

# FACT SHEET

## *Kindergartens*

### **What are kindergartens?**

The Australian and Queensland government support the implementation and delivery of initiatives and strategies in the early childhood education and care sector. The Australian government is committed to providing every child with access to a kindergarten program delivered by a four-year qualified early childhood teacher for 15 hours a week for 40 weeks a year (600hrs) in the year prior to full-time schooling.

In Queensland, the term 'kindergarten' refers to an educational program offered to children in the year prior to starting Prep. This means an eligible child turns 4 years old by 30 June in the year they participate in a kindergarten program.

### **What do kindergartens mean for Catholic education?**

Catholic dioceses in Queensland are supportive of Australian and State government initiatives providing young children with early learning opportunities. QCEC is a Central Governing Bodies (CGB) authorised to distribute funding to kindergarten services under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS) and fulfil data and reporting requirements.

QCEC delegates responsibility for the operation of kindergartens, including compliance with national law and regulations and QKFS operating guidelines, to delegated Catholic agencies.

Catholic kindergartens offer quality early learning environments and programs that engage young children and their families. QCEC has developed a QCEC Position Statement on Early Childhood Education and a Framework for Early Years Spiritual Development in the Catholic Tradition to guide and support the provision of inclusive, stimulating and nurturing early learning settings.

### **Links**

Australian Government: [Australian Childrens' Education & Care Quality Authority](#) (ACECQA)

Queensland Government: [Early Childhood Education and Care](#)

QCEC: [Early Childhood](#)