



## Water Safety Policy

*While recognising the value of water in sensory experiences, Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association staff will ensure that all use of water will be in a safe and secure environment. Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.*

### Excursions

- Due to safety issues and staff: child ratios, Queanbeyan and District Preschool Association will not take children on any excursion involving rivers, lakes, swimming pools or oceans, unless it is deemed to be appropriate by the Director. A 1:2 adult/child ratio will be maintained if deemed appropriate following the completion of a risk assessment.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.

### Water Play

- All paddling pools and water play troughs will be emptied after each use.
- Other water containers at the preschool premises will be safely covered and stored out of reach.
- A staff member will supervise children during all water play activities.

### Hot Water

- Hot water from any outlet accessible to children within the preschools must be regulated to keep the temperature of water from the outlet below 43.5 degrees Celsius.
- Each preschool will be responsible for checking the hot water temperature and documenting it on a yearly basis.
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.
- If hot water is needed in the classroom for cooking or cleaning it will be supervised by an adult at all times.

### Water Hygiene

- Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with “do not drink” signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly at not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult.
- Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- Drinking water containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.



**Further reading:**

- 1) NSW Department of Community Services, Children Services Regulations 2011. Regulation 168(2)(h)&(a)(iii)
- 2) Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- 3) Sustainability Policy
- 4) First Aid Policy
- 5) Kidsafe NSW: [www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety](http://www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety)
- 6) Kids Health: [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid\\_safe/outdoor/water\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html)
- 7) Supervision Policy