

## Water Safety Policy

### RATIONALE

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place for managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities. According to Kidsafe (the recognised authority on the prevention of injuries in children), drowning continues to be one of the main causes of fatalities of Australian children. Every year a number of children are killed and hundreds more are 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, pools, water features and water tanks are potential drowning hazards.

### OBJECTIVES

Water safety policies and procedures help keep children safe in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education.

### PROCEDURES

Please refer to separate risk assessment which outlines:

- How educators and staff are to manage any risks around water
- Details about how any water hazards and associated risks, including water-based activities and excursions near water will be managed safely
- Information about adequate supervision around water play, excursions and water hazards
- Service procedures that give clear direction around any access to water while a child is enrolled in our service, e.g. water play, excursions, pools, water hazards, water features
- All excursions involving water will have that risk addressed explicitly in the risk assessment for the excursion

### References:

ACECQA Water safety Policy Guidelines (June 2021)

Kidsafe Water safety in Education and Care Settings (December 2018)

DfE Outdoor Learning Environments Standards (October 2020)

Managing Health Risks Associated with Interactive Water Features; SA Health,

### Concluding statement

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by both staff and the Governing Council and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the Centre.

This policy was endorsed by the Governing Council on 21/10/2021

Director: Kellie Holbrook

Chairperson: Carolyn Rainsford

Review date: Term 4 2024