

# ECEC POLICY



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| <b>Water Safety Policy</b>                                 | Document No:   | r 168 a (iii)           |
|  | Approval Date: | Feb 2018                |
|  | Approved By:   | Family Services Manager |
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| Responsible Officer:<br><b>Early Childhood Coordinator</b> | Version        | 01                      |
| Authorising Officer:<br>Family Services Manager            |                |                         |

The City of Greater Geelong is a Child Safe Organisation. We take the safety and wellbeing of children seriously and have zero tolerance for child abuse of any type.

## 1. PURPOSE

The City of Greater Geelong Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Services, acknowledge the importance of safe practices around water. Water hazards such as pools, spas, rivers, lakes, dams, beaches and water-based activities are a high risk to children's safety. Active supervision of children around water is paramount.

## 2. SCOPE

### ALL SERVICES:

Water play is a valuable sensory learning experience to children. It is important to be aware that children can drown in a few centimetres of water.

This policy is required to ensure all educators and families are informed of the policy requirements in relation to experiences involving water and excursions where there is a water hazard.

In line with the **Paramountcy Principle (s2A)** every person involved in delivering our education and care services will ensure that the safety, rights and best interests of children is the **paramount consideration in all their decisions and actions**.

## 3. REFERENCES

- Education and Care National Regulations 2011
- Amendments 2017
- Education and Care National Law Act 2010
- Amendments 2017
- Education and Care National Quality Standard
- Swimming Pools Act 1992
- Child Safe Standards 2022 2,6,9,11

## 4. ECEC POLICY

### IN ALL SERVICES, EDUCATORS WILL:

- Ensure a risk assessment is completed for all excursions and events and that all water hazards are identified and considered when planning excursions, checked over by the Centre Management team.
- Remain vigilant in the supervision of children in and around water and be alert to the potential risks in everyday practice in the learning environment, including bush/beach kindergarten, excursions to parks, sanctuaries, beaches, rivers, pools or ponds.
- Never leave children alone near any water. (*part of **Guidelines** - Supervision in Early Childhood Programs*)
- Be aware of all small bodies of water that may be present and may pose a drowning risk including, nappy/cleaning buckets, pet food bowls containers in the playground that may be filled after rain or areas of poor drainage. (*part of **Daily Playground Checklist** completed*)
- Only fill wading pools, plastic and blow-up pools, water troughs to a maximum depth of 30cms, otherwise pool fencing is required.
- When setting up water play experiences in the playground; ensure they are placed in “**high visibility areas**” – where effective supervision can be maintained at all times. *Consider not available if only one educator in outside area. (Refer to **Guidelines** - Supervision in early Childhood Programs).*
- All vessels need to be emptied immediately after use; and stored in an upturned manner preventing rain from being captured.
- Ensure clear communication between all team members about who is responsible for emptying and packing away water play each day – who will complete a check of all water play activities have been packed away.
- Not allow children with illnesses such as diarrhoea, stomach upsets, open sores, or nasal congestion to enter a pool, or wading pool due to cross contamination.
- Use opportunities to discuss water safety with children as part of their ongoing education and care program.
- Ensure children are dressed appropriately using waterproof smocks etc or have a change of clothing available prior to accessing water play.

### **ECEC Service Ratios:**

These ratios should be determined according to the risk assessment and the following should be taken into consideration:

- The age group of the children attending.
- The type of water activity involved (beach walk or swim etc.)
- The competency and characteristics of the children on the excursion.
- The weather, travel, parking, access to bathroom facilities etc.

## **5. QUALITY RECORDS & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- ACECQA Policy Guidelines – Water Safety.
- Guidelines - Supervision in Early Childhood Programs
- Guidelines for Supervision on Excursions
- Regular Outings Template and Excursion Risk Assessment Forms

- Excursion Template and Excursion Risk Assessment Form