

Qualifications for OSHC services (SA)

Each state and territory has their own qualification requirements for working with school age children in out of school hours care services (OSHC). This guidance sets out the specific educator-to-child ratios and qualifications for OSHC services in South Australia (SA).

Ratios

- The minimum educator-to-child ratio for children **over** preschool age is 1 educator to 15 children.
- The minimum educator-to-child ratio for any preschool-age children is 1:11.
- Where an OSHC is caring for children of both preschool age and school age, a mixed ratio is applied. See the examples in the following pages for further information.

General qualification requirements

At least one educator (present at all times the service is operating) must hold an approved diploma qualification (or higher) as detailed below. This person, known as a *first educator*, must hold an approved qualification listed by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) for SA.

Where 30 or more children attend a service, the *first educator* must hold an approved qualification as identified above. In addition, the service must have another educator, who holds at least an approved certificate III or IV in education, disability or care for every **1 educator to 30 children**. These educators, known as the *second and subsequent educators*, must hold a qualification from the [approved ACECQA list](#) for *second and subsequent educators* **OR** a higher qualification from the *first educator* list.

Any other educators required to meet ratio requirements do not need to hold a qualification.

First educator qualification



Qualifications listed for a first educator are diploma equivalent level or higher.

The list of qualifications includes any *completed* diploma-level qualification (or higher) from any accredited Australian higher education provider and/or registered training organisation from the following broad disciplines:

- Education, care, disability
- Behavioural and social sciences
- Community services
- Health
- Allied health
- Sport and recreation
- Creative arts.

To understand if a qualification is relevant as a first educator for OSHC consider:

1. Is it from an Australian University or [registered training organisation](#)?
2. Is it a diploma qualification or higher?
3. Does it fall under one of the six identified disciplines? (It might fall under two of these disciplines such as social science and community work)
4. Has it been *completed*? (It must be completed.)

OR

5. Successfully completed 2 years of a 4-year tertiary education degree from an Australian University. There is no need to be actively working towards completing the degree.



Non-Australian qualifications will continue to be assessed by ACECQA (a cost is involved).

All previously listed qualifications for SA continue to be recognised.

The qualifications specific to SA are listed on the [ACECQA website](#).

Examples of first educator qualifications

Examples of Australian Universities/Registered Training Organisation	Education and Care	Behavioural and social sciences	Community services	Health and allied health	Sport and recreation	Creative arts
University of South Australia	Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours)	Bachelor of Arts, Psychology	Bachelor of Social work		Bachelor of Business - sport and recreation management	
Australian Child Care Career Options (ACCCO)	Diploma of School Age Care		Advanced Diploma of Community Sector Management			
TAFE SA			Diploma of Counselling		Diploma of Outdoor Leadership	Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts)
Flinders University	Bachelor of Education Studies (Exit only)	Bachelor of Health Sciences (Psychology)	Bachelor of Disability and Community Inclusion			
Adelaide University	Master of Education			Bachelor of Speech Pathology		Bachelor of Creative Arts
Charles Sturt University		Bachelor of Arts & Social Science	Bachelor of Human Services	Bachelor of Occupational Therapy		

Please note this is not an exhaustive list – just some examples.

Second and subsequent educator qualification



Qualifications listed for a *second educator* are any certificate III or IV or equivalent in the broad disciplines of education, care or disability from any accredited Australian higher education provider and/or registered training organisation.

Fifty percent completion of a diploma in the broad education, care or disability will be recognised as equivalent to a certificate III level.

Educators must have evidence of successful completion of 50% (or equivalent) of diploma qualification.

(Please note second and subsequent educators may also be filled by someone with a first educator qualification.)

Examples of second educator qualifications

To understand if a qualification is relevant as a second or subsequent educator for OSHC consider:

1. Is it from an Australian University or [registered training organisation](#)?
2. Is it a *completed* certificate III or IV qualification?
3. Is it from one of the broad disciplines of education, care or disability?

OR

4. Has fifty percent of a diploma been completed in one of the broad disciplines of education, care or disability?

Examples of Australian Universities/Registered Training Organisation	Education	Care	Disability
Hessel Group		Certificate III in Early Childhood education and Care	Certificate IV in Disability Support
Australian Child Care Career Options (ACCCO)	Certificate III in School Based Education Support	Certificate III in Early Childhood education and Care	
TAFE SA	Certificate IV in School Based Education Support	Certificate III in Outside School Hours Care	Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability)

Please note this is not an exhaustive list – just some examples.

Mixed ratios examples:

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification Requirements
Preschool age children	1:11	2	1	1 educator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must hold <i>first educator</i> qualification
School age children	1:15	9	1 educator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 children may be counted in the educator to child ratio for the preschoolers. 	
Totals		11	1 (maximum 11 children)	

Age of children	Ratio	Number of children	Number of educators	Qualification Requirements
Preschool age children	1:11	4	1	2 educators must hold qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 <i>first educator</i> • 1 <i>second and subsequent educators</i>
School age children	1:15	36	2 educators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 children counted in the educator-to-child ratio for the preschoolers • 2 more educators for the remaining 29 school age children 	
Totals		40	3 (maximum 41 children)	

Examples



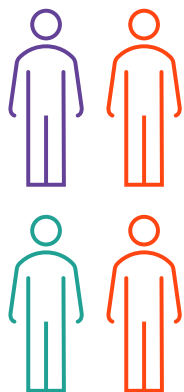
first educator qualification



second and subsequent qualification



unqualified



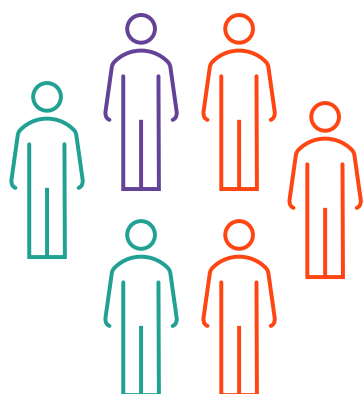
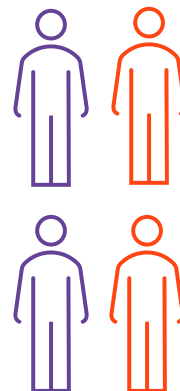
48

school age children
(maximum 60)

- 1 first educator
- 1 second educator
- 2 unqualified

OR

- 2 first educators
- 2 unqualified educators



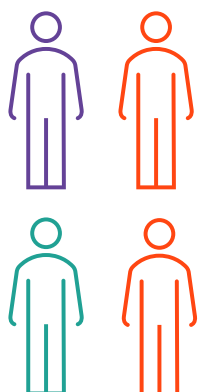
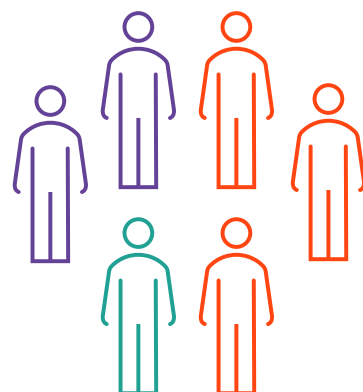
80

school age children
(maximum 90)

- 1 first educator
- 2 second educators
- 3 unqualified educators

OR

- 2 first educators
- 1 second educator
- 2 unqualified educators



43

40 school age children + **3 preschool** children
(maximum 56 with 4 educators)

- 1 first educator
- 1 second educator
- 2 unqualified educators

OR

- 2 first educators
- 2 unqualified educators

