1. In December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments’ (COAG) agreed to a partnership between the Australian Government and States and Territories to pursue substantial reform in early childhood development, including reforms to the early childhood education and care quality system. COAG endorsed Australia’s first comprehensive set of aspirations, outcomes, progress measures and future early childhood policy direction in March 2008.
2. At its July 2008 meeting, COAG asked that a national early childhood development strategy be developed for its consideration as part of the broad early childhood reform agenda.  In October 2008, COAG agreed that the National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Strategy would be considered again by COAG by July 2009.
3. On 2 August 2008 a discussion paper was released by the Australian Government providing an initial outline of the issues relating to the development of a new national quality framework.
4. A national early childhood development reform package is being presented to COAG in July 2009 consisting of:

* a national strategy for early childhood development services to 2020, intended to provide a comprehensive approach to building a better coordinated and more effective early childhood development system; and
* a national quality reform agenda involving:
  + a set of draft national quality standards;
  + draft model for service quality rating system;
  + a draft [Early Years Learning Framework](http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/EarlyYearsLearningFramework.aspx); and
  + proposed improvements to regulatory arrangements.

1. Cabinet approved the early childhood development reform package for consideration by COAG in July 2009.
2. *Attachments*

* [Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy](Attachments/Childhood%20Development%20Strategy.pdf)
* [Belonging, Being and Becoming: An Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](Attachments/Framework.pdf)
* [Regulation Impact Statement for Early Childhood Education and Care Quality Reforms](Attachments/RIS.pdf)
* [An economic analysis of the proposed ECEC National Quality Agenda](Attachments/Agenda.pdf)