

## **BATHING AND SHOWERING**

### **AUTHORISATION**

<b>POLICY TYPE:</b> <i>(Council or Operational)</i>	Operational
<b>POLICY LOCATION:</b> <i>(eg. Corporate, Engineering, etc.)</i>	Community Services
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b> <i>(by position title)</i>	Children Services Coordinator
<b>AUTHORISED BY:</b> <i>(GM or Director Title)</i>	Director Corporate and Community Services
<b>DATE ADOPTED:</b>	17 August 2021
<b>ADOPTED BY:</b> <i>(Manex or Council)</i>	Manex
<b>MINUTE NO:</b> <i>(If required)</i>	
<b>REVIEW DUE DATE:</b> <i>(Four years unless statutorily required sooner)</i>	July 2023
<b>REVISION NUMBER:</b>	

### **DOCUMENT HISTORY**

<b>VERSION NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS</b> <i>Include names of former policies that this policy will replace if applicable</i>	<b>AMENDED BY</b> <i>(Where required)</i>

### **REVIEW OF THIS POLICY**

This Policy will be reviewed within two (2) years from the date of adoption or as required in the event of legislative changes. The Policy may also be changed as a result of other amendment that are to the advantage that Council and in the spirit of this Policy. Any amendment to the Policy must be by way of a Council Resolution for all policies categorised as "Council" policies or the approval of the General Manager for all policies categorised as "Operational" policies.

## 1. Purpose:

When children are in care, Educators and the Nominated Supervisor will develop strategies for supervising bathing and dressing, that protects the child's dignity and that respects their privacy.

Particular attention is paid to this area when children are in **Family Day Care** for extended hours or for overnight care. When children are in care for extended hours or for overnight care bathing and showering should be limited.

## 2. Scope:

This policy document applies to all staff and Educators of the Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit and Bland Temora Family Day Care, along with children and families enrolled with Bland Shire Council Children Services Unit.

## 3. Outcomes:

To ensure bathing and showering of children will be conducted in consultation with the families and the child's dignity, privacy and rights respected at all times in a safe environment.

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities:

### **Educators will:**

#### **In relation to bathing:**

- Before any child baths, ensure all materials are ready in advance (towels, face washers, pump soap etc).
- Run the bath prior to the child being in the bath.
- Ensure hot water is turned down to 50°C or the hot water tap is covered.
- Check the temperature of the water in the bath using their bare skin prior to placing the child in the bath. If the skin flushes when you put it in the water, the water is too hot for a child.
- Ensure that the water in the bath reaches no higher than approximately a child's belly button or approximately eight (8) cm for a child who sits on their own.
- **Not** add water to the bath while the child is in it.
- Only bath one (1) child at any one time.
- Use fresh water for each child that is bathed.
- Ensure the water is let out of the bath as soon as bath time is over.

#### **In relation to showering:**

- Before any child showers, ensure all materials are ready in advance (towels, face washers, pump soap, etc).
- Be present at all times.
- Run the shower prior to the child being in the shower to ensure the temperature of the water is safe. If the skin flushes when placed in water, the water is too hot for a child.
- Ensure hot water is turned down to 50°C or the hot water tap is covered.
- Ensure that any plugs or objects that may plug the shower drain are out of reach of children.

### **In additional a Family Day Care Educators will:**

- **When a school-aged child is in care, through consultation with the parent**, allow the child to have either a shower or bath. The child will be supervised at all times or their need for privacy will be respected depending on the child's age. If the Educator is not physically present within the same room at all times, the Educator will check on the child at least every 2-5 (two to five) minutes through verbal communication without disrespecting the child's privacy and the Educator will stay within hearing distance of the shower or bath.

**5. Legislation and Supporting Documents:**

Education and Care Services National Law 2010  
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011  
Work Health and Safety Regulation and Act 2011 (NSW)  
Guide to the National Quality Framework 2018

**6. Relationship to Community Strategic Plan:**

This Policy supports Council's Delivery Program Strategy DP4.2 Provide quality, accredited and affordable Education and Care Services within Bland Shire and surrounds (Bland Preschool, Family Day Care, Mobile Resource Unit, Vacation Care and Toy Library services)

**7. Attachments:**

N/A