



Governance and Management Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Coowarra OOSH aims to provide a quality education and care service and will operate according to all legal requirements and recognised best practice in service management. We will ensure there are appropriate governance arrangements in place at all times (as per Quality Area 7.1.1). There will be ongoing process of review and evaluation and all relevant information will be readily available to stakeholders.

The governing document of the organisation will be the constitution that deals with the key legal requirements for running the organisation. A copy of the constitution will be readily available to all committee members to consult. New members will be given a copy of the constitution as part of their orientation.

For the purpose of Regulations the Management Committee is the Approved Provider. The Management Committee as the Approved Provider will ensure that all aspects of governance and management are clearly articulated and complement the service Philosophy.

The Management Committee as Approved Provider will ensure that copies of the current policies and procedures required under Regulation 168 are available for inspection at the service at all times (as per Regulation 171)

Our Out of School Hours Service aims to comply with the Child Care Subsidy legislative requirements associated with operating a fee reduction Service for eligible families. We understand the Department of Education (the department's) approach to maintaining the financial integrity of all child care funding. Our service has a genuine commitment to meet our obligations to maintain financial integrity and have effective compliance systems in place to ensure child care funding we receive is administered appropriately. Our Service accepts the legal responsibilities associated with claiming Child Care Subsidy within the Family Assistance Law. We will continuously examine our business and Service model to identify opportunities to cater to the needs of our families and community. (Child Care Financial Integrity Strategy, 2019)

RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Approved Provider that cannot be delegated to any other person or body include:



Coowarra Out of School Hours Care Service Inc

- Compliance monitoring – ensuring compliance with the objects, purposes and values of the service, and with its constitution
- Organisational governance – setting or approving policies, plans and budgets to achieve those objectives, and monitoring performance against them
- Strategic planning – reviewing and approving strategic direction and initiatives
- Regulatory monitoring – ensuring that the service complies with all relevant laws, regulations and regulatory requirements
- Financial monitoring – establishing and maintaining systems of financial control, internal control, and performance reporting; reviewing the service's budget; monitoring management and financial performance to ensure the solvency, financial strength and good performance of the service
- Financial reporting – considering and approving annual financial statements and required reports to government;
- Organisational structure – setting and maintaining a framework of delegation and internal control
- Staff selection and monitoring – selecting, evaluating the performance of, rewarding and, if necessary, dismissing the staff. Delegate the functions of sub-committees, the Nominated Supervisor, and other staff.
- Risk management – reviewing and monitoring the effectiveness of risk management and compliance in the service; agreeing or ratifying all policies and decisions on matters which might create significant risk to the service, financial or otherwise
- Dispute management – dealing with and managing conflicts that may arise within the organisation, including conflicts arising between committee members, staff, members, or volunteers

The **Nominated Supervisor** is responsible for the day-to-day management of the service and to address key management and operational issues under the direction of, and the policies laid down by the Approved Provider, including:

- Developing and implementing organisational strategies and making recommendations to the Approved Provider on significant strategic initiatives;
- Making recommendations for the appointment of staff, determining terms of appointment, evaluating performance, and developing and maintaining succession plans for staff;
- Having input into the annual budget and managing day-to-day operations within the budget;
- Maintaining an effective risk management framework;
- Keeping the Approved Provider and Regulators informed about any developments that may impact on the organisation's performance



PROCEDURE

- This policy will encompass the following:
 - Philosophy and policies
 - Financial management
 - Facilities and environment
 - Equipment and maintenance
 - Review and evaluation of service
 - Records management
 - Work, Health and Safety

Philosophy and policies

- The development and review of the Philosophy and policies will be an ongoing process.
- The philosophy and associated statement of purpose will underpin all other documentation and the practices of the service and will reflect the principles of the approved national framework for school age care "My Time, Our Place". There will be a collaborative and consultative process to support the development of the philosophy that will include children, parents and Educators. The statement of Philosophy will be included in the Quality Improvement Plan for the service. The statement of purpose will define how the statement of philosophy will be implemented in the service.
- Policies and procedures will provide clear documentation that will define agreed and consistent ways of doing things to achieve the stated outcomes.
- The Management Committee as Approved Provider will ratify the Philosophy and the policies. Policies can only be altered by the Approved Provider and the changes minuted as a record.
- All documents will be dated and include nominated review dates.
- There will be a comprehensive index for the service policies as it is likely that some policies may address several aspects of operational practice.
- The service philosophy and policies will be available for all stakeholders and there will be reference to this in parent and staff handbooks and general service information.

Financial management

- The Approved Provider will be responsible for developing and overseeing the budget of the service and for ensuring that the service operates within a responsible, sustainable financial framework.
- In line with this responsibility the Management Committee will conduct a budget planning meeting each year as part of its annual business planning. The details of budgeting and fee setting are set out under the Fee Policy.
- Financial reporting including an income and expenditure statement and balance sheet will be presented to the Management Committee on a regular basis and the opportunity provided to ask questions or seek further advice from any Management Committee member.



Coowarra Out of School Hours Care Service Inc

Facilities and environment

- The Management Committee will ensure regulations 103–115 relating to the physical environment required for an OSHC service are maintained at all times.
- In the event of the relocation of the site the Management Committee will ensure that the requirements of the regulations are considered if and when site re-arrangements are proposed.
- Work, Health and Safety implications will be considered by the Management committee in relation to educators locking up and leaving the service at the end of the day and risk assessments of the practices will be undertaken.

Equipment and maintenance

- Appropriate equipment and furniture, to meet the needs of the children and educators, will be well maintained and safe.
- Processes will be in place for routine cleaning of toys and equipment.

Review and evaluation of the service

- Ongoing review and evaluation will underpin the continuing development of the service. The Management Committee will ensure that the evaluation involves all stakeholders, especially families, children and educators/staff.
- The development of a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) will form part of the review process. Reflection on what works well and what aspects of the service need further development will be included in the QIP and discussed at meetings of the Management Committee.

Confidentiality

- All members of the Management Committee will maintain confidentiality. This is addressed in the Confidentiality Policy.

Maintenance of records

- Regulation 177 outlines requirements and includes references to records that services must keep. Regulations 183–184 detail storage of records.
- The service has a duty to keep adequate records about staff, families and children in order to operate responsibly and legally. The service will protect the interests of the children and their families and the staff, using procedures to ensure appropriate privacy and confidentiality.
- The Approved Provider assists in determining the process, storage place and time line for storage of records.
- The service's orientation and induction processes will include the provision of relevant information to staff, children and families.
- Clear guidelines on who will have access to which particular records will be given to
- committee members, educators and families. These will be available at all times at the service.
- The Approved Provider will need to ensure that the record retention process meets the requirements of the following government departments:
 - Australian Tax Office (ATO)



Coowarra Out of School Hours Care Service Inc

- Family Assistance Office (FAO)
- Department for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
- In the event of ceasing to operate, the service Management Committee will identify where the records will be kept and seek professional advice on the winding up of the service
- A list of nominated contacts for Child Care Management System, Australian Taxation office and Superannuation funds, as well as any other accounts, will be maintained and available to all members of the Management Committee. These contacts will be reviewed annually and updated as contacts change to ensure currency in communication for effective governance.

Work, Health and Safety

- Policies and procedures will be in place to address the legal requirements relating to safety in the workplace and this information should underpin any service specific requirements, including grievance/complaints procedures.
- The nominated supervisor will report back to the Management Committee on any Work, Health and Safety issues as they arise.
- All committee members will be provided with information to assist them in meeting their obligations under the legislation

CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 7: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIPS		
7.1	Governance	Governance supports the operation of a quality service
7.1.2	Management Systems	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service
7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities	Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision making and operation of the service.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
2.1	Provider approvals
2.2	Service approvals
Division 1	Applications for Service approvals
Division 3	Transfer of Service approvals



Coowarra Out of School Hours Care Service Inc

RELATED LEGISLATION

Child Care Subsidy Secretary's Rules 2017	Family Law Act 1975
A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999	Child Care Subsidy Minister's Rules 2017
Family Assistance Law – Incorporating all related legislation as identified within the Child Care Provider Handbook in https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/resources/child-care-provider-handbook	

RELATED POLICIES

Dealing with Complaints Policy Enrolment Policy Payment of Fees Policy	Confidentiality Policy Professional Development Policy Record Keeping and Retention Policy
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UPDATED AND ENDORSED: August 2025

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: January 2030