



## **POLICY STATEMENT Children Services Unit**

### **WATER SAFETY**

**POLICY ADOPTED:** 17 June 2014

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#### **Policy Objective:**

Children's safety and well-being will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and preventative strategies; and
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

#### **Policy Statement:**

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

#### **Statutory Legislation & Considerations:**

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 168

#### **Definitions:**

In this policy 'staff' refers to staff employed by Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit and educators registered with the Bland/Temora Family Day Care Scheme.

#### **Responsibilities:**

##### **The Nominated Supervisor will:**

- Provide guidance and education to staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

##### **Staff will:**

- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.
- Ensure no child participates in an excursion where a water hazard is not fenced appropriately unless higher child to staff ratios are maintained and a risk assessment has been conducted and documented. When programs involve excursions to public parks or venues that are in the vicinity of water, higher ratios will be maintained.
- During excursions, ensure any water hazards ie ponds or fountains at the premises that could constitute a drowning hazard are securely covered or inaccessible to children.
- Ensure water play activities are supervised at all times. Water troughs, wading pools, sprinklers and soaker hoses may be used if children are constantly in the sight of the educator at all times.

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
- Ensure no child is permitted to access public/private swimming pools.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left unsupervised in play areas or accessible to children.
- Ensure all water holding containers are stored to ensure they cannot refill with water.

In addition, Family Day Care Educators will:

- Ensure if the Educator has a need to leave the area (answer the phone, toileting) water play **CEASES** and becomes **inaccessible** to the children in care
- Ensure no child while in the care of an educator as part of the Education and Care service is to swim in a pool at the educator's home at any time while the service is being provided.
- Ensure any water hazards i.e. ponds or fountains at the premises that could constitute a drowning hazard are securely covered or inaccessible to children.
- Discuss and seek approval from the Coordination Unit for any excursion where a water hazard is not fenced appropriately.
- Ensure pools are fenced and gated according to the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and provide the Coordination Unit with a certificate of currency every five years.
- Ensure any pool filters are inaccessible to children.
- Ensure safety devices are used on all hot water taps where the hot water cannot be maintained at a medium temperature.
- Ensure plugs (from bathroom sinks, spas, baths or laundry tubs) and nappy buckets are placed out of children's reach at all times.

### **Recommended Practices:**

#### Operational Safety

- Any excursion, outing or transportation risk assessment will include whether a water hazard is present or passed by, including control measures to manage the risk.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at a medium temperature at all service locations or safety devices in use at all times. At the Children Services Unit premises, thermostatic valves are to be tested and serviced annually by a qualified plumber.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling.
- Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

### **References:**

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2020) Guide to the National Quality Framework.

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Pool and Water Safety - [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)

Swimming pools Act 1992

### **Appendices:**

Nil

**Authorisation:**

<b>Status</b>		<b>Committee</b>	N/A	
		<b>Manex</b>	N/A	
<b>Owner</b>		Director of Corporate and Community Services		
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<b>Superseded Policy</b>				
	<b>Date of Adoption/ Amendment</b>	<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Minute Number</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
	16 October 2012	0	23102012	May 2014
	17 June 2014	1	12062014	May 2016
		2		May 2018
	9 October 2018	3		October 2020
	11 May 2021			August 2022
<b>Related Council Policy/Procedure</b>				
Work, Health and Safety				
Excursions				