorised officer immediate entry to the premises without using force.
- (2) However, the authorised officer need not comply with subclause (1) if the authorised officer reasonably believes that immediate entry to the premises is required to ensure the effective execution of the warrant is not frustrated.

5. Powers after entering premises

- (1) This clause applies if an authorised officer enters premises under clause 4.
- (2) The authorised officer may for the purposes of the investigation do the following —
- (a) search any part of the premises;
 - (b) inspect, measure, test, photograph or film, or make audio recordings of, any part of the premises or anything at the premises;
 - (c) take a thing, or a sample of or from a thing, at the premises for analysis, measurement or testing;
 - (d) copy, or take an extract from, a document, at the premises;
 - (e) take into or onto the premises any person, equipment and materials the authorised officer reasonably requires for exercising a power under this Schedule;
 - (f) require the occupier of the premises, or a person at the premises, to give the authorised officer reasonable help to exercise the authorised officer's powers under paragraphs (a) to (e);
 - (g) require the occupier of the premises, or a person at the premises, to give the authorised officer information to help the authorised officer in conducting the investigation.

Notes

¹ This is a compilation of the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012* and includes the amendments made by the other written laws referred to in the following table ^{1a}.

Compilation table

| Short title | Number and year | Assent | Commencement |
|---|------------------------|---------------|--|
| <i>Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012</i> | 11 of 2012 | 20 Jun 2012 | s. 1 and 2: 20 Jun 2012 (see s. 2(a)); Act other than s. 1, 2, Pt. 4 Div. 3, the Schedule s. 70(1)(d), 152, 153(2)-(4), 154-159, Pt. 5 Div. 6 (s. 160), 172(d), 266-268 and 270(1)(d) and (2)-(4): 1 Aug 2012 (see s. 2(c) and <i>Gazette</i> 25 Jul 2012 p. 3411) |

^{1a} On the date as at which this compilation was prepared, provisions referred to in the following table had not come into operation and were therefore not included in this compilation. For the text of the provisions see the endnotes referred to in the table.

Provisions that have not come into operation

| Short title | Number and year | Assent | Commencement |
|---|------------------------|---------------|--|
| <i>Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012</i> Pt. 4 Div. 3 and the Schedule s. 70(1)(d), 152, 153(2)-(4), 154-159, Pt. 5 Div. 6 (s. 160), s. 172(d), 266-268 and 270(1)(d) and (2)-(4) ² | 11 of 2012 | 20 Jun 2012 | Pt. 4 Div. 3: operative on commencement of the <i>Health, Safety and Civil Liability (Children in Schools and Child Care Services) Act 2011</i> Pt. 2 (see s. 2(b)(ii)); The Schedule s. 70(1)(d), 152, 153(2)-(4), 154-159, Pt. 5 Div. 6 (s. 160), s. 172(d), 266-268 and 270(1)(d) and (2)-(4): to be proclaimed (see s. 2(c)) |

² On the date as at which this compilation was prepared, the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012* Pt. 4 Div. 3, the Schedule s. 70(1)(d), 152,

153(2)-(4), 154-159, Pt. 5 Div. 6 (s. 160), s. 172(d), 266-268 and 270(1)(d) and (2)-(4) had not come into operation. They read as follows:

Division 3 — *Civil Liability Act 2002* amended

28. Act amended

This Division amends the *Civil Liability Act 2002*.

29. Section 5AAA amended

- (1) In section 5AAA delete the definition of *child care service* and insert:

child care service means —

- (a) an education and care service as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1); or
 - (b) a child care service as defined in the *Child Care Services Act 2007* section 4;
- (2) In section 5AAA in the definition of *staff member* after paragraph (c) insert:
- (da) a nominated supervisor as defined in the *Education and Care Services National Law (Western Australia)* section 5(1); or

Schedule — Education and Care Services National Law

70. Grounds for suspension of service approval

- (1) A Regulatory Authority may suspend a service approval if —
- (d) the service has operated at a rating level as not meeting the National Quality Standard and —
 - (i) a service waiver or temporary waiver does not apply to the service in respect of that non-compliance; and
 - (ii) there has been no improvement in the rating level; or

152. Application for highest rating

- (1) An approved provider may apply to the National Authority for an approved education and care service operated by that provider to be

assessed for the highest rating level for the education and care service if the criteria determined by the National Authority are met.

- (2) The highest rating level is an overall rating of the education and care service.
- (3) An application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include the prescribed information; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.
- (4) An application may be made only once every 3 years, unless the National Authority determines otherwise in a particular case.
- (5) An application may be made for the highest rating level only if the current overall rating of the service is the second highest rating level.

153. Assessment of education and care service

- (2) The Board must assess the approved education and care service in accordance with the criteria published under subsection (1) to determine whether the service meets the highest rating level in meeting the National Quality Standard and the requirements of the national regulations.
- (3) The Board must ask for, and take into account, the advice of the Regulatory Authority in carrying out the assessment.
- (4) The advice of the Regulatory Authority may include —
 - (a) previous rating assessments and ratings for the education and care service; and
 - (b) information about the service's compliance history; and
 - (c) any other relevant information.

154. Board may seek information and documents

- (1) The Board for the purposes of the rating assessment may —
 - (a) ask the approved provider of the approved education and care service for any information and documents; and
 - (b) make any inquiries it considers appropriate.
- (2) If the Board asks the approved provider for further information and documents under subsection (1), the period from the making of the request until the provision of the further information and documents is not included in the period referred to in section 155(2) for the Board to make a decision on the application.

155. Decision on application

- (1) After assessing the approved education and care service, the Board must —
 - (a) if it is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, give the approved education and care service the highest rating level; or
 - (b) otherwise refuse to give that rating.
- (2) The Board must make its decision within 60 days after the application is received.
- (3) The period specified in subsection (2) may be extended by up to 30 days —
 - (a) if a request for information and documents is made under section 154; or
 - (b) by agreement between the approved provider and the Board.
- (4) If the Board gives the highest rating level to an approved education and care service, that rating becomes the rating level for that service.
- (5) The highest rating level awarded to an approved education and care service applies to that service for 3 years, unless sooner revoked.

156. Notice of decision

- (1) The Board must give written notice of its decision under section 155 in relation to an approved education and care service to —
 - (a) the approved provider; and
 - (b) the Regulatory Authority.
- (2) The notice must be given within 14 days of making the decision.

157. Reassessment of highest rating level

The Board may at any time reassess an approved education and care service in accordance with section 153.

158. Revocation of highest rating level

The Board must revoke the highest rating level of an approved education and care service if —

- (a) it determines that the service no longer meets the criteria for the highest rating level; or
- (b) the Regulatory Authority advises the Board that the overall rating level of the education and care service has

been determined to be at a level that is lower than the second highest rating level.

159. Re-application for highest rating level

- (1) An approved provider of an approved education and care service that has been awarded the highest rating level may reapply for the award of the highest rating level for the service.
- (2) The application must be made within 90 days before the expiry of the existing highest rating level for the approved education and care service.
- (3) The application must —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) include the prescribed information; and
 - (c) include payment of the prescribed fee.

Division 6 — Publication of rating levels

160. Publication of ratings

- (1) The National Authority must publish the rating levels for an approved education and care service in accordance with this section.
- (2) The National Authority must publish any rating levels determined under Division 1 or 2 at the end of the period for requesting a review of the rating levels under Division 3 if no request for review is received in that period.
- (3) If a review by the Regulatory Authority is requested under Division 3, the rating levels must be published at the end of the period for requesting a further review of the rating under Division 4 if no request for further review is received in that period.
- (4) If a further review is requested under Division 4, the rating levels must be published after the notification to the approved provider of the decision on the review.
- (5) The National Authority must publish notice of the giving of the highest rating level to an approved education and care service under Division 5, as soon as possible after the Regulatory Authority and the approved provider are notified of the decision of the Board under that Division.

172. Offence to fail to display prescribed information

- (d) the rating of the service;

266. Register of approved providers

- (1) The National Authority must keep a register of approved providers.
- (2) The register must contain —
 - (a) the name of each approved provider; and
 - (b) any other prescribed information.
- (3) The register of approved providers may be inspected at the office of the National Authority during normal office hours without charge.
- (4) A person may obtain a copy of, or extract from, the register of approved providers on payment of the prescribed fee.

267. Register of education and care services

- (1) The Regulatory Authority must keep a register of approved education and care services operating in the participating jurisdiction.
- (2) The register of approved education and care services must contain the following information —
 - (a) the name of each service;
 - (b) the name of the approved provider of each service;
 - (c) except in the case of a family day care service, the address of each education and care service premises;
 - (d) in the case of an approved family day care service, the address of the principal office of the service;
 - (e) the rating levels for each service;
 - (f) any other prescribed information.
- (3) The register of approved education and care services may be inspected at the office of the Regulatory Authority during normal office hours without charge.
- (4) A person may obtain a copy of, or extract from, the register of approved education and care services on payment of the prescribed fee.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority must provide a copy of the register of approved education and care services (as updated from time to time) to the National Authority and the relevant Commonwealth Department.

268. Register of certified supervisors

- (1) The National Authority must keep a register of certified supervisors.

- (2) The register of certified supervisors must contain the following information —
 - (a) the name of each certified supervisor or the prescribed class of person to which the certified supervisor belongs;
 - (b) any other prescribed information.
- (3) The register of certified supervisors may be inspected at the office of the National Authority during normal office hours without charge.
- (4) A person may obtain a copy of, or extract from, the register of certified supervisors on payment of the prescribed fee.

270. Publication of information

- (1) The National Authority and the Regulatory Authority may publish the following information about approved providers, approved education and care services and certified supervisors —
 - (d) the rating levels of each approved education and care service;
- (2) The National Authority —
 - (a) must publish on its website —
 - (i) the register of approved providers; and
 - (ii) the register of certified supervisors; and
 - (b) may publish on its website the register of approved education and care services as kept by a Regulatory Authority.
- (3) The Regulatory Authority must publish on its website the register of approved education and care services kept by the Regulatory Authority.
- (4) The relevant Commonwealth Department is authorised to publish the register of approved education and care services on a website kept by that department.

³ See *Education and Care Services National Law (Transitional) Regulations 2012* published in *Gazette* 25 Jul 2012 p. 3413-15 made under the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012* section 19.