

WCS Children's Services

HEALTH - Tobacco, drug and alcohol policy

Background

Cigarette smoke contains toxins and chemicals known to be detrimental to health. Because children generally breathe much more quickly than adults and their immune and respiratory systems are still developing, they are more at risk of such illnesses as asthma, chest and sensory infections, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). In addition, children may not know nor have the physical ability to move away from cigarette smoke.

Research has also proven that drugs and alcohol impair judgment and awareness.

Adults are always to be role models for children in child care.

Policy statement

The Service provides a healthy and safe environment for children, employees, families and other visitors. The policy refers to the building, surrounding area, car parks and any work vehicles used to transport children.

Strategies and practices

- Staff, parents/guardians and any other visitors to the Service are not permitted to smoke on or adjacent to the premises or within view of the children.
- 'No Smoking' signs are displayed in the entrance and/or foyer area.
- The educators represent the Service in the community and, as such, are aware of the importance of not smoking while wearing the Service's uniform.
- No alcohol or any unlawful substance is consumed in any part of the premises at any time when children are at the Service.
- Educators will not work while under the effect of alcohol or drugs, including prescription drugs that impairs their capability to provide care and education to the children.
- Any staff member who attends work under the influence of alcohol or illicit drugs is relieved from duties immediately, and risks disciplinary action which may result in dismissal.
- As part of their duty of care to ensure a healthy and safe environment for children, the educators inform the Supervisor immediately of anyone on the premises that they suspect is affected by alcohol or drugs.
- The Service reserves the right to ask any person to leave the premises they have reasonable grounds for believing is putting themselves or others at risk due to the effects of alcohol or drugs.

Responsibilities of parents/guardians

- To refrain from smoking, and from bringing alcohol or prohibited drugs onto or near the premises or within sight of children.
- To refrain from entering the premises while under the effects of alcohol or prohibited drugs.

Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2018

Regs	82	Tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment
QA	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
	2.2.2	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.
	4.2.1	Management, educators, and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other's strengths and skills.
	7.1.2	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.

Sources, further reading and useful websites

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, 2017
- National Quality Standard 2011, 2018
- The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. (2008). *Kids Health Info: Smoking and your child* http://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/handout/index.php?doc_id=11313 accessed 13 March 2012.
- SIDS and Kids. (2009). *Information Statement: Smoking*. <http://www.sidsandkids.org/wp-content/uploads/Smoking.pdf> accessed 13 March 2012.
- Dr. B. Abbey and P. Maclean, NQS - the complete system of policies, procedures and forms, www.childcarebydesign.com.

Useful websites

- Cancer Council – www.cancercouncil.com.au
- National Health and Medical Research Council – www.nhmrc.gov.au
- OxyGen – www.oxygen.org.au
- Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne – www.rch.org.au

Policy Review

The Service encourages staff and parents/guardians to be actively involved in the annual review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the review process to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

Person Responsible for Review:

Manager, Children's Services

Implementation Date:	3 November 2015	Review Date:	July 2020
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Modification History

Date	Sections and/or Paragraphs	Source	Details
2016/12	Whole document		Formatting
2018/02	Quality Areas	Revised National Quality Standard 2018	
2018/07	Review of whole policy		Include section about reserving the right to remove persons under the influence

Approved by Susan Henderson, Manager, Children's Services.



Date: 16 January 2017