



MONTESSOR QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME

2015 UPDATE

After a few years of trialling the Montessori Quality Assurance Programme (MQAP), the Montessori Quality Assurance Council (MQAC) has relaunched the MQAP to take into account the needs of today's educational environment of standards, accountability and professionalism.

The MQAP now not only includes an emphasis on continuous improvement but also a registration component. Schools and centres that have been assessed to meet the majority of MQAP quality standards will be designated as "Montessori Registered" schools and centres.

The MAF website (montessori.org.au) will list all services participating in the MQAP according to the following levels:

- APPLIED** Have applied to the programme and committed to the Montessori Charter.
- PARTICIPATING** Are participating in a mentoring programme to support implementation of the Quality Standards in preparation for an assessment visit.
- REGISTERED** Have had an assessment visit and been assessed to be meeting the majority of Quality Standards.

All schools and early childhood services are eligible to participate in MQAP with the prerequisite that they are MAF subscribers. There will be no cost increases as the programme costs are subsidised by MAF subscriptions.

Assessment will be carried out by the Montessori Quality Assurance Council. Schools and centres will be prioritised for the assessment process in the following order:

1. Schools and centres that have at least one mentor visit
2. Schools and centres that have completed all the self-evaluation documentation and are waiting for a mentor visit
3. Schools and centres that have already applied to be part of the MQAP
4. Schools and centres that have previously applied and now wish to rejoin the MQAP
5. Schools and centres that are new applicants from 2015

Registration will be granted for 3 or 5 years depending on the percentage of quality standards met or if there have been any significant changes at the school or centre. To retain registration the school or centre will still need to submit a yearly MQAP Annual Progress Report and maintain membership of MAF.

MAF will now begin to promote MQAP to the general public, encouraging prospective consumers and families to seek schools and centres that provide quality Montessori environments and who are part of the MQAP.

MAF has also appointed a MQAP Coordinator, Debra Avery, debra@montessori.org.au. Debra will be available to assist any schools or centres involved in MQAP.