ROBE CHILD CARE ON WHEELS SERVICE

ANTI-BIAS AND INCLUSION POLICY

Responsible Officer:	*Manager Childcare Services*
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Relevant Regulations:	EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS S. 2A Paramount consideration—safety, rights and best interests of children S. 162B Child safety training S. 166A Offences relating to inappropriate conduct 155 Interactions with children 156 Relationships in groups 157 Access for parents 168 Education and care service must have policies and procedures 170 Policies and procedures must be followed
National Quality Standards (NQS):	QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN 5.1 Relationships between educators and children- Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child

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	5.1.1 Positive educator-to-child interactions - Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included. 5.1.2 Dignity and rights of the child- The dignity and rights of every child are maintained 5.2 Relationships between children- Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships 5.2.1 Collaborative learning- Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other

RELATED LEGISLATION

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Sex Discrimination Act 1984	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

RELATED POLICIES

Behaviour Guidance Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Educational Program Policy	Interaction with Children, Family and Staff Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

PURPOSE

We aim to provide an inclusive environment for all children, families and educators, acknowledging the uniqueness of every person regardless of race, gender, sexuality, religion, culture, physical or mental ability, or socioeconomic background. This policy ensures all children, families, and staff are welcomed and treated equitably and with respect. Our *Gender Equity Policy* provides further direction on how our Service promotes equitable opportunities and challenges gender stereotypes within the broader Anti-Bias and inclusion framework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to educators, families, staff, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our *Anti-Bias and Inclusion Policy* underpin the philosophy of our Service. The role of educators is to encourage children to share and learn about each child's individuality, their family and their role within the Service. This policy aims to assist children to form positive social relationships,

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develop their identity and self-awareness and to learn to accept the diversity of members within and outside of the Service community. Our Service embeds the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and promotes a culture of safety and wellbeing to minimise the risk of child abuse or harm to children whilst promoting children's sense of security and belonging.

"Being culturally responsive includes a genuine commitment to take action against discrimination in any form, embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum and working collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families." (EYLF, V2.0, 2022, p. 65)

CHILD SAFETY AND INCLUSION

Inclusion supports children's rights, fosters diversity and overcomes bias and barriers that may exist preventing children from participating in experiences within our Service. Inclusion is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international conventions, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Inclusion involves considering all children's social, cultural and linguistic diversity (including learning styles, abilities, disabilities, gender, family circumstances and geographic location) in curriculum decision-making processes. (EYLF, V2.0, 2022, p. 66)

Our Service recognises that inclusion, equity and respect are fundamental to child safety. We ensure that the safety, rights and best interests of the child are the paramount consideration in all decisions and practices. We acknowledge that discriminatory, exclusionary or humiliating behaviour may constitute inappropriate conduct and is inconsistent with child safe obligations.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/EDUCATORS WILL:

- ensure all children are treated with dignity and respect
- actively prevent and respond to discriminatory language, stereotyping, exclusion or bias
- promote a culturally safe and inclusive environment that supports children's identity and sense of belonging
- document and respond to incidents of bias or discrimination in accordance with the *Child Safe Environment Policy and Code of Conduct*

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- ensure all staff complete mandatory child safe training, including awareness of inappropriate conduct and culturally safe practices
- ensure any behaviour that compromises a child's dignity, rights or wellbeing will be addressed promptly and managed in line with legislative requirements and Service policy
- ensure all children are provided with equitable access to resources, activities and environments; participate meaningfully in learning experiences that foster a sense of belonging; and have opportunities to experience positive learning outcomes.

CULTURAL OR NATIONAL ORIGIN AND RACIAL IDENTITY

Our Service values and promotes equity, respect and awareness of different cultures. We ensure a culturally inclusive curriculum that reflects the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of our society.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/EDUCATORS WILL:

- ensure obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law, Education and Care Services National Regulations and Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) are met
- access information and professional development/awareness about other cultural and racial identities, especially those relevant within the Service
- engage in critical reflection about stereotypes and biases
- foster an inclusive environment within the Service
- have zero tolerance for racist or discriminatory behaviour by adults or children
- ensure our program design and delivery build on community and cultural strengths
- develop strong partnerships with children and families to strengthen cultural responsiveness at both an individual and community level
- ensure children have opportunities to participate with a wide variety of resources from the daily life of a variety of families and cultures
- where possible, engage educators that reflect a variety of cultural, national origin, and racial identities
- affirm and foster children's knowledge and pride in cultural identity
- foster children's curiosity, enjoyment and empathetic awareness of cultural differences and similarities
- provide children with tools to respond appropriately to bias- build on children's strengths, interests and individuality

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- teach children to overcome any inappropriate responses triggered by cultural differences
- encourage children to ask about differences in physical characteristics
- enable children to feel pride and equality about their racial identity
- help children to become aware of our shared physical characteristics – what makes us all human
- encourage parent input into the program and to participate on a level that they feel comfortable with sharing their culture and their language
- collect information from each family on enrolment and incorporate this information into the program to meet individual family needs in relation to ethnicity and home language
- develop communication plans with families to ensure inclusion, including the use of interpreters and cultural support where required
- use educators' and children's first languages, where appropriate, within the Service environment
- respect all cultures by presenting photographs, pictures, play equipment, books, posters, music, dramatic play resources, and dolls that will encourage open discussion and exploration of a variety of cultures
- provide resources that reflect diversity and a range of skin tones to foster respect and understanding of people from all backgrounds
- develop an understanding of the needs, strengths, and attitudes of each culture represented at the Service
- challenge inappropriate or stereotypical comments or conversations by children.

DIVERSITY IN FAMILY COMPOSITION

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- create an environment that is welcoming to all families
- respect each family, and work in partnership to support the child's emergent identity as an individual, member of their family, our Service, and the community
- engage in simple discussions about families that focus on fact rather than values e.g., "*some children*
  live with their mum or dad, some children live with their mum and dad, some with grandparents, and some with two mums or two dads".

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- be encouraged to develop awareness of and reflect on their own feelings, beliefs and background, and evaluate the effect these may have on their attitudes and interactions with families
- respect family lifestyle choices
- treat all families respectfully regardless of socioeconomic background
- discuss how members of the community can support one another and people experiencing disadvantage through the provision of resources, donations of goods or time, etc.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PERSPECTIVES

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- demonstrate commitment to cultural safety as a child safety obligation
- show respect and a commitment to reconciliation by developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- reflect on the current level of cultural responsiveness of our staff
- promote the inclusion of children's voices in all decisions that affect them
- build and strengthen our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions
- embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum
- attend professional development to support our understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives
- provide opportunities for professional reflection
- create a culturally safe environment to ensure children have the ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights [Child Safe Standards]
- identify and challenge our own cultural assumptions, beliefs and commitments to cultural competency
- engage with local Aboriginal families and communities through Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups
- invite Elders and Traditional Owners to speak to children, staff and families about the histories and cultures of the local area
- develop an Acknowledgement of Country in collaboration with Elders, community members, children and families, which will be displayed, given during special events, and incorporated into the program on a regular basis

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- develop awareness and meaningful understanding about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians
- encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to access children's services
- show sensitivity and respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages by incorporating verbal and visual languages into the Service environment.

ABILITY

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- provide an inclusive educational environment in which all children can succeed
- promote acceptance, respect and appreciation for individuals' varying abilities
- consult with all families and other professionals to enable full participation in the program for children with varying abilities
- evaluate and intentionally plan for inclusive learning environments, including making reasonable adjustments to optimise access and enable all children to develop autonomy, independence, competency, confidence and pride
- provide children and parents with developmentally appropriate information about varying abilities to foster understanding that we are all similar and different
- empower children in their own learning to ensure that they gain a feeling of self-respect
- treat all children fairly and develop an understanding that everyone has something important to contribute
- find examples in books, movies and TV shows that reflect attitudes about diversity, ability and disability
- observe all children and, in consultation with families, provide an individualised program to extend each child's interests and abilities
- create an environment where all children can participate in activities and experiences.

PROMOTING INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND HOME LANGUAGES INTO THE CURRICULUM

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- promote inclusive practices that reflect children's social, cultural and linguistic diversity
- acknowledge that the use of children's home language underpins their sense of identity and conceptual development (EYLF V2.0)
- work collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and their families to support meaningful participation (EYLF V2.0)
- ensure all children have equitable access to resources, experiences and learning opportunities

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- adapt activities, interactions, communication, the environment, and documentation to ensure all children and families are actively included and supported to participate in the curriculum
- promote positive influences by modelling appropriate communication, non-biased and non-gender-specific language, and respectful attitudes develop appropriate expectations for each child based on their individual strengths, developmental needs, and interests
- provide children with a range of resources, equipment and opportunities to enhance their awareness of diversity
- present books that reflect different languages and children's first language and multicultural perspectives
- create an environment which supports natural language learning and interaction
- encourage and support families to maintain and value their home language and English
- engage in professional development about cultural competence and building linguistic capacity
- assist educators with the development of required skills and knowledge for working with all children and families
- subscribe to Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) or other online programs to support children's learning with play-based language learning experiences. (check eligibility for ELLA)

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Anti-Bias and Inclusion Policy* will be evaluated and reviewed on an annual basis or earlier if there are changes to the legislation, ACECQA guidance or any incident related to our policy. Feedback will be requested from children, families, staff, educators and management, and families will be notified of any changes to policies within 14 days.

RELATED RESOURCES

Reconciliation Action Plan Guide	Inclusive Audit

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