

DENTAL HEALTH

AUTHORISATION

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

DOCUMENT HISTORY

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

Dental Health discussions will be a part of our daily practices, promoting good dental health behaviour and to help reduce the prevalence of dental caries (tooth decay) in all children.

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 the Service encourages and promotes good dental hygiene practices and lifelong learning for children and their families.

4. Roles and Responsibilities:

The Educational Leader will:

- Provide resources for Educators on dental health practices with children.
- Provide families with information on dental health practices with children through a variety of communication tools.

Educators will:

- Include dental health practices in the program by supporting children to access dental health resources.
- Talk with children about dental health during the day, such as encouraging them to drink water at the end of meals.
- Ensure water bottles or cups will be available to children at all times.
- Give children bottles before they go to bed or after they wake up. (*tooth decay can be reduced by allowing the child to finish the bottle before going to bed and not let milk settle on teeth*).
- Report to families any signs of dental cavities or any accident or incident causing damage to the tooth.

Management of Injury to a Child's Tooth

In the management of any dental trauma, Educators need to follow the following procedure in order to reduce the extent of the injury and make an accurate diagnosis.

Step 1: Remain calm and try to find the tooth. A dental professional will want to see the tooth and /or the tooth fragments. It is important to know whether the tooth or tooth fragments have been inhaled.

Inhaled teeth are a medical emergency and the child MUST be taken immediately to the Emergency Department of a hospital.

Step 2: **Do not** put it back in the socket because it will damage the underlying developing permanent tooth or gum. Place the tooth in some milk or saline to avoid dehydrating and damaging the root. Do not rinse or scrub the dirt off the tooth.

Notify parent or carers of the incident immediately. Time is a critical factor in saving the tooth.

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