



# Emergency and Evacuation

## QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Policy Statement

Our education and care service is committed to identifying risks and hazards of emergency and evacuation situations, and planning for their reduction or minimisation, and ongoing review of planned actions around handling these situations including:

- ◁ Conducting ongoing risk assessment and reviews of all potential emergency and evacuation situations, including medical emergency situations (see Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy);
- ◁ Develop specific procedures around each potential emergency situation and ensure full awareness by all staff through the provision of professional development;
- ◁ Ensure regular rehearsal and evaluation of emergency and evacuation procedures.

### Goals / What are we going to do?

Emergency and evacuation situations in an education and care service can arise in a number of circumstances and for a variety of reasons. In the event of an emergency or evacuation situation, the safety and wellbeing of all staff, children, families and visitors to the centre is paramount.

### Strategies / How will it be done?

#### Risk Assessment for Potential Emergencies

In preparing the emergency and evacuation procedures, a risk assessment is conducted to identify potential emergencies relevant to our service.

The **Emergency Management Folder** is kept in the office and contains:

- ◁ Detailed risk assessment and control measures of potential emergencies the service may be exposed to. Documentation is assessed and updated periodically and when needed as circumstances change.
- ◁ Detailed, specific procedures to follow in the event of any emergency or evacuation including:
  - » Fire or smoke
  - » Bomb threat / act of terrorism
  - » Snake or other potentially dangerous animal
  - » Chemical or hazardous leaks and spills
  - » Loss of power or water
  - » Intruders

- » Outbreak of infectious disease or illness
- » Natural Disaster / Severe Storm Procedure:
- » Staff sickness and non-arrival of a staff member

◁ A copy of the emergency and evacuation floor plan and instructions are displayed in a prominent position in the foyer near each exit at the service.

◁ Staffing rosters ensure that at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification and has undertaken current approved anaphylaxis management training and approved emergency asthma management training will be immediately available in the event of an emergency.

◁ Emergency telephone numbers are clearly displayed above every telephone.

### **Discovering an Emergency**

◁ Educators who discover an emergency are required to alert the Responsible Person immediately so that they can determine and implement control measures.

◁ After immediate assessment, the Responsible Person will blow the whistle or bell, depending on the type of emergency.

### **Evacuation Drills and Emergency Evacuation**

Emergency and evacuation drills are carried out every three months by the staff, volunteers and children present at the service on the day of the rehearsal and the Responsible Person in relation to the service who is present at the time of the rehearsal.

These drills will be embedded into the programming each term.

◁ Each drill is documented to include the date, time, how many people in the building according to attendance registers, how many people evacuated, the time it takes to evacuate, what simulated emergency conditions (if any), any problems encountered, weather conditions, and any additional notes. This documentation is kept for a minimum of three years.

◁ Simulated emergency conditions consider a variety of practice styles such as scenarios in the rooms, around the yards, and out of the grounds.

◁ There is a large emergency cot that is to be used for any children not walking during evacuations. This cot is to be checked regularly and maintained in a sturdy condition to ensure its safety at all times.

◁ Emergency whistles are provided on key lanyards 'necklace' that educators wear.

### **After the Emergency is Over**

◁ In the event that the building is unsafe to return to, the Responsible Person will notify parents or emergency contacts to collect each child.

◁ If able to return to the building, with reassurance and calmness, walk back to the centre following the safety procedures, recheck that all children have returned and discuss as developmentally appropriate the emergency that has taken place.

◁ Consider counselling services for anyone affected by the emergency.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Authority/Responsibility For
Approved Provider (Management Committee)	<p>◁ Ensuring that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children at the service from harm and hazards that are likely to cause injury (Section 167).</p> <p>◁ Ensure the identification of potential emergency and evacuation situations that may arise at the service and risks associated with such situations.</p> <p>◁ Ensure the following documents are attached to this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» risk assessment – reviewed at least on an annual basis;</li> <li>» emergency and evacuation procedures; and</li> <li>» emergency evacuation floor plan.</li> </ul> <p>◁ Ensure educators and staff have ready access to an operating telephone or similar means of communication and that emergency telephone numbers are displayed near telephones.</p> <p>◁ Ensure educators and staff have ready access to emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers and fire blankets, and that staff are adequately trained in their use.</p> <p>◁ Ensure that emergency equipment is tested as recommended by recognised authorities.</p>
Nominated Supervisor  Responsible Person	<p>◁ Implement duties as listed above and directed by the Approved Provider.</p> <p>◁ Ensure the emergency evacuation procedures and floor plan are displayed in a prominent position near each exit and that all staff and educators are aware of these.</p> <p>◁ Ensure that all staff are trained in the emergency evacuation procedures.</p> <p>◁ Ensure that all staff are aware of emergency evacuation points;</p> <p>◁ Ensure that families are regularly reminded of the emergency procedures in place at the service.</p> <p>◁ Ensure that rehearsals of evacuation procedures are regularly scheduled and rehearsed, every three months as a minimum, and that the schedule maximises the number of children and staff participating in the procedures.</p> <p>◁ Ensure that spontaneous rehearsals take place to ensure staff participate in the simulation of an unplanned, emergency evacuation events;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Provide staff with evaluation/feedback after each scheduled and spontaneous rehearsal to assist in refining their risk management procedures around the safe evacuation of staff and children.</li> <li>◁ Ensure all scheduled, spontaneous and actual evacuations are documented and reviewed.</li> <li>◁ Ensure all emergency contact lists are updated as required.</li> </ul>
Early Childhood Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Ensure the sign-in book accurately records attendance of each child.</li> <li>◁ Ensure the time of arrival and departure is noted in the sign-in book for every child.</li> <li>◁ Sign yourself in/out on the staff attendance record.</li> <li>◁ Display the emergency procedure plan for your room in a prominent position.</li> <li>◁ Practice the external procedure by different exits.</li> <li>◁ Practice the internal procedure.</li> <li>◁ Familiarise yourself with evacuation procedures in each area of the service.</li> <li>◁ Familiarise relievers, students and visitors with the procedure at the beginning of the shift.</li> <li>◁ Ensure all items in emergency bags are present.</li> <li>◁ Check the number of children in your care regularly throughout the day.</li> <li>◁ Provide children with learning opportunities about emergency evacuation procedures.</li> <li>◁ Be alert to the immediate needs of all children throughout the scheduled and spontaneous evacuation drills.</li> <li>◁ Assist the Nominated Supervisor in identifying risks and potential emergency situations.</li> <li>◁ Assist the Nominated Supervisor in developing procedures to lessen the risks associated with emergency evacuations.</li> <li>◁ Ensure they are aware of the placement of operating communications equipment and emergency equipment, and are confident in their ability to operate them.</li> </ul>
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Familiarise selves with the service's emergency and evacuation policy and procedures and the service's <i>Emergency Management Plan</i>.</li> <li>◁ Ensure you complete the attendance record on delivery and collection of their child.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◁ Provide emergency contact details on their child’s enrolment form and ensure that this is kept up to date.</li> <li>◁ Following the directions of staff in the event of an emergency or when rehearsing emergency procedures.</li> </ul>
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**Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the service will review this Policy every two years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family’s ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

**Related Legislation**

- ◁ Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 167, 169
- ◁ Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulations 97, 98, 168(2)(e)
- ◁ Work, Health and Safety Act 2011
- ◁ Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 Regulation 43

**RELATED GUIDELINES, STANDARDS, FRAMEWORKS**

- ◁ National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety – Standard 2.2 Health and Safety

**SOURCES**

- ◁ Australian Standards: Emergency control organisation for buildings, structures and workplaces (AS 3745–2002)
- ◁ Department of Education: Incident Reporting
- ◁ Community Early Learning Australia – CELA’s Simple Guide to bushfire advice for children’s services: 2020 update: [cela.org.au/2020/12/04/bushfireadvice-2020](http://cela.org.au/2020/12/04/bushfireadvice-2020)
- ◁ NSW Department of Education – Bushfire and Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery: [education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/bushfires](http://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/bushfires)
- ◁ NSW Department of Education – Early Childhood Education Emergency and incident management resources: [education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhoodeducation/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/emergency](http://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhoodeducation/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/emergency)

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