



ANTI-BIAS and INCLUSION POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Anti bias is the practice of inclusion and underpins our philosophy. It is the acceptance that all children are valued and respected. We believe in the statement of inclusion as advocated by Early Childhood Australia (ECA) that *'Inclusion means every child has access to, participates meaningfully in, and experiences positive outcomes from early childhood education and care programs.'* (2016).

Our Service believes that children have the right to be treated equally and our goal is to develop children's identity and self-esteem in a trusting and supportive environment. We embrace diversity in all its forms to help develop positive and accepting attitudes in children, and to help them gain a better understanding of their environment, community, country, and the world.

Coowarra OOSH aims to recognise the diversity of cultures in Australia and help foster an awareness and acceptance of other cultures within each child, through the thoughtful integration of a variety of cultural activities in the program.

All activities and behaviour in the centre will be considerate of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the families within the community. Children will be encouraged to explore and share a range of cultural activities and experiences in an environment free from racial prejudice and harassment.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER, MANAGEMENT, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- ensure obligations under the *Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations* are met
- ensure obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)* are met
- access information and professional development/awareness about other cultural and racial identities, especially those relevant within the OSHC Service
- engage in critical reflection about stereotypes and biases
- foster an inclusive environment within the Service
- ensure our program design and delivery builds on community and cultural strengths



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- develop strong partnerships with families and children to extend their individual and communities' cultural responsiveness
- ensure children have opportunities to participate with a wide variety of resources from the daily life of a variety of families and cultures
- where possible, engage educators that reflect a variety of cultural, national origin, and racial identities.
- affirm and foster children's knowledge and pride in cultural identity
- foster children's curiosity, enjoyment and empathetic awareness of cultural differences and similarities
- provide children with tools to respond appropriately to bias- build on children's strengths, interests and individuality
- teach children to overcome any inappropriate responses triggered by cultural differences
- encourage children to ask about differences in physical characteristics
- enable children to feel pride and equality about their racial identity
- help children to become aware of our shared physical characteristics – what makes us all human
- encourage parent input into the program and to participate on a level that they feel comfortable with, sharing their culture, and, for example, their language
- collect information from each family on enrolment and incorporate it into the program to meet individual family needs in regard to ethnicity and home language.
- develop communication plans with families to ensure inclusion- use of interpreter/cultural support
- where possible use both the educators and children's first language as appropriate within the OSHC Service environment
- respect all cultures by presenting photographs, pictures, play equipment, books, posters, music, dramatic play resources, and dolls that will encourage open discussion and exploration of a variety of cultures
- provide resources that include diversity and skin tone to foster respect and understanding for people of all backgrounds
- develop an understanding of the needs, strengths, and attitudes of each culture represented at the Service
- challenge inappropriate or stereotypical conversations or remarks by children.

DIVERSITY IN FAMILY COMPOSITION

THE APPROVED PROVIDER, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- create an environment that is welcoming to all families



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- respect each family, and work in partnership to support the child's emergent identity as an individual, member of their family, our Service, and the community
- engage in simple discussions about families that focus on fact rather than values e.g., "*some children live with their mum or dad, some children live with their mum and dad, some with grandparents, and some with two mums or two dads*".
- be encouraged to seek awareness and reflect on his/her own feelings, beliefs and background and evaluate the effect these may have on their attitudes and interactions with families
- respect family lifestyle choices
- treat all families respectfully regardless of socioeconomic background
- discuss how members of the community can support one another and less fortunate people through the provision of resources, donations of goods or time etc.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PERSPECTIVES THE APPROVED PROVIDER, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- show respect and a commitment to reconciliation by developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- reflect on the current level of cultural competence of our staff
- promote the inclusion of children's voices in all decisions that affect them
- build and strengthen our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions
- embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum
- attend professional development to support our understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives
- provide opportunities for professional reflection
- create a culturally safe environment to ensure children have the ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights [Child Safe Standards]
- identify and challenge our own cultural assumptions, beliefs and commitments to cultural competency
- engage with local Aboriginal families and communities through Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups
- invite Elders and Traditional Owners to speak to children, staff and families about the histories and cultures of the local area
- develop an Acknowledgement of Country in collaboration with Elders, community members, children and families which will be displayed and
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given during special events and incorporated into the program on a regular basis

- develop awareness and meaningful understanding about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians
- encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities access children services
- show sensitivity and respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages by incorporating verbal and visual languages into the Service environment.

ABILITY

THE APPROVED PROVIDER, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- provide an inclusive educational environment in which all children can succeed
- promote acceptance, respect and appreciation for individual's varying abilities
- consult with all families and other professionals to enable full participation in the program for children with varying abilities
- evaluate and intentionally plan for inclusive learning environments including making reasonable adjustments to optimise access and enable all children to develop autonomy, independence, competency, confidence and pride
- provide children and parents with developmentally appropriate information about varying abilities to foster understandings that we are all similar and different
- empower children in their own learning to ensure that they gain a feeling of self-respect
- treat all children fairly and develop an understanding that everyone has something important to contribute
- find examples in books, movies and tv shows that reflect attitudes about diversity, ability and disability
- observe all children and with family consultation, provide an individualised program to extend each child's interests and abilities
- create an environment where all children can participate in activities and experiences.

PROMOTING INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY INTO THE CURRICULUM

THE APPROVED PROVIDER, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- promote positive influences, modelling appropriate communication, non-bias or gender specific language and attitudes
- develop appropriate expectations for each child based on their individual strengths, developmental needs, and interests



- assist educators with the development of required skills and knowledge for working with all children and families
- work with Inclusion Support Professionals to assist in the inclusion of children with additional needs (see *Additional Needs Policy*)
- explore the values and uniqueness of the diversity within the OSHC Service. These opportunities will form part of the curriculum
- treat children with respect by answering their questions honestly
- adapt activities, interactions, communication, the environment, and documentation to ensure all children and families are actively included and supported to participate in the curriculum
- provide children with a range of resources, equipment and opportunities to enhance their awareness of diversity
- reflect on the curriculum ensuring inclusive practice and goals set for children are realistic and being met
- involve families in the planning of learning opportunities reflective of their culture.

**PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S HOME LANGUAGES
THE APPROVED PROVIDER, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND
EDUCATORS WILL:**

- work collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and their families (MTOP, V2.0)
- acknowledge that the use of children's home language underpins their sense of identity and conceptual development (MTOP, V2.0)
- promote and support children's home languages in the OSHC Service
- present books that reflect different languages and children's first language
- create an environment which supports natural language learning and interaction
- assist parents to understand the value and importance both their home language and English
- engage in professional development about cultural diversity and building linguistic capacity.



CONSIDERATION:

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.
5.2	Relationships between children	Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.
5.2.1	Collaborative learning	Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
155	Interactions with children
156	Relationships in groups
157	Access for parents
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures are to be followed

RELATED LEGISLATION

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

RELATED POLICIES

Behaviour Guidance Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Educational Program Policy	Interaction with Children, Family and Staff Policy Orientation of Families Policy Confidentiality Policy
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UPDATED AND ENDORSED: August 2025

DATE FOR REVIEW AND EVALUATION: June 2028