

POLICY STATEMENT

Children Services Unit

CSU WATER SAFETY POLICY

AUTHORISATION

POLICY TYPE:	Operational
POLICY LOCATION:	Corporate
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Children Service Coordinator
AUTHORISED BY:	Director Corporate and Community Services
DATE ADOPTED:	17 June 2014
ADOPTED BY:	Manex
MINUTE NO:	
REVIEW DUE DATE:	August 2026
REVISION NUMBER:	
RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	

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>
0	October 2012		CSU Coordinator
1	June 2014		CSU Coordinator
2	October 2018		CSU Coordinator
3	May 2021		CSU Coordinator
4	August 2022		CSU Coordinator

REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed within four (4) 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:

The purpose of this policy is to guide educators and staff in safe and supervised practices when children are exposed to water based play activities.

2. Scope:

This policy document applies to all staff, educators and families enrolled within a Bland Shire Children Service, inclusive of Bland/Temora Family Day Care.

3. Outcomes:

Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and preventative strategies. Water provided at the service will be clean and hygienic for both play and drinking.

4. Roles and 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.

The Educators will-

- Educate 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 where possible.
- 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, mug with a screw lid or take away lidded vessels that prevent spilling.
- Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

5. Definitions:

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

6. Legislation and Supporting Documents:

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 168

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

Pool and Water Safety - www.kidsafe.com.au

Swimming pools Act 1992

Bland Shire Children Services Unit Risk Assessment

Work, Health and Safety

Excursion and Regular Outing policy

7. Attachments:

NIL