

Water Safety Policy



Policy Relevant to:	All staff, Educators & families
Policy links to:	Water Safety Procedure
Last Reviewed:	June 2023
Next Review:	September 2026
NQF:	101, 115, 122, 126, 168
NQS:	2.1.2, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2
National Law:	165, 167, 25(1)(c), 101, 115, 122, 126, 168(2)(a)(iii), 170, 345

Purpose

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in, or around water or water hazards. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences to help keep children safe in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in Adventure Patch services environment.

Policy

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, Adventure Patch must ensure that policies and procedures are in place for managing water safety, including during any water-based activities and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed.

According to Kidsafe, drowning is one of the leading causes of unintentional death for Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more rescued from near drowning situations. Non-fatal drowning incidents are also of great concern as they can have potential long-term effects, including brain damage and permanent disability.

The most common factor in childhood drowning is lack of supervision. A child can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. Items such as nappy buckets, sinks, pet drinking bowls, ponds, water features, water tanks are all potential drowning hazards. <https://kidsafe.com.au/water-safety/>

Water Hazards

The National Regulations make reference to 'water hazards' however the term is not expressly defined. In this policy, a water hazard is identified as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

A 'water hazard': Any water body that poses a potential drowning risk to children and could include:

- large bodies of water such as dams, creeks, river or pooling water.
- Fishponds.
- small bodies of water such as baths, mop buckets, sinks, basins.
- water feature, such as a wishing well.
- containers for feeding animals.
- water troughs, containers for paddling- clam shells.
- beach.
- any container with poor drainage that allows water to pool.

Related policies

Education, Curriculum and Learning Policy
Excursion Policy
Incident, Injury, Trauma and illness Policy
Sun safe Policy
Supervision Policy


Source

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines- Water Safety Guidelines
Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).
Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011) <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/>
Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations (2017).
Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).
KidSafe (2021). Water Safety. <https://kidsafe.com.au/water-safety/> National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): www.nhmrc.gov.au
Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Service Managers	Executive Team	June 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	June 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	SEPTEMBER 2026
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy maintenance - no major changes to policy • Hyperlinks checked. • 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		

Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris