



Office for Early Childhood Education and Care

Big picture presentation

For PSCQ video link

15 September 2009



Overview

- The Office
- Research base
- National reform agenda
- Queensland reform agenda





Office for Early Childhood Education and Care

- Announced in September 2008 as part of *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* (Q2)
- Formally established on 1 January 2009
- Hosted by the Department of Education and Training
- Driving Queensland Government policy to optimise children's early development
- Leading Queensland Government input to the national early childhood reform agenda



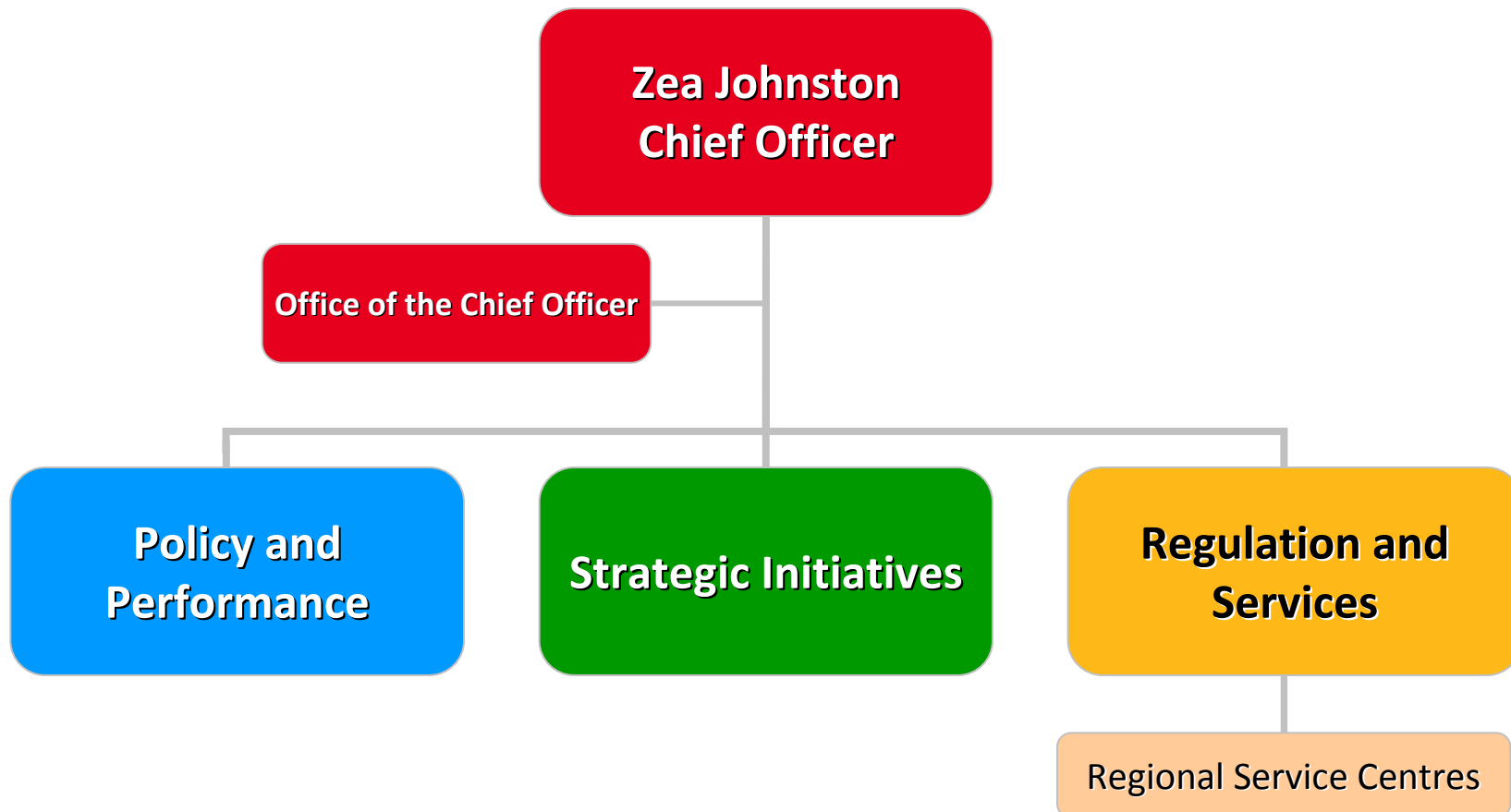
Office Responsibilities

A mix of functions from the **Department of Communities**
Department of Education & Training:

- Licensing, regulation, monitoring around of 2500 licensed services:
- Review of the *Child Care Act 2002*
- Grant funding: including community kindergartens
- Child Care Information System
- Early years policy development and coordination
- State and national early childhood reform agendas
- ECEC performance monitoring and reporting



Office Structure





Evidence Base

- Compelling international evidence for investment in the early years
- Experiences from birth to eight years shapes future life chances
- Child brain development is rapid and responsive, with experiences ‘hard-wiring’ the brain for long term cognitive and emotional abilities



Evidence Base

- Better outcomes for the individual:
 - Improved cognitive ability
 - Social and emotional development
 - Increased employment participation
 - Lifelong earnings
 - Better physical and mental health
- Benefits for the community:
 - Reduced costs associated with chronic disease, unemployment, welfare, crime, mental health and social issues such as teenage pregnancy and child abuse



National Reform Agenda

COAG's Vision

Children are born healthy and have access to the support, education and care throughout early childhood that equips them for life and learning, delivered in a way that actively engages parents, and meets the workforce participation needs of parents





National Reform Agenda

COAG 2 July Outcomes:

- National Early Childhood Development Strategy
- Consultation Regulation Impact Statement
- The Early Years Learning Framework





State Reform Agenda

Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland

All children have access to a quality early childhood education, so they are ready for school

Alignment with COAG commitment of universal access to early learning for all 4 year olds by 2013, delivered by a qualified teacher for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year





State Reform Agenda

Queensland's Strategy for Achieving Universal Access to Kindergarten

- Workforce initiatives
- Infrastructure planning and delivery
- New funding model
- Innovative service delivery models
- Curriculum development
- Disability and family support initiatives



Early Years Learning Framework

- Development led by Charles Sturt University
- Trialled in 28 ECEC services nationally (4 in Queensland)
- EYLF and Families' Guide released in July 2009
- Focus on play based learning and working in partnership with families



Early Years Learning Framework

Queensland's Implementation Plan for EYLF:

- Sector information sessions late 2009
- Collaborating with Professional Support Coordinator Queensland (PSCQ) to provide professional development
- Working with universities and training organisations to embed EYLF in programs
- Educators' Guide trial – expected release late 2009



Thank you