



## Hallett Cove Preschool Hot Weather Policy

### Rationale:

At our centre we recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults and have greater difficulty in getting rid of heat. "Sports Medicine Australia" 2008

Inside, our centre has effective evaporative air conditioning and ceiling fans which are used as required in hot weather.

Outside, we have a large verandah, trees and play areas covered with shade cloth where children play in hot weather.

### Aims:

The aim of the Hallett Cove Preschool hot weather policy is to outline specific strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness to young children.

### Implementation:

All employees must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace.

**Temperature** If the temperature reaches 35 degrees Celsius on the Weather Station the program will be restricted to shaded play or indoor play if warranted.

**Shade** In hot weather all activities are conducted in shaded areas.

**Drinks** Cold filtered water is available at all times to children and they are frequently reminded to have drinks.

**Clothing** Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed and of a type that is sunsafe.

**Food** Parents are encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer pack enclosed. Children's food is to be kept in the trays provided inside where the building is air conditioned.

Parents and caregivers are able to wait inside the building when collecting children.

**Program** In hot weather, staff will modify the program and selection and placement of activities in accordance to the weather conditions and our sun protection policy.

In case of the breakdown of one cooling system, the other cooling system will be activated.

In case of a lengthy power blackout, the inside temperature and the reactions of children will be monitored and parents will be notified if their children are heat affected.

Children who are unable to be collected early will be supervised by staff and kept as comfortable as possible.

Children who would be returning to the next door child care centre after the session may be taken across earlier after consultation with the child care centre.

Refer also to Sun Protection Policy

Reviewed by staff and Governing Council - 6.2.2017

Endorsed by Governing Council Representative.....Date.....

Reviewed in 2 years from 6.2.2017

NQS Area 2 "Children's Health and Safety"

2.3.2 Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards

- The service will provide a safe and comfortable environment for children
- Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children
- Sun protection advice from Cancer Council is implemented

Regulation 168