

Our Lady of Hope Greenwith Campus Outside School Hours Care



POLICY DOCUMENT

<h2>WATER SAFETY POLICY</h2>

BACKGROUND

Water activities are a significant part of Australian life and provide children with opportunities to access a variety of activities for experience, learning and fun. However, all bodies of water present a significant hazard and require service educators to ensure increased vigilance around them to ensure the safety of children. It is acknowledged that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

The Regulations do not specify a specific educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature. The number of educators present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. It must also be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision. The adequacy of supervision shall be determined by a range of factors that include:

- numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- number and positioning of educators
- each child's current activity
- areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children
- the experience, knowledge and skill of each educator.

Definition of a body of water

The service recognises the following locations are bodies of water:

- swimming pools
- wading pools
- lakes
- ponds
- the sea
- creeks
- dams
- rivers
- equipment used by the service that could contain 5cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Our Lady of Hope Greenwith Campus OSHC service recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and takes the safety of children and educators involved in water-based activities and around bodies of water seriously. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities and the outcomes will underpin the educator to child ratio for the activities.

RELATIONSHIP

Regulations	National Quality Standard	Other policies/Service documentation	Other legislation/Guidelines
168	2.3	Risk Assessment Policy	Camps and Excursions Guidelines
101 (2)b		Sun Protection Policy Excursions Policy Child-safe Environment Policy	Where preschool age children are present, services should refer to the DECD Water Safety Procedures for Preschools

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

The service shall ensure the safety of children around bodies of water by:

- Undertaking a risk assessment that will determine the required educator to child ratio for the proposed activity.
- Ensuring there are educators present that have a current, approved first aid qualification including CPR.
- Demonstrating a preference for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of lifeguards.
- Ensuring educators are placed in positions that allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Avoiding any venue with a body of water where sufficient precautions can not be taken to ensure the safety of children.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

THE DIRECTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR-

- Actively looking for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of lifeguards, when the venue contains or has access to a body of water.
- Ensuring educators have the skills and abilities to safely facilitate the water activities.
- Ensuring educators position themselves in the environment so that every child is within sight of an adult at all times and that supervision is direct and vigilant; and that educators rotate their position in the environment on a regular basis to allow for movement and to maintain vigilance.
- On a swimming excursion, having some educators designated to supervise children from within the body of water
- Conducting a risk assessment on any venue the service plans to visit, to ensure that the service is able to provide appropriate levels of supervision and that the risk does not exceed the service's ability to maintain the safety of children.
- Ensuring a risk assessment is carried out on any activity the service sets up that allows children to access a body of water.

RESOURCES/REFERENCES

- Camps and Excursions Guidelines at www.decd.sa.gov.au/policiesa-z
- Water Safety Procedure for Preschools at www.decd.sa.gov.au/policiesa-z
- Royal Life Saving fact sheets at www.royallifesaving.com.au/www/html/156-fact-sheets.asp
- CESA Guidelines <http://online.cesanel.adl.catholic.edu.au/docushare/dsweb/HomePage>

(Chairperson)

(Date Reviewed)

(Principal)

(Date Reviewed)