

ENROLMENT POLICY

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Services provide high quality care for children before and after school, on pupil free days and during school holidays as Vacation Care programs. Enrolment and orientation can be both an exciting and an emotional time for children and families whether they attend only occasionally or on a regular basis. It is important to manage this time with sensitivity and support, building partnerships between families and the Out of School Hours Service. Such partnerships enable the Out of School Hours Care Service and families to work toward the common goal of promoting consistent quality outcomes for individual children and the Out of School Hours Service.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 6: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS		
6.1	Supportive relationships with families	Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role.
6.1.1	Engagement with the service	Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in their service and contribute to service decisions.
6.1.2	Parent views are respected	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected, and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing.
6.1.3	Families are supported	Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.
6.2	Collaborative partnerships	Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.
6.2.3	Community and engagement	The service builds relationships and engages with its community.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
78	Food and beverages
88	Infectious diseases
90	Medical conditions policy
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
96	Self-administration of medication

97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
102	Authorisation for excursions
157	Access for parents
160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider and family day care educator
161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
173	Prescribed information is to be displayed
177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider
178	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by family day care educator
181	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider
183	Storage of records and other documents

RELATED POLICIES

Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy Additional Needs Policy Arrival and Departure Policy Children’s Belongings Policy Control of Infectious Disease Policy Family Communication Policy Immunisation Policy	Orientation of New Families Policy Payment of Fees Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Record Keeping and Retention Policy Sun Safe Policy Withdrawal of a Child Policy
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PURPOSE

We aim to ensure children and families receive a positive and informative enrolment and orientation process that meets their individual needs. We strive to establish respectful and supportive relationships between families and the Out of School Hours Service to promote positive outcomes for children whilst adhering to legislative requirements.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, coordinators and visitors of the Out of School Hours Service.

ENROLMENT

According to the Child Care Provider Handbook (June 2019) *'enrolling children is a requirement under Family Assistance Law for all children who attend child care (or have an arrangement for care) regardless of their parent's or guardian's eligibility for Child Care Subsidy. An enrolment links the child, the individual claiming the subsidy and the child care service.'* An enrolment notice is required for each child attending the service. This reflects the type of arrangement that is in place between the provider and the family/individual or organisation.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our Service accepts enrolments of children who are formally enrolled in primary school.

Enrolments will be accepted providing:

- a) the maximum daily attendance does not exceed the licensed capacity of the Out of School Hours Service
- b) a vacancy is available for the booking required
- c) the adult to child ratio is maintained at the Out of School Hours Service
- d) priority of access guidelines are adhered to.

The Out of School Hours Service recognises the Educator as an agent for the Service in relation to the enrolment of children into the Service as permitted by National Education and Care Services Regulations and provides an efficient enrolment procedure that is clear and unambiguous to Out of School Hours Service educators and families.

PRIORITY OF ACCESS GUIDELINES

Our service aims to assist families who are most in need and may prioritise filling vacancies with children who are:

- At risk of serious abuse or neglect
- A child of a sole parent who satisfies, or parents who both satisfy, the activity test through paid employment.

ENROLMENT

When a family has indicated their interest in enrolling their child in our Service, we will organise an enrolment meeting to share information and build relationships.

- Families will be provided with a range of information about the Service which will include:

- collection/drop off procedures -ensuring children are signed in and out of the service
- programming methods, menu, incursions, excursions, inclusion, fees, policies, procedures, SunSmart requirements, regulations and the licensing and assessment process for our State the National Quality Framework, Out of School Hours routines, Educator qualifications, introduction to the service and learning environment and parent communication strategies.
- Families are invited to ask questions and seek any further information they require
- Families will be provided with vacancies, a start date and a suitable time for the child to be orientated to the Service
- Families will need to complete the enrolment form informing management of their child's interests, strengths and individual needs
- Any matters that are of a sensitive nature, such as discussing a child's medical needs, Court Orders, parenting plans or parenting orders, will be discussed privately with management. Families will be required to bring any documents required in relation to court orders, medical needs or plans
- Families will complete the enrolment form informing management of their child's interests, strengths and individual needs
- If a family or child uses English as a second language or speak another language at home, we request that families provide us with some key words in the language/s the child speaks so that educators can learn these words.
- Families must complete a Child Care Subsidy activity test to check eligibility and entitlements for CCS and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS). This can be completed online through myGov website.
- The Complying Written Arrangement (CWA) will be discussed with families which states the fees charged in exchange for care sessions.
- Information about gap fees and absences will be discussed.
- Where there are certain changes to the individual Complying Written Arrangements (CWA) for care between the provider and an individual, the provider must update the arrangement in writing, and the families are required to confirm the changes through myGov.
- It is a legal requirement that prior to the child starting at the Service we have all required documents including
 - the completed enrolment form
 - medical management plans (if relevant) completed by the child's general practitioner
 - a current Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
 - details of any court orders, parenting orders or parenting plans
- It is the family's responsibility to keep the Service informed of any changes to the information recorded on the application form.

FAMILIES WILL BE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. Full name/s of parent/s (or the person legally responsible for the care of the child) residential address, place of employment and contact telephone number
2. The full name and contact telephone number of a person or persons authorised by the parent who may be contacted in case of an emergency concerning the child if a parent is unable to be contacted. (authorised nominee)
3. The full name and contact telephone number of any person authorised by the parent to collect the child from the Service. (authorised nominee)
4. Full name of the child
5. Child's date of birth
6. Child's residency status
7. The child's address
8. Gender of the child
9. Cultural background of the child
10. Provision of care – if care will be a routine and/or casual etc.
11. Session start and end times
12. Complying Written Agreement on fee information
13. Relevant details regarding of child's school and class if being dropped of or collected from a school.
14. Any court orders or parenting agreements regarding the child
15. The primary language spoken by the child; if the child has not learnt to speak, the child's family's language
16. Any special requirements of the family, including for example cultural or religious requirements.
17. The needs of a child with a disability or with other additional needs
18. A statement indicating parental permission for any medications to be administered to the child whilst at the Service. [Only a parent on the enrolment form can authorise the administration of medication.]
19. Authorisation and signature by parent/authorised person for the approved provider, nominated supervisor or educator to seek:
 - o medical treatment for the child from a registered practitioner, hospital or ambulance service
 - o transportation of the child by an ambulance service
20. Child's Medicare number
21. Specific healthcare needs of the child, including allergies and intolerances.

22. Any medical management plan for a specific severe healthcare need, medical condition, or allergy, such as an Anaphylaxis Emergency Management Plan or Risk Minimisation Plan.
23. Details of any dietary restrictions for the child
24. The name, address and telephone number of the child's doctor
25. Authorisation for regular occurring outings/excursions
26. The immunisation status of the child.
27. CRN for child and claimant
28. Child Care Subsidy Assessment confirmation.

Although Out of School Hours Care services are regulated under the Education and Care Services National Law Act, children attending Out of School Hours Care are exempt from the immunisation/enrolment requirements that apply to other early childhood education and care services (long day care, family day care & preschools). The *immunisation status* of the child is however required to be kept in the enrolment record for each child enrolled at the education and care service- Regulation 162 Education and Care Services National Regulations.

ORIENTATION OF THE SERVICE

During the orientation of the Out of School Hours Care Service, families will be:

- provided with the enrolment form to be completed or shown how to complete this through an online platform
- Child Care Subsidy is explained to families and assistance may be offered to assist with the application process.
- provided with an outline of the Service policies which will include key policies such as: Payment of Fees, Sun Safe, Incident, Illness, Accident and Trauma, Control of Infectious diseases, Sick Child Policy and Administration of Medication.
- shown the signing in/out process
- advised of appropriate clothing for children to wear to the Service for mufti days or vacation care, including shoes
- informed about policies regarding children bringing in toys from home
- introduced to their child's Educators
- taken on a tour around the Service and environment
- asked to share information on any medical management plan or specific healthcare needs of their child (if applicable)

- informed of the daily report and how parents can view this or informed about the online platform/App the Service may use
- introduced to the routines and Service program, including the observations to aid programming
- informed about Service communication strategies including meetings, interviews, newsletters, emails, etc.
- given the opportunity to set goals for their child
- confirm preferred method of communication.

ENROLMENT PACK

Once the enrolment fee and bond has been paid, families will be provided with an enrolment pack which consists of:

- Parent Handbook, which outlines the Service's operation and philosophy
- current fee structure and payment details
- Child Care Subsidy information
- information on the National Quality Framework and *My Time Our Place* learning framework
- ECA Code of Ethics brochure

THE APPROVED PROVIDER WILL ENSURE:

- the enrolment form is completed accurately and, in its entirety
- authorisations are signed by both parents/guardians
- a child with medical needs does not begin at the service unless a medical management plan is received and medication is brought to the service each day
- the child's Medical Management Plan is recorded, and this information is shared/distributed to Educators
- Action Plans are completed in full (if relevant)
- Administration of Medication forms are completed (if relevant)
- Risk Minimisation Plans and Communication Plans are requested/completed with parents for children with medical needs
- Educators are informed of the new child including any medical conditions, interests, developmental needs, and strengths
- Immunisation certificate and birth certificate has been sighted and photocopied
- the enrolment is lodged through KidsXap or PEP with Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE)

- a file for the Child's information is created
- families are provided with an orientation survey to complete within the first 6 weeks of starting to gain feedback about the orientation and enrolment process

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

[Child Care Subsidy](#) (CCS) offers assistance to families to help with the cost of childcare for children aged 0-13 years. The number of hours of Child Care Subsidy a family is entitled to per fortnight is determined by an activity test. The more hours of activity parents do, the more subsidised care they can access, up to a maximum of 100 hours per fortnight for each child.

[Child Care Subsidy activity test](#)

Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) will start again from 13 July 2020. Some families affected by COVID-19 may be able to access more CCS. Activity test requirements will be eased from 13 July 2020 to 4 October 2020.

- CCS is based on the combined family income, activity test and the type of early childhood education and care service
- Families must complete the Child Care Subsidy activity test online through the myGov website
- Documentation may be required such as Australian driver licence, Australian passport, Foreign passport, Australian birth certificate, Australian Marriage certificate, Australian citizenship certificate
- Families are provided with a Customer Reference Number (CRN)
- Child Care Subsidy is paid directly to providers to be passed on to families as a fee reduction
- Families will contribute to their childcare fees and pay the Service the difference between the fee charged and the subsidy amount- generally called the 'gap fee'
- Families may also be eligible for [Additional Child Care Subsidy](#) depending upon their circumstance

ENROLMENT RECORD KEEPING

Our *Record Keeping Policy* outlines the information and authorisations that we will include in all child enrolment records.

ON THE CHILD'S FIRST DAY

Consideration will be made to each family regarding the initial settling in period and strategies may be offered to assist in this transition- for example, organising a buddy in the same class to remind the child

to attend OSHC on that particular day; notifying the child’s classroom teacher that the child will be beginning OSHC on certain days.

- The child and their family will be welcomed to the Service upon drop off
- They will be greeted by one of the Educators who will show them where to sign in and out, discuss what is happening within the Service, and show where children can store their personal belongings whilst attending Out of School Hours Care.
- Information about collecting their child at the end of the day will be discussed
- Management will ensure the orientation checklist has been completed and all required documents and information has been received from families.

SOURCE

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. (2019) Care Provider handbook

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-provider-handbook-0>

Australian Government Services Australia

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register/how-get-immunisation-history-statement>

Department of Human Services (Centrelink):

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy>

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011)

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2020).

NSW Government Health. (2019). Questions and answers about vaccination requirements for child care:

https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/childcare_qa.aspx

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Victoria State Government. Requirements for all early childhood services.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/reqallservices.aspx>