

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY

Emergency and evacuation situations in early education and care services may arise for a variety of reasons, often suddenly and unexpectedly. It is vital that if an emergency situation arises, ~~it is~~ staff are confident to manage the situation effectively and efficiently, maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children, families and visitors.

Ensuring that Educators and children know what to do in an emergency situation requires vigilant planning and practice. Regularly practicing the drills for emergency situations also provides an opportunity to help support and build on children’s coping mechanisms and resilience.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
98	Telephone or other communication equipment
99	Children leaving the education and care service premises
168	Education and Care Services must have policies and procedures

PURPOSE

Our Service has a duty of care to maintain the safety and wellbeing of each child, educator, and all persons using or visiting the Service during an emergency or evacuation situation. We are committed to identifying risks and potential hazards of emergency and evacuation situations by conducting thorough risk assessments on an annual basis and continually plan for further risk minimisation and improvement to our policy and procedures.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

We define an emergency as an unplanned, sudden or unexpected event or situation that requires immediate action to prevent harm, injury, or illness to persons, or damage to the Service's premises. Emergency situations may pose a risk to an individual's health and safety. It is important that Services identify potential emergencies that may be specific to their location and environment.

To ensure compliance with National Regulations and National Law, our Service will ensure that:

- the Approved Provider will conduct a risk assessment to identify potential emergencies that are relevant to the Service annually
- emergency evacuation plans are displayed in prominent positions near each exit at the Service premises including both the indoor and outdoor learning areas.
- the plan includes a floor plan for ease of reference with clearly defined assembly points and clearly marked exit routes from all locations within the Service
- all staff are familiar with emergency evacuation procedures and regulatory requirements
- all staff are aware of emergency evacuation points
- emergency evacuation rehearsals (drills) will be practiced and reviewed every three months by the responsible person, all staff members, volunteers, and children present on the day
- all staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in event of an emergency situation
- each drill will be documented
- our emergency telephone list (located next to the telephone) includes the numbers for:
 - Local fire station
 - Rural Fire Service

- State Emergency Services

Circumstances under which an emergency evacuation will occur may include:

- Fire within the building or playground
- Fire in the surrounding area where the Service may be in danger. If you are unsure how close the fire is contact your local fire station or local Rural Fire Service. Alternatively find and download a Fire Service app such as *Fires Near Me* (NSW), as telephone services can be disrupted during fires.
- Flood (call State Emergency Service)
- Cyclone, severe storm or dust storm
- dangerous animal, insect or reptile
- Terrorist threat
- Other circumstances may include:
 - gas explosion, traffic accident, or any event which could render the building unsafe (eg: earthquake).

Procedures

- Our Service will maintain an up-to-date register of emergency telephone numbers for children. A copy of the current list will always be available in the emergency evacuation bag.
- Emergency telephone numbers for will be displayed prominently throughout the Service in the kitchen, office, staff room and each area where children are educated and cared for.
- National Regulations state that Evacuation rehearsals are to be practiced every 3 months: However, to ensure best practice our Service will conduct emergency evacuation drills in a **weekly block once a term** so that all children and staff experience an evacuation on a regular basis.
- Spontaneous rehearsals also take place during the year to assist in refining risk management procedures and evacuation procedures
- A record will be kept ensuring that all children participate in the emergency evacuation rehearsal at least 4 times per year.
- Each time a planned or spontaneous emergency evacuation drill is performed it is to be timed and documented in the *Emergency Evacuation Rehearsal Record*.
- After reflection, notes on any areas that need improving or revising are to be documented in the *Emergency Evacuation Rehearsal Record*. Educators will discuss and implement strategies to make

continuous improvement to procedures which will be documented in the Service's Staff Meeting minutes and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP).

- In the event of limited Educators (e.g. early morning or late afternoon), staff members are to work together to perform the duties as per the evacuation plan (the roster must include a Responsible Person being on the premises at all times to take responsibility and delegate duties). This scenario will be discussed and documented in the Service's Staff Meeting Minutes (WHS).
- In the event of a fire within the Service resulting in damaged phone lines, a staff member will use the mobile phone to see assistance as per the Emergency Evacuation Plan.
- All fire extinguishers, fire blankets, fire hoses, and other emergency equipment located throughout the Service will be inspected and tested at six monthly intervals by an authorised company as per the Australian Safety Standard AS 1851: *Maintenance of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment*.
- Extinguishers will be emptied, pressure tested, and refilled every five years.
- All tests performed on emergency equipment and the date on which it was tested will be recorded on a label or metal tag attached to the unit. Certificates to verify testing will be filed.
- The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for ensuring all educators, including casual/relief educators and staff members, are familiar with our Emergency Evacuation Policy and procedure.

Important: The notification of a serious incident to a regulatory authority (within 24 hours) is required when emergency services have attended an education and care service in response to an emergency, rather than as a precaution or for any other reason.

JURISDICTION SPECIFICATIONS VICTORIA

VICTORIA (VIC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Country Fire Authority Victoria: www.cfa.vic.gov.au• Victoria Police: www.police.vic.gov.au• Victoria State Emergency Service: www.ses.vic.gov.au

SOURCE

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government – Emergency Services: <http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/public-safety-and-law/emergency-services>

Children’s Services Central. (2012). *Managing emergency situations in education and care services*. PSC National Alliance: <https://www.echr.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/ipsp/managingn-emergency-situations-in-education-and-care-services.pdf?sfvrsn=8>

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Fire Protection Association Australia: www.fpa.com.au/

Fire System Services: <http://www.firesys.com.au/Fire-Extinguisher-Service-and-Maintenance-pg14686.html>

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Framework (2020)

NSW Rural Fire Service: www.rfs.com.au

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	JANUARY 2020	NEXT REVIEW DATE	JANUARY 2021
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional information added to introduction • Purpose modified • Additional information added to content • Sources checked for currency- small edits highlighted 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
JANUARY 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places to insert emergency phone numbers deleted & point added to ensure these numbers are on the emergency phone list by the phone • Rearranged the order of some points for better flow. • Points added (highlighted). • Sources/references corrected, updated, and alphabetised. • Sources/references alphabetised. • Minor formatting (line spacing & paragraph spacing) for consistency throughout policy. 	JANUARY 2020	

JANUARY 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor adjustment in Education and Care Services National Regulations section • Added related policy section • Adjustment on page two in respect of revised NQS 	JANUARY 2019
OCTOBER 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the references to comply with revised National Quality Standard 	JANUARY 2018
JANUARY 2017 AUGUST 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated and included Emergency Evacuation requirements outlined in the National Regulations • Updated to meet the National Law and/or National Regulations in respect of a serious incidents and notification purposes. 	JANUARY 2018