

## P1-01: Celebrations Policy

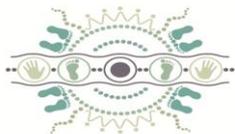
Rituals and traditions strengthen our partnership with children, families and community, bringing a sense of belonging to our Service. We believe that celebrations and cultural traditions need to be handled sensitively. The value in educating children, families and educators is fundamental to our inclusive program. Both the planning and preparation, and the events themselves, can be a satisfying and pleasurable experience.

*‘From before birth children are connected to family, communities, culture and place. Their earliest learning, development and wellbeing takes place through these relationships, particularly with families, who are children’s first and most influential educators. ... Educators understand children may come from diverse backgrounds and acknowledge this in each child’s Belonging, Being and Becoming.’ (EYLF, V.2.0, 2022 p. 6).*

### NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

| QUALITY AREA 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE |                             |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| 1.1.1  | Approved learning framework | Curriculum decision-making contributes to each child’s learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators. |
| QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY     |                             |  |
| 2.1  | Health                      | Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.   |
| 2.1.3  | Healthy Lifestyles          | Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.  |
| QUALITY AREA 6: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS       |                             |  |
| 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.  |

| EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS |   |
|--|---|
| 77   | Health, hygiene and safe food practices           |
| 78   | Food and beverages                                |
| 90   | Medical conditions policy                         |
| 155  | Interactions with children                        |
| 162  | Health information to be kept in enrolment record |



|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 170 | Policies and procedures to be followed       |
| 171 | Policies and procedures to be kept available |

## RELATED POLICIES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Child Safe Environment Policy<br>Enrolment Policy<br>Family Communication Policy<br>Nutrition & Mealtimes Policy | Food Safety Policy<br>Professional Development Policy<br>Student, Volunteer and Visitors Policy |
|--|---|

## PURPOSE

Incorporating celebrations into early education appropriately can be used to strengthen the partnership with children and families, creating a feeling of belonging and developing a sense of community amongst families, educators and children.

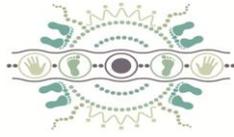
Celebrations provide an opportunity for children to develop respect for diverse values and beliefs as they learn about practices, which are different to their own. To ensure we are providing an inclusive program and environment, it is imperative to recognise the array of celebrations, both religious and worldly, that take place throughout the year in our community and to have an understanding of, and respect for, cultural diversity in our services.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor students, volunteers and visitors of the Service.

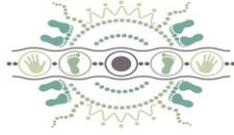
## IMPLEMENTATION

Under the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, an approved provider must ensure policies and procedures are in place to provide a child safe environment. When providing opportunities for children to celebrate special occasions incorporating food or beverages, consideration must be made to ensure children with medical conditions that can be impacted by food are clearly identified and risk minimisation plans are in place and educators and staff implement these plans.



## THE APPROVED PROVIDER/MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL ENSURE:

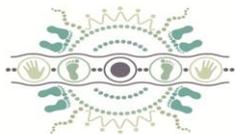
- educators, staff, students, visitors and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy
- families are aware of this *Celebrations Policy* during their orientation process and kept updated throughout the year via centre correspondence
- the National Model Code guidelines are understood and adopted within QDPA including:
  - only service-issued/approved devices are to be used when taking images or videos of children
  - ensuring families and visitors are clearly informed that they are not to take images or videos of children whilst visiting any QDPA preschool
  - embedding the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and creating a child safe culture
- to incorporate relevant, culturally based experiences and celebrations within the children's program which address different learning opportunities, including: fostering a sense of belonging and inclusions for every child, family, and staff member; increasing children's understanding of, and respect for, diversity, similarities and differences; raising children's self-awareness and confidence, providing for children's holistic development and supporting a positive identity for every child and family (EYLF, 2022).
- cultural responsiveness is evident in everyday practice as educators respect multiple cultural ways of knowing, doing and being as they celebrate the benefits of diversity
- special occasions are celebrated in ways that recognise, respect and strengthen children's appreciation of diversity and difference
- cultural celebrations that are significant to our families and relevant to our broader community are implemented within where possible
- stereotypes about particular celebrations/cultural events are not assumed
- sensitivity to issues such as family composition is respected (e.g.: Mother's & Father's Day)
- families' beliefs about celebrating birthdays are respected
- families discuss birthday celebration options with the nominated supervisor/responsible person prior to celebrations
- parents provide ingredients of any foods brought into the preschool (if store bought, the 'use by' date and ingredients must be clearly labelled)
- families are reminded that we are an '*Allergy Aware*' Service prior to celebrations and clearly identify food that cannot be brought in
- educators are aware and make alternate arrangements if families would prefer that their child does NOT participate in such celebrations
  - if this is the case, we will respect the rights and feelings of this child and will provide an alternative experience for them to participate in so that they do not feel that they are being left out



- the preschool has a ‘*term at a glance*’ that is used to support events throughout the year. We ask that families add their celebrations to this calendar of events through providing feedback to the Nominated Supervisor
- families are encouraged to be involved in the preparation and/or the celebrations held within the preschool
- educators remain current with the professional knowledge and skills that support planning for and engaging in culturally inclusive practice
- they liaise and collaborate with our local Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group to provide advice on relevant cultural celebrations and correct protocols to be followed (e.g., NADIOC Week, Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week)
- advance planning and communication with parents/guardians allow for any feedback / concerns from parents which can then be taken into account as part of the normal planning involved in such activities.
- safety issues are considered prior to the implementation of celebratory experiences and risk assessments completed to identify, manage and minimise the risk of harm to children
- all requirements in our *Nutrition and Mealtimes Policy* and *Food Safety Policy* are adhered to when planning for celebrations
- professional development is considered as a tool to assist to expand educator’s knowledge of cultural awareness and cultural celebrations.
- Communications sent to families regarding celebrations, will be approved by the Nominated Supervisor/Approved Provider before being published (OWNA, emails, flyers etc)

#### EDUCATORS WILL:

- identify any children with medical conditions that may be impacted by particular foods and if required complete risk minimisations plans/risk assessments to ensure children’s safety
- ensure food handling training has been completed (as required)
- ensure the use of candles is carried out with the children’s safety in mind and fully supervised. A full risk assessment will be submitted to the nominated supervisor/responsible person prior to such celebrations.
- be aware of cultural tokenism and stereotyping
- encourage and support family members to be involved in sharing their customs and celebrations
- ensure children have the agency to make choices about the celebrations they would like to participate in, engaging families to give advice on customs
- ensure that children have the resources and time necessary to be able to celebrate effectively
- ensure that families who do not wish to be involved in celebrations have an option to not participate



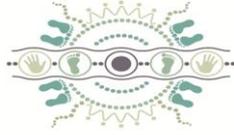
- ensure the QDPA and preschool philosophies are shared with families for understanding around ‘production line crafts’ for celebrations and events
- notify the community about the celebration where appropriate
- adhere to the Service’s adoption of the National Model Code and guidelines
- provide opportunities for children to participate in open-ended celebration activities
- provide a flexible program that enables children to have agency about the activities in which they participate
- celebrate traditions and customs relevant to children and community
- ensure that the same amount of time and energy is dedicated to ALL celebrations
- invite educators and families to share their own personal experiences of celebrations
- ensure resources such as picture storybooks, images, and music are reflective of contemporary celebrations to which children can relate
- be respectful of all religions and cultural backgrounds
- participate in professional development to raise cultural awareness around cultural celebrations.
- Ensure communications regarding celebrations, are provided to the Nominated Supervisor/Approved Provider for approval before being published (OWNA, emails, flyers etc)

## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Celebrations Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

## SOURCES

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).
- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Taking Images and Video of Children While Providing Early Childhood Education and Care. Guidelines For The National Model Code](#).
- Australian Government Department of Education. [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. V2.0, 2022](#)
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023).
- National Health and Medical Research Council. (2024). *Staying Healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (6th Ed.). NHMRC. Canberra.



REVIEW

| Version Control | Date           | Author | Description of Change   |
|-----------------|----------------|--------|---|
| 1.0             | 2018           | QDPA   | Original document   |
| 2.0             | 2021           | QDPA   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Format change to include policy statement, purpose, scope and implementation, addition of footers and page numbering and general layout changes</li> <li>• Liaising with local Aboriginal Educational Consultants added</li> <li>• Healthy options for birthday cakes included</li> <li>• Inclusion of EYLF references</li> <li>• Updated referencing</li> <li>• Updated the National Quality Standards references to comply with revised standards.</li> <li>• Minor changes made to policy to ensure children’s safety is upheld and the provision of an inclusive environment.</li> </ul> |
| 3.0             | 2022           | QDPA   | <p>Scheduled Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of related Education and Care National Regulations</li> <li>• Additional related polices</li> <li>• Reference to risk minimisation plans for medical conditions added</li> <li>• Sources checked for currency</li> </ul>  |
| 4.0             | January 2025   | QDPA   | <p>Scheduled Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update of EYLF V2.0</li> <li>• Additional related polices and update to name change of policies</li> <li>• Removal of specific labelling of celebrations e.g. Christmas and Easter</li> <li>• Sources checked for currency</li> <li>• Inclusion of National Model Code</li> </ul>  |
| 5.0             | September 2025 | QDPA   | <p>Unscheduled Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominated Supervisor/Approved Provider to approve posts/communications around celebrations</li> </ul>  |