

MONTESSORI QUALITY: AUTHENTIC PRACTICE (MQ:AP) FEATURES AND BENEFITS

FEATURES	BENEFITS
Maintaining excellent MQ:AP features	Montessori Community familiar with the product
National quality approach	Mutual goals across Australia
Confidentiality	Engenders trust in process
Specifically, a Montessori program	Montessori adds value to organisations
Point of difference with Quality Assurance requirements	Avoids duplication and waste
Continuous improvement model	Aligns to Montessori philosophy
Old standards updated, formerly The Prepared Adult, The Prepared Environment, The Education Program and Leadership	Requested by teachers in Montessori education services and validated by the original MQAP working party
Advertise all education services that are in the MQ:AP	Confidence for MQ:AP within the parent bodies
Annual fee has been greatly reduced	Industry standard/ fair price of marketing
Adjustments to the program	Modifications offer clarity of purpose
MQ:AP to have non-profit charity, the Montessori Australia Organisation (MAO), that has specific role of stewardship of IP	MAO Directors focus on charitable objects and are separate from Montessori Australia's service provision
Self- Assessment	Industry preferred option due to costs
Focus on authentic practice with staff	Supports education planning/ reflection
Streamlined online application	Simplified reporting, reducing re-work
Integrated systems approach	Aligned with Montessori philosophy
Pathways to excellence are unique	Differentiated journeys – all levels of growth
Include additional standards: customers and stakeholders	Systems thinking values customer and stakeholder perceptions
Revise the mentor program with a Montessori Authentic Practice (MAP) Guide that is based at each education service and is selected by their leadership	Leadership is in better position to select a person with empathy, understanding, culturally sensitive, and active listening skills
Build capacity through support to the MAP Guide through networks, training, and online guidelines and information	Inter-rater reliability if the MAP Guides are trained to be quality coaches, as they are given consistent information
MQ:AP Verifiers will visit education services, once ready to be registered, to verify the records,	Verifiers are experienced and impartial, an external visitor adds objectivity, can offer

observe classrooms, verify materials and processes, meet with stakeholders, and will produce a confidential report to school leadership	suggestions, and can remove the concerns of isolation. They add value to the organisation with a confidential report based on data for continuous improvement
Fees for MQ:AP Verifier services	Industry standard for data collection/report
Verifier reviews to be recommended by Verifier team for three or five years	Annual Verifier review is onerous for high quality services
Reviews to be held two years post new leadership/ ownership change	The quality of processes may change with new leadership/ownership
MQ:AP program imbedded in the service support AECQA and State requirements for excellence	Families invested in program; meaningful to the community; families understand best practice
Peer to peer networking and sharing between services	Constant improvement of each service and genuine support
Available to all Montessori education services whether a member of Montessori Australia or not	A national approach to authentic practice that includes all education services