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## WATER SAFETY

### QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

**National Quality Standard (NQS)**

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
<b>2.1.2</b>	<b>Health practices and procedures</b>	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Safety</b>	Each child is protected
<b>2.2.1</b>	<b>Supervision</b>	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
<b>2.2.2</b>	<b>Incident and emergency management</b>	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practices and implemented

**Education and Care Services National Regulations**

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law	
<b>Sec. 165</b>	Offence to inadequately supervise children
<b>Sec. 167</b>	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
<b>25(1)(c)</b>	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises
<b>101</b>	Conduct of risk assessment for excursions
<b>115</b>	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
<b>122</b>	Educators must be working directly with children to be included in ratios
<b>126</b>	Centre bases services – general educator qualifications
<b>168(2)(a)(iii)</b>	Education and care service must have policies and procedures in relations to Water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
<b>170</b>	Policies ad procedures to be followed

### Introduction

Woden Early Childhood Centre (WECC) considers the safety and supervision of children in and around water to be of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in WECC. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

### Scope

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, volunteers and visitors of the Centre.

### Goals

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking

### Strategies

The Nominated Supervisor or Director and Educational Leader will:

- provide guidance and education to educators 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
- conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements prior to taking children on an excursion which contains or may contain water
- ensure at least one educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification must be in attendance at all times

Educators will:

- ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers, or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities
- ensure water troughs are not used without a stand, keeping it off the ground with sand on the bottom of the trough
- never leave children alone near any water
- ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- teach children about staying safe in and around water
- empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or be accessible to children
- ensure laundry, storerooms and educator areas are to have No Children Allowed Signs on doors to remind adults to close doors behind them
- 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 and stored. At the end of each day, the water container used to fill children's drink bottles will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly
- complete a daily Safety Inspection of the premises to ensure that all hazards are known and minimised. When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns
- ensure children in a bath/tub/sink are directly supervised
- utilise water activities in appropriate weather
- allow children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials, plus a space for

- boats and floating objects to be used with other water play equipment
- monitor taps and make sure it is turned off securely when not in use

### *Operational Safety*

- grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with 'do not drink' signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption
- hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced annually by a plumber
- a risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place, with particular attention to be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water
- water for any animals visiting WECC must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present. Water for WECC's chickens will be changed regularly by educators and children entering the chickens' pen will be supervised
- water for pets at the service must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when educators are present

Important: parents will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the Centre or while under Centre care. Also, details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record

Important: if the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours

## Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within WECC is managed effectively by educators to ensure children remain safe and healthy

## Related policies /documents

- First aid*
- Incident, injury, trauma and illness*
- Supervision*

## Sources and references

- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (2014)
- ECA Code of Ethics (2016)
- National Health and Medical Research Council – [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

- Pool and Water Safety – [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)
- Water use and restrictions see – [www.bom.gov.au/water/restrictions](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/restrictions)

<b>Policy Reviewed</b>		<b>Ratified Date</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
<b>Modifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added to the education and care services national regulations table</li> <li>• Minor punctuation and wording edits</li> <li>• Added review table with modifications and updates</li> <li>• Sources checked and updated</li> <li>• New format</li> </ul>	Sep 2022	Sep 2025
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<b>Modifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Policy</li> </ul>	July 2018	July 2020
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<b>Modifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Policy</li> </ul>	Aug 2013	Aug 2015

## Authorisation

Paul Halloran  
 President  
 2021-22 WECC Management Committee