
Playgroup Child Safety Policy

CONTROL:

Policy Type:	Administrative
Authorised by:	Council
Head of Power:	Not applicable
Responsible Officer:	Community Sustainability Manager
Adopted / Approved:	Minute No. 2020.05.18-OM-8
Last Reviewed:	May 2020
Review:	May 2022
Version:	1 (Original)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE:

This policy seeks to ensure the rights of children attending Playgroup to care and protection are defended.

1.2 POLICY OBJECTIVES:

For Playgroups to provide positive environments that protect the rights of children and staff.

1.3 COMMENCEMENT OF POLICY:

This Policy will commence on adoption.

2. POLICY

2.1 CONTEXT:

Playgroup staff are mandatory reporters under the Children's Protection Act 1999 (Qld). As such, Council is obliged to defend the right of children who attend Playgroup to care and protection. Council also has an obligation of confidentiality of all information relating to mandatory reporting.

2.2 POLICY STATEMENT:

The Bedourie Playgroup has an obligation to all children attending the service to defend their right to care and protection. To support this right, the service will follow the procedures set down by the Department of Human Services under the Children's Protection Act 1999 (Qld) when dealing with any allegations of abuse or neglect of children, to ensure the child's and other children's protection.

The service also has a responsibility to its employees to defend their right to confidentiality as mandatory reporters, or if allegations are brought against them.

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3. STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

3.1 Council staff will be supported in their responsibility as mandatory reporters:

- By having a copy of the [Child Safety Practice Manual](#) at Playgroups and ensuring these are read and understood. Parents/guardians/caregivers are also able to access this manual.
- All Playgroup and related Council staff (for example tradespeople expected to conduct repairs at the Playgroup from time to time) must hold a current Blue Card and this must be sighted and recorded by Council during induction, or as soon as the Blue Card is received, before that staff member is permitted to be on the Playgroup premises.

3.2 Mandatory reporting:

- At the beginning of their employment, staff will be made aware of their obligations for reporting breaches of the Children's Protection Act 1999 (Qld).
- As mandated notifiers, staff and volunteers will be required to attend periodic recognised training in relation to mandatory notification/child protection, where possible.
- Playgroup staff will be informed of the appropriate emergency contacts to fulfil their mandatory reporting role. These are:
 - Child Abuse Report Line: 13 14 78. All serious concerns must be reported via phone through the report line.
 - Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women: 1800 177 135.

4. REFERENCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 DEFINITIONS:

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions shall apply:

Word / Term	Definition
Council	means Diamantina Shire Council.

4.2 RELATED POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS:

Links to supporting documentation
Children's Protection Act 1999 (Qld)
Child Safety Practice Manual
Playgroup Behaviour Management Policy
Playgroup Equipment Policy

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4.3 VERSION CONTROL:

Previous Version Number	Adopted/Approved Date