

Policy Name:	Staffing policy
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Created By:	The Committee of Management and Staff
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Mandatory – Quality Area 4

Purpose

This policy will provide guidelines for engaging staff at Sherbourne Preschool, including:

- employing sufficient numbers of educators to meet legislative, policy and service standards
- employing educators with qualifications and experience that meet legislative, policy and service standards
- providing appropriate supervision to educators and other adults at the service
- complying with legislation relating to Working with Children Checks and criminal history record checks and meeting Child Safe Standards.

Value

Sherbourne Pre-School is committed to:

- ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected at all times while also promoting their learning and development
- fulfilling a duty of care to all children attending the service
- providing accountable and effective staffing and management practices
- employing educators with a range of relevant qualifications and experience to provide a quality educational program that meets the needs of children and families in the community
- employing educators according to policy and funding requirements
- complying with relevant industrial agreements and current legislation in relation to the employment of staff, including the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*, *Fair Work Act 2009* and the *Working with Children Act 2005*
- continuity of educators at the service
- the further development of staff.

Scope

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management or Control, Nominated Supervisor, Persons in day-to-day Charge, staff, volunteers, students and parents/guardians at Sherbourne Pre-School.

Definitions

Actively working towards: An educator who is enrolled in a course for a qualification, and provides the Approved Provider with documentary evidence of their commencement in the course, their satisfactory progress towards completion of the course and ongoing evidence that they are meeting all the requirements to maintain their enrolment. Educators who are 'actively working towards' an approved diploma-level qualification must also hold an approved certificate III level education and care qualification or have completed the mandatory units of study in an approved certificate III level education and care qualification as determined by the national authority (ACECQA).

Adequate supervision: (In relation to this policy) **supervision** entails all children (individuals and groups) in all areas of the service, being in sight and/or hearing of an educator at all times including during toileting, sleep, rest and transition routines. Services are required to comply with the legislative requirements for educator-to-child ratios at all times. Supervision contributes to protecting children from hazards that may emerge in play, including hazards created by the equipment used.

Adequate supervision refers to constant, active and diligent supervision of every child at the service. Adequate supervision requires that educators are always in a position to observe each child, respond to individual needs, and immediately intervene if necessary. Variables affecting supervision levels include:

- number, age and abilities of children
- number and positioning of educators
- current activity of each child
- areas in which the children are engaged in an activity (visibility and accessibility)
- developmental profile of each child and of the group of children
- experience, knowledge and skill of each educator
- need for educators to move between areas (effective communication strategies).

Approved first aid qualification: A list of approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training is published on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au

Certified Supervisor: An educator with a Supervisor Certificate (in accordance with the National Regulations) who may consent to being placed in day-to-day charge of the education and care service. The designation must be made by the Approved Provider or the Nominated Supervisor and accepted in writing by the Certified Supervisor. A Certified Supervisor placed in day-to-day charge of a service **does not** have the same responsibilities under the National Law as the Nominated Supervisor. Applications for Supervisor Certificates are assessed by the Regulatory Authority.

Criminal history record check: A full-disclosure, Australia-wide criminal history record check issued by Victoria Police (refer to *Sources*), or by a police force or other authority of a state or territory, or the Commonwealth. It may also be referred to as a National Police Certificate or Police Records Check.

Early childhood teacher: A person with an approved early childhood teaching qualification. Approved qualifications are listed on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au

Educator: An individual who provides education and care for children as part of an education and care service.

Educational Leader: The Approved Provider of an education and care service must designate, in writing, a suitably-qualified and experienced educator, co-ordinator or other individual to lead the development and implementation of educational programs at the service (Regulation 118). This person must have a thorough understanding of the *Early Years Learning Framework* (or other approved

learning framework), be able to guide other educators in their planning and reflection, and mentor colleagues in the implementation of their practice.

The Kindergarten Funding Guide: provides detailed information from the Department of Education and Training (DET) about the types of kindergarten funding available, eligibility criteria, how to apply for funding and how to comply with operational requirements once funding has been granted.

Nominated Supervisor: A person who is a Certified Supervisor and has been nominated by the Approved Provider of the service under Part 3 of the Act to be the Nominated Supervisor of that service, and who has consented to that nomination. The Nominated Supervisor has day-to-day responsibility for the service in accordance with the National Regulations. All services must have a Nominated Supervisor.

Person with management or control: Each member of the executive committee of the association which is the Approved Provider, who has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service.

Responsible Person: The Approved Provider (if that person is an individual, and in any other case the person with management or control of the service operated by the Approved Provider) or a Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor who has been placed in day-to-day charge of the service in accordance with the National Regulations.

Staff record: A record which the Approved Provider of a centre-based service must keep containing information about the Nominated Supervisor, the Educational Leader, staff, volunteers, students and the Responsible Person at a service. Details that must be recorded include qualifications, training and the Working with Children Check (Regulations 146–149). A sample staff record is available on the ACECQA website: <http://acecqa.gov.au/storage/Staff%20record.pdf>

Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT): The statutory authority for the regulation and promotion of the teaching profession in Victoria, established as part of the Victorian Institute of Teaching Act 2001. All early childhood teachers are required to be registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

Working directly with children: For the purposes of the National Regulations, working directly with children is defined as being physically present with children and directly engaged in providing them with education and/or care.

Working with Children (WWC) Check: The check is a legal requirement for those undertaking paid or voluntary child-related work in Victoria and is a measure to help protect children from harm arising as a result of physical or sexual abuse. The Department of Justice assesses a person's suitability to work with children by examining relevant serious sexual, physical and drug offences in a person's national criminal history and, where appropriate, their professional history. A WWC Check card, notice or document (valid for five years), is granted to a person under working with children legislation if:

- they have been assessed as suitable to work with children
- there has been no information that, if the person worked with children, they would pose a risk to those children
- they are not prohibited from attempting to obtain, undertake or remain in child-related employment.

Policy statement

Sherbourne Preschool is committed to:

- ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected at all times while also promoting their learning and development

fulfilling a duty of care to all children attending the service

providing accountable and effective staffing and management practices

employing educators with a range of relevant qualifications and experience to provide a quality educational program that meets the needs of children and families in the community

employing educators according to policy and funding requirements

complying with current legislation in relation to the employment of staff, including the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*, *Fair Work Act 2009* and the *Working with Children Act 2005*.

Our Responsibilities

The Committee of Management is responsible for:

- complying with the service's *Code of Conduct Policy* at all times
- appointing Nominated Supervisors (refer to *Definitions*) who are aged 18 years or older, fit and proper and have suitable skills, as required under the Education and Care (refer to *Determining Responsible Person Policy*) (National Law, Section 161)
- ensuring that there is a Responsible Person (refer to *Definitions* and *Determining Responsible Person Policy*) on the premises at all times the service is in operation (National Law, Section 162)
- ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor, educators and all staff comply with the *Code of Conduct Policy* at all times
 - In the event that all permanent employed staff or any regular relief educators are not able to be in attendance for a scheduled session the preschool session will not run. In the event this situation occurs the procedure will be to notify all affected families via text message by 7am the morning of the session or prior if possible.
 - In the event that all permanent employed staff or regular relief educators are unable to work for more than one day, educators from our service relief lists will be employed for the duration of time that permanent staff are absent.
- ensuring that children being educated and cared for by the service are adequately supervised (refer to *Definitions* and *Supervision of Children Policy*) at all times they are in the care of that service (National Law: Section 165(1))
- complying with the legislated educator-to-child ratios at all times (National Law: Sections 169(1) & (3), National Regulations: Regulations 123, 355, 357, 360)
- ensuring that all staffing meets the requirements of *The Kindergarten Funding Guide* (refer to *Sources*) at all times the service is in operation
- complying with relevant industrial agreement and current legislation relating to the employment of staff, including the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*, *Fair Work Act 2009*, *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the *Working with Children Act 2005*
- following the guidelines for the recruitment, selection and ongoing management of staff as outlined in the *Child Safe Environment Policy*
- employing the relevant number of appropriately-qualified educators (refer to *Definitions*) with ACECQA approved qualifications (refer to *Background* and *Sources*) (Regulations 126, 361)
- employing additional staff, as required, to assist in the provision of a quality early childhood education and care program
- ensuring an early childhood teacher (refer to *Definitions*) is working with the service for the required period of time specified in the National Regulations, and that, where required, a record is kept of this work (Regulations 130–134, 152, 362, 363)

- appointing an appropriately-qualified and experienced educator to be the Educational Leader (refer to *Definitions*), and ensuring this is documented on the staff record (Regulations 118, 148)
- ensuring that educators and other staff are provided with a current position description that relates to their role at the service
- maintaining a staff record (refer to *Definitions*) in accordance with Regulation 145, including information about the Responsible Person, Nominated Supervisor, the Educational Leader, other staff members. Details that must be recorded include qualifications, training, Working with Children Check (Regulations 146–148). A sample staff record is available on the ACECQA website: www.acecqa.gov.au
- complying with the requirements of the *Working with Children Act 2005*, and ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor, educators and staff at the service have a current WWC Check (refer to *Definitions*) or a Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) certificate of registration
- reading the WWC Check or confirming VIT registration of all staff prior to their being engaged or employed as a staff member at the service
- read the WWC Check of all volunteers prior to their being permitted to be a volunteer at the service
- ensuring that a register of the WWC Checks or VIT registrations is maintained and the details kept on each staff record (Regulations 145, 146, 147)
- determining who will cover the costs of WWC Checks or criminal history record checks (refer to *Definitions*)
- developing (and implementing, where relevant) an appropriate induction program for all staff appointed to the service
- developing rosters in accordance with the availability of Responsible Persons, staff qualifications, hours of operation and the attendance patterns of children
- ensuring that volunteers/students and parents/guardians are adequately supervised at all times when participating at the service, and that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected (refer to *Participation of Volunteers and Students Policy*)
- ensuring educators who are under 18 years of age are not left to work alone, and are adequately supervised at the service (Regulation 120)
- ensuring that there is at least one educator with current approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and emergency asthma management training (refer to *Definitions*) in attendance and immediately available at all times that children are being educated and cared for by the service. (Note: this is a minimum requirement. As a demonstration of duty of care and best practice, ELAA recommends that all educators have current approved first aid qualifications and anaphylaxis management training and emergency asthma management training.) Details of qualifications and training must be kept on the staff record (Regulations 136, 145)
- developing procedures to ensure that approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and emergency asthma management training are evaluated regularly, and that staff are provided with the opportunity to update their qualifications prior to expiry
- ensuring that staff records (refer to *Definitions*) and a record of educators working directly with children (refer to *Definitions*) are updated annually, as new information is provided or when rostered hours of work are changed (Regulations 145–151)
- ensuring that annual performance reviews of the Nominated Supervisor, educators and other staff are undertaken
- reviewing staff qualifications as required under current legislation and funding requirements on an annual basis

- ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor, educators and other staff, volunteers and students are not affected by alcohol or drugs (including prescription medication) that would impair their capacity to supervise or provide education and care to children (Regulation 83)
- ensuring that all educators and staff have opportunities to undertake professional development relevant to their role
- ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor and educators/staff are advised and aware of current child protection laws and any obligations that they may have under these laws (Regulation 84) (refer to the *Child Safe Environment Policy*)
- informing parents/guardians of the name/s of casual or relief staff where the regular educator is absent
- developing and maintaining a list of casual and relief staff to ensure consistency of service provision
- ensuring that the procedures for the appointment of casual and relief staff are compliant with all regulatory and funding requirements.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring that the name and position of the Responsible Person in charge of the service is displayed and easily visible from the main entrance of the service
- following the guidelines for the recruitment, selection and ongoing management of staff as outlined in the *Child Safe Environment Policy*
- complying with the service's *Code of Conduct Policy* at all times
- ensuring adequate supervision of children at all times (refer to *Supervision of Children Policy*)
- ensuring the educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times (Regulation 169(3)), that each educator at the service meets the qualification requirements relevant to their role, including the requirement for current approved first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and emergency asthma management training, and that details of such training is kept on the staff record
- developing rosters in consultation with the Approved Provider in accordance with the availability of Responsible Persons, staff qualifications, hours of operation and the attendance patterns of children
- ensuring that educators and other staff undertake appropriate induction following their appointment to the service
- ensuring that all educators and staff have opportunities to undertake professional development relevant to their role
- participating in an annual performance review
- ensuring that less experienced educators and others engaged to be working with children are adequately supervised
- ensuring educators who are under 18 years of age are not left to work alone and are adequately supervised at the service
- providing details of their current WWC Check or VIT registration for the staff record
- reading of Working with Children Checks or VIT registrations of staff
- ensuring that they are not affected by alcohol or drugs (including prescription medication) that would impair their capacity to supervise or provide education and care to children (Regulation 83)
- ensuring that they are aware of current child protection laws and any obligations that they may have under these laws (refer to *Child Safe Environment Policy*)

- informing parents/guardians of the name/s of casual or relief staff where the regular educator is absent.

All other staff are responsible for:

- complying with the service's *Code of Conduct Policy* at all times
- ensuring that they are not affected by alcohol or drugs (including prescription medication) that would impair their capacity to supervise or provide education and care to children
- providing details of their current WWC Check or VIT registration and where relevant Criminal Records Check for the staff record
- undertaking the required induction program following appointment to the service
- advising the Working With Children Check Unit at the Department of Justice and Regulation of any relevant change in circumstances, including change of name, address, contact details and change of employer organisation, including changes to the organisation's contact details
- where the role involves working with children, providing adequate supervision at all times (refer to *Definitions and Supervision of Children Policy*)
- maintaining educator-to-child ratios at all times
- maintaining current approved qualifications relevant to their role, including first aid qualifications, anaphylaxis management training and emergency asthma management training
- participating in an annual performance review
- undertaking professional development relevant to their role to keep their knowledge and expertise current
- supervising educators at the service who are under 18 years of age, and ensuring that they are not left to work alone
- ensuring that they are aware of current child protection laws and any obligations that they may have under these laws (refer to *Child Safe Environment Policy*).

Parents/guardians, volunteers and students on placement are responsible for:

- reading this *Staffing Policy*
- complying with the Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians (refer to the *Code of Conduct Policy*) at all times
- complying with the law, the requirements of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, and all service policies and procedures
- following the directions of staff at the service at all times to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of children is protected.

Evaluation

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly check staff records to ensure WWC Checks and qualifications are current and complete
- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice

- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures unless a lesser period is necessary because of a risk.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Safe Standards
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) (amended in 2014)
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)*
- *Fair Work Act 2009*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements*
- *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*
- *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)*
- *Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)*
- *Working with Children Regulations 2006 (Vic)*