

Environmental Sustainability



Review Date: 28/11/2025

Introduction

Our Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Service Philosophy are all rooted in citizenship.

As part of our collective commitment to "making the world a better place", we encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future.

Children are supported to embody their daily Acknowledgement of Country. They take on the responsibility of respecting and caring for their environment alongside educators and families.

Environmentally sustainable practices are embedded into the routines of our preschools through collaboration between educators, children and families.

Goals – What are we going to do?

Children's awareness of the environment is promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices are encouraged within our preschools. Educators, children and families are encouraged to problem solve and become advocates for a sustainable future; including environmentally, socially and economically.

Strategies - How will it be done?

The Approved Provider will:

- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- Support educators to make multidimensional sustainable practices part of the daily routine, including but not restricted to:
 - › Recycling
 - › Gardening
 - › Energy conservation
 - › Water conservation
 - › Sustainable equipment purchases

Educators will:

- Connect with local Custodians and seek guidelines and follow protocols to care for country.
- Research and liaise with other education and care services, networks and professional bodies to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.

- Take only what you need- calling on indigenous ways of knowing & being.
- Collaborate with children routinely to “Reuse, Recycle and Reduce” in everyday practice at preschool to build positive lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the service.
- Nature conservation- work alongside organisations such as land-care & local ranger in regards to land conservation and bush regeneration.
- Role model sustainable practices, such as energy and water conservation practices, of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, monitoring water use in play and in the bathroom, intentionally teaching the value of water through the use of tanks for water play.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the curriculum.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at our services and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable practices, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through documentation, emails, on social media, newsletters and conversations.
- Assist children to place food scraps into separate containers for use in a worm farm, for pets such as chooks, and/or composting bin to reduce food waste in the services. Educators will intentionally teach children and families which scraps worms, chooks, etc. can eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and/or compost and/or other animals where appropriate.
- Regeneration of resources- incorporate regeneration of resources into the curriculum. Fix and repair equipment and resources where possible e.g. “weed it Wednesday”, “mend it Monday”.
- Review chemicals such as garden and cleaning products used for environment impact, health and safety. Use alternative control methods with the children.
- Intentionally teach children to advocate for positive change to their environment.
- Involve children in problem solving environmental issues within the service and their wider community.
 - Fairness & consider all living things during play.
 - Children involved in democratic decision making.
- Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and will recycle or select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres e.g. limit the use of laminating.

- Access grants to fund sustainable projects and environmental education.
- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices to compliment water tanks, dual flush toilet cisterns and solar already in use.

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

Education and Care Services
National Regulations 2011

Environment Protection &
Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Guide to the National Quality
Framework, 2018.

Sources

NSW Department of Environment
and Heritage –
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Department of Sustainability,
Environment, Water, Population
and Communities –
www.environment.gov.au

Early Childhood Environmental
Education Network –
www.eceen.org.au

Early Years Learning Framework for
Australia: Belonging, Being and
Becoming, v 2.0 2022.

Links to other policies

Service Mission Statement

Service Vision Statement

Service Philosophy Statement

Cleaning and Maintaining the
Environment

Interactions with Children

Evaluation

Our education and care environment reflects sustainable practices, 'Green Cleaning' and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Approved Provider Representative:

Name: Narissa Cuskelly

Role: President

Signature:

Date Adopted: 28/11/2023

REVIEW DATE: 28th November 2025

Policy Adopted	Approved Provider Representative	Review Date
01/12/2016	Naomi Simpson	01/12/2018
04/12/2018	Belinda Fayle	04/12/2020
07/07/2021	Kieran O'Reilly	07/07/2023
28/11/2023	Narissa Cuskelly	28/11/2025