



## 1.2 Context

### Legal Framework

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John Street operates an approved education and care service for children within a legal framework, and adheres to the following key accountability requirements:

- Compliance with Family Assistance Law
- Compliance with the Education and Care Services National Law
- Accounting for Australian Government Funds
- Ensuring the service remains financially viable
- Employing staff in line with industrial obligations
- Compliance with any other legislative instrument that may take effect in John Street, as detailed in John Street’s Policy and Procedures document.

### Commonwealth Approval and Resources to Operate

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John Street is approved under **The Australian Government Department of Education** to operate an education and care service for children under school age in connection with the compliance of a service under the Family Assistance Legislation, for the purposes of Child Care Subsidy.

Under this approval, John Street agrees to:

- Be the legal sponsor
- Accept the responsibilities to meet conditions of approval
- Liaise with and be represented on management committees
- Ensure that the needs of the service in terms of staff, venue, facilities, privacy, safety and hygiene are met in accordance with the approval guidelines and National Law
- Work in the best interests of the children and families using the service, and the local community

The **Child Care Provider Handbook** provided by The Department of Education is for all approved childcare centres operating under the Child Care Management System, designed to assist childcare

centres to find what they need to know quickly and easily. The handbook is updated and published online each year.

The Child Care Provider Handbook (CCPH) includes information on:

- The legislative framework for Australian Government Child Care Support;
- Requirements for Approved Providers and enrolments;
- Eligibility for Child Care Subsidy (CCS); and
- Payments, record keeping and notifications.

The handbook is available online at <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-provider-handbook/table-contents>

### **Education and Care Services National Law**

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John Street has been approved under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* (under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*), which represents baseline standards for the provision of education and care for children. John Street will work within the guidelines of the National Law and where it is unable to meet them, procedures will be put in place to work towards compliance.

**John Street is obliged under R. 185 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* to ensure that a copy of the Law and Regulations is accessible at the centre at all times.**

The following publications are available in the administration office at John Street for educators and families to view:

- *The Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (National Law)*; and
- *The Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (The Regulations)* including the *National Quality Standard (Schedule 1 of the Regulations)*

**The Victorian Government Department of Education and Training (Victoria)** as the Victorian regulatory authority provides John Street with service approval to provide an education and care service for children under school age in connection with the compliance of a service under the National Law and the Regulations.

Under this approval, John Street agrees to:

- Accept the responsibilities and understands obligations associated with operating the service;
- Be satisfied at any time that John Street is in compliance with the National Law; and
- Accept responsibility to promptly remedy or repair any identified risky or non-compliant areas/activities.

John Street CECC is approved under the criteria set by **DET(Vic)** to offer a funded Kindergarten program to children in their preschool year.

Under this approval, John Street agrees to:

- Provide the Department with up-to-date information.
- Provide information about the service provider, service, workforce, children and funded kindergarten program that is updated annually and during the year as required.
- Provide annual confirmation of kindergarten program data
- Complete an annual Kindergarten census in August each year.

### **The National Quality Framework**

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The National Quality Framework was developed through the Council of Australian Governments in consultation with sector representatives and commenced implementation on 1 January 2012.

The National Quality Framework encourages continuous improvement in the quality of programs provided, ensuring children in care have positive experiences that foster all aspects of their development.

The NQF includes:

- *National Law and National Regulations*
- *National Quality Standard*
- *assessment and quality rating process*
- *national learning frameworks.*

To support understanding and compliance of the National Quality Framework, the following State and Commonwealth Government publications are available at John Street in the administration office for educators to borrow:

- *National Quality Framework Resource Kit (Folder)*
- *National Quality Framework Resources (CD Rom)*
- *The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*
- *The Educators Guide to the Early Years Learning Framework*
- *The Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.*

John Street educators will work together to provide quality education and care for all children attending the service. Educators will participate in the National Quality Framework process by engaging in critical reflection and contributing to the development, implementation and continual reflection and development of John Street's Quality Improvement Plan.

### **Relevant bodies**

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The **Australian Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)** is an independent statutory body responsible for guiding the implementation of the National Quality Framework nationally.

ACECQA's responsibilities include:

- Awarding services demonstrating excellence and managing applications for further review of quality ratings;
- Monitoring and promoting the nationally consistent application of the National Law; and
- Guiding and supporting the work of the Victorian Government Department of Education & Early Childhood Development.

The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) can be contacted at:

Site Address:	Level 15, 255 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000
Postal Address:	PO Box A292, Sydney, NSW 1235
Email:	<a href="mailto:enquiries@acecqa.gov.au">enquiries@acecqa.gov.au</a>
Phone:	1300 422 327
Website:	<a href="http://www.acecqa.gov.au">www.acecqa.gov.au</a>

The **Victorian Government Department of Education & Training** is a regulatory authority responsible for assessment and monitoring of compliance. John Street actively supports a reciprocal relationship with the Northern Metropolitan Regional Office and its Authorised Officers.

DET(Vic)'s responsibilities include:

- Approval, monitoring and quality assessment of Victorian Education and Care Services for children;
- Investigating complaints or concerns raised with the department about a children's service; and
- Providing best practice advice to services on the care and education of children.

The DET(Vic) North Western Regional Office can be contacted at:

Site Address:	Level 2, 189 Urquhart Street, Coburg, Victoria 3058
Postal Address:	Locked Bag 2001, Coburg, Victoria 3058
Email:	<a href="mailto:nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au">nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Phone:	(03) 9488 9488
Website:	<a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au">http://www.education.vic.gov.au</a>

## **Authorisation**

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This policy was approved by the John Street Board in July 2018.