

STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS POLICY

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Service aims to provide educators, staff and nominated supervisors who have the qualifications and experience to develop warm, nurturing, and respectful relationships with children. We are committed to ensuring that children's health, safety, and wellbeing is protected at all times through providing appropriate and effective supervision according to legislated ratios and best practice. Our educators, in collaboration with our educational leader, design and implement developmentally appropriate programs that support children's participation and engagement, interests and learning.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 4: STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS		
4.1	Staffing arrangements	Staffing arrangements enhance children's learning and development.
4.1.1	Organisation of Educators	The organisation of educators across the Service supports children's learning and development.
4.1.2	Continuity of staff	Every effort is made for children to experience continuity of Educators at the Service.
4.2	Professionalism	Management, Educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.
4.2.1	Professional collaboration	Management, Educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other's strengths and skills.
4.2.2	Professional Standards	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS	
56	Notice of addition of nominated supervisor
56A	Notice of change of a nominated supervisor's name or contact details
161	Offence to operate education and care service without nominated supervisor
161A	Offence for nominated supervisor not to meet prescribed minimum requirements
162	Offence to operate education and care service unless responsible person is present
162A	Child protection training
169	Offence relating to staffing arrangements
172	Offence to fail to display prescribed information
173	Offence to fail to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authority
174	Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority
175	Offence relating to requirement to keep enrolment and other documents
188	Offence to engage person to whom prohibition notice applies
4 (1)	Definitions
10	Meaning of <i>actively working towards</i> a qualification
13	Meaning of <i>working directly with children</i>
35	Notice of addition of new nominated supervisor
83	Staff members and family day care educators not to be affected by alcohol or drugs
84	Awareness of child protection law
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117C	Minimum requirements for a nominated supervisor
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170	Policies and procedures to be followed
173	Prescribed information to be displayed
174	Time to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authority
177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider
243	Persons taken to hold an approved diploma level education and care qualification
244	Persons taken to hold an approved certificate III level education and care qualification
321	General qualification requirements for educators—children over preschool age (SA ONLY)

PURPOSE

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place in relation to staffing arrangements (Regulation 168) and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed. (ACEQA 2021). To ensure our OSHC Service adheres to the Education and Care Service National Regulation we employ educators and staff in compliance with any state specific qualifications and experience and adhere to regulated educator and child ratios.

SCOPE

This policy applies to staff, educators, management, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students and volunteers of the OSHC Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our OSHC Service will comply with the required educators to child ratios and take into consideration any qualification requirements and experience for educators at centre-based services in order to meet National Regulations and Standards.

SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSON' DEFINITION

ACECQA determines the following qualifications as requirements for a 'suitably qualified person':

an individual who holds an approved qualification as listed on the ACECQA website that is approved by the National Authority or an individual who holds a qualification as approved by the National Authority

ACTIVELY WORKING TOWARDS DEFINITION

An educator who is enrolled in a course for an [ACECQA approved diploma level or higher qualification](#). The educator is required to provide documentary evidence of enrolment of the course, training plan and satisfactory progress towards completion of the course

- Individuals actively working towards an approved qualification may be counted towards qualification requirements as 'suitably qualified persons'
- Our OSHC Service will communicate with the educator's RTO to ensure the educator successfully completes their qualification
- We will support the educator in completing their qualification through mentoring and assistance.
- Our OSHC Service will ensure records are kept detailing staff who are actively working towards an early childhood qualification, including evidence of satisfactory progress. (See: Record-Actively working towards qualification)
- Educators are 'taken to hold an approved diploma level or certificate III level qualification' if they meet the following criteria:

- were recognised previously as a diploma level educator under former education and care services law AND employed or engaged in a declared approved service or
- held a qualification as published under regulation 137(2)(a), former qualifications for diploma level qualifications or

EDUCATIONAL LEADER

The educational leader has an influential role in inspiring, motivating, affirming, and challenging or extending the practice and pedagogy of educators. It is a joint endeavour involving inquiry and reflection, which can significantly impact on the important work educators do with children and families.

- The approved provider will nominate a qualified and experienced educator to take on the educational leader role and responsibilities (Reg.118)
- The educational leader will accept the position, in writing
- The educational leader will keep a record about how they mentor and guide educators of the OSHC Service to ensure continuous improvement
- The educational leader will guide educators to provide a range of learning experiences that cater for the needs and interests of children through play and leisure opportunities
- The educational leader will maintain evidence about the development of the learning program and the alignment to the *My Time, Our Place* (V2.0) framework
- The approved provider will ensure the name of the educational leader is displayed at the Service in a place that is clearly visible to staff, educators, families and visitors. (Reg.173)
- The approved provider will support the educational leader to fulfill their responsibilities by ensuring opportunities for professional development to support continuous improvement

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR

The nominated supervisor is a suitable person appointed by the approved provider who is placed in day-to-day charge of an approved OSHC Service. The nominated supervisor has a range of responsibilities under the National Law and Regulations including, but not limited to, programming, supervision and safety of children, entry to and exit from the premises, food and beverage, administration of medication, excursions and staffing.

The approved provider will ensure a nominated supervisor is nominated for the OSHC Service and display the name of the nominated supervisor in a place that is clearly visible to staff, educators, families and visitors.

The approved provider must provide sufficient evidence and information to demonstrate compliance to the regulatory authority of the suitability of this person as nominated supervisor and notify the regulatory authority at least seven days prior to the nominated supervisor or as soon as practicable (no-more than 14 days after the nominated supervisor has commenced employment in the position). The approved provider will ensure the regulatory authority is notified if the nominated supervisor ceases employment at the Service, is removed from the role or withdraws consent to the nomination.

The approved provider will ensure the nominated supervisors meets the following requirements:

- The nominated supervisor must be 18 years of older
- The nominated supervisor must have successfully completed Child Protection training and be aware of mandatory reporting obligations
- The nominated supervisor must have a history of compliance with Education and Care National Law and other relevant law (e.g., Family Law)
- The nominated supervisor has adequate knowledge and understanding of the provision of education and care to children and has the ability to effectively supervise and manage an education and care Service (Reg. 117C)
- The nominated supervisor is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Service, ensuring compliance with the National Law, Regulations, National Standards and Family Assistance Law
- The nominated supervisor will accept the role in writing, to ensure they have a clear understanding about their role and responsibilities
- The nominated supervisor will ensure the Service program is reflective of the approved learning framework, incorporate the children's developmental needs, interests, and experiences, and consider the individual differences and needs of each child
- The nominated supervisor will adhere to Service policies ensuring a safe and healthy environment is provided

- The nominated supervisor will register with PRODA and complete required background checks, including Working with Children Check and criminal history record check.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON

A responsible person is required to be physically present at the OSHC Service at all times that children are being educated and cared for. The responsible person can be the approved provider, or a person with management or control placed in day-to-day charge of the Service.

Our OSHC Service will ensure there is always a nominated supervisor or responsible person on the premises when children are being educated and cared for

- The approved provider or nominated supervisor will ensure any persons nominated as a responsible person placed in day-to-day charge are at least 18 years old and have adequate knowledge and understanding of the provision of education and care to children and an ability to effectively supervise and manage an education and care service (Reg. 117B)
- Our OSHC Service will clearly communicate the responsible person on duty with families, educators, staff and visitors by displaying this information in the foyer or reception area
- The responsible person will adhere to Service policies and procedures and maintain a safe and healthy environment for children
- The responsible person will always act with professionalism when dealing with children, educators, visitors, families and volunteers
- All responsible persons will accept the role in writing, to ensure they have a clear understanding about their role and responsibilities (Reg.117A)
- The responsible person must have a history of compliance with Education and Care National Law and other relevant law (e.g., Family Law)
- The responsible person must have successfully completed Child Protection training and be aware of mandatory reporting obligations. (Reg. 84).

APPROVED FIRST AID QUALIFICATIONS

- The approved provider is required to ensure at least one staff member, or one nominated supervisor holds current qualifications for first aid (including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training.
- The approved provider must ensure at least one staff member, or one nominated supervisor be in attendance at any place children are being educated and cared for by the OSHC Service and be immediately available in an emergency and hold the mandatory qualifications for:
 - an ACECQA approved first aid qualification (including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation renewed every 12 months)
 - anaphylaxis management training and
 - emergency asthma management training.(Approved qualifications are published on the ACECQA website)
- Services need to have a staff member with current approved qualifications on duty and be immediately available in an emergency.
- It is the staff and educator's responsibility to ensure they maintain current first aid (including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training qualifications and provide the OSHC Service with a copy of the certificate. Staff and educators must ensure they participate in training prior to the expiration date on their certificates
- approved first aid qualifications and ACECQA approved anaphylaxis and asthma management training every 3 years and renew cardio-pulmonary resuscitation every 12 months

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK /CLEARANCE

A Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a requirement for people who work or volunteer in child-related work. It involves a National Police Check and a review of findings of reportable workplace misconduct. The result of a WWCC is either a clearance to work with children for five years or a bar against working with children. Cleared applicants are subject to ongoing monitoring and relevant new records may lead to the clearance being revoked.

- To comply with National Regulations for those undertaking paid or voluntary child-related work all employees, volunteers and students of the OSHC Service will acquire a Working with Children Check.
- Management will verify all Working with Children Checks before any staff, educators, students and volunteers are engaged at the Service, to ensure the children are protected at all times
- Management will keep a record of the expiry date of the Working with Children Check for all staff, volunteers and students
- Management will ensure any notifications or concerns regarding a person's Working with Children Check are recorded and steps taken immediately to ensure the person is not working directly with children in accordance with directions from the
- Any visitor who has direct contact with children will be required to provide a WWCC for verification prior to coming into contact with children (*best practice*)
- The approved provider will ensure a staff member, employee, volunteer, or contractor is not employed or engaged at the Service if the person is prohibited from working with children, including a prohibition notice in force provided under the National Law.

STAFF RECORD

Approved Services must keep information about the nominated supervisor, educational leader, staff, volunteers, students, and the responsible person at the Service including name, address, date of birth, evidence of qualifications (including evidence of working towards qualifications), evidence of approved training (including Child Protection).

Our OSHC Service will ensure the following records are kept in accordance with regulation 145 and our *Record Keeping and Retention Policy*

- Details must include evidence of staff and educators working directly with children, qualifications, training information and Working with Children Check verification number and expiry date (Reg. 151)
- Details regarding staff PRODA registrations will be kept in each staff record, including RA number and evidence of fit and proper checks
- All staff, educators, students, volunteers, and visitors are required to sign in and out each day
- Immunisation status may be recorded as part of the staff record
- Details of staff including full name, address, date of birth, qualifications held, approved training completed (Reg. 147)
- Details of the Educational Leader
- Details of responsible person
- Details of nominated supervisor
- Details of staff who are actively working towards a qualification, including evidence of satisfactory progress (from July 1 2023)

ADEQUATE SUPERVISION

Adequate supervision is a consideration for any part of the OSHC Service premises where children are educated and cared for and is part of every educator's duty of care. Supervision is an active practice to help protect children from harm or hazards. Educators are required to ensure children are in sight and-hearing at all times, demonstrating that the best interest of children is being provided for.

- Our OSHC Service will comply with educator to child ratios outlined in National Legislation and National Quality Framework
- Educators will be required to adhere to the Service's *Supervision Policy* and floor plan to maintain effective supervision
- Educators will balance supervision and children's growing need to privacy and autonomy, taking into account their age/s and stage of development
- Educators will adjust their level of supervision depending on the area of the Service and the skills, age, dynamics, and size of the group of children being supervised
- Educators will respond to individual needs and attend to children as necessary
- Children will be supervised whilst resting after school
- An educator will be in sight and hearing of a sleeping child at all times to provide continuous supervision

- Educators will communicate with other staff and educators about their supervision points, offer advice and support to ensure children's safety is of the highest priority at all times
- When supervising outdoors or when children are engaged in risky play, educators will position themselves to ensure high visibility and accessibility to these areas and experiences
- Outdoor play environments are planned and educators are positioned to ensure effective supervision is maintained whilst children are transitioning between indoor/outdoor learning environments and accessing toilets
- Educators will supervise children during the transition between school and the OSHC Service
- Supervision during times of transportation to and from the OSHC service will ensure the educator to child ratio is adhered to at all times
- Adequate supervision will be provided when children are being transported. Consideration will be made depending on risk assessments, number, age and ability of children, visibility of children, each child's current activity. (See: *Safe Transportation Policy*)
- Unless briefly discussing child or Service concerns, educators will not congregate together either inside or outside
- Educators will interact with children where pedagogically appropriate whilst supervising
- Supervising educators will give their complete attention to the children and not perform other duties or tasks.

WORKING DIRECTLY WITH CHILDREN

National Regulations state that an educator cannot be included in calculating the educator to child ratio of an OSHC Service unless the educator is working directly with children. A record must be kept of educators working directly with children which includes the name of each educator and the hours each educator works directly with children being educated and cared for by the OSHC Service.

- To ensure compliance with regulations, our Service will only include educators in the educator to child ratio who are working directly with the children and ensure a current roster and a sign on/sign off record are available to verify this.

ROSTERS

- Our OSHC Service will ensure the roster and routine provides adequate supervision of children at all times.
- Consideration will be made to engage educators to maintain continuity of care to support children's development of secure relationships and contribute to their wellbeing.
- Where possible, casual staff will be chosen from a pool of regular educators with whom the children are familiar.

STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

- The approved provider/ nominated supervisor will ensure that volunteers, students and visitors meet any requirements for Working with Children Checks/Clearance
- At no time will volunteers, students and/or visitors be left alone with a child or group of children or be included in the educator to child ratio
- The *Student and Volunteer Application form* will document the name, address and date of birth of volunteers and students
- The *Student and Volunteer Application form* and *Visitor Sign In/Out Record* will document the date and hours the student/volunteer attended the service
- All volunteers and students will be inducted into the OSHC Service to ensure they adhere to the Service policies and procedures, Statement of Philosophy and Code of Conduct
- Induction will ensure volunteers and students are aware of how to manage medical conditions and to respond to a child in case of illness, injury or suffers trauma, awareness of privacy laws (including social media, photography) and behaviour guidance procedures
- Management will provide the student/volunteer with information about Child Protection Law and mandatory reporting obligations
- Our OSHC Service will ensure that no student, volunteer or visitor is affected by or under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on the service premises when children are being educated and cared for.

PRIVACY

- Staff and educators will adhere to the Service's *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* and Privacy Law in relation to children and their families, or matters relating to the Service and will at no time take part in inappropriate or unlawful conversations or discussions.
- The nominated supervisor will ensure that students and volunteers are made aware of the Services privacy and confidentiality policy and Privacy Law during their initial induction.
- All staff, educators, volunteers and students are provided with information about the ECA Code of Ethics.
- All staff and educators will be made aware of Child Information Sharing Schemes (CISS) and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes (FVSS)

STAFF RECRUITMENT

Our OSHC Service will ensure a rigorous recruitment process is followed to select the best staff possible based on skills, qualifications, experience and suitability for the position available. Each role will refer to the appropriate position description during recruitment and the probation period to ensure applicants are suitable for the role and position.

All potential staff will participate in robust interviews and have reference checks completed before an offer of employment is presented. Reference checks will take into consideration the suitability of the applicant for the role, previous experience and their commitment to child safe practices.

All potential staff are subject to Police Checks, maintenance of a valid Working with Children Check/Clearance (WWCC) and appropriate qualification. Valid first aid, asthma and anaphylaxis management or food safety qualification *may* also be required.

All new staff will undergo a probation period of three (3) months, during this time they will participate in an induction and orientation program and hold regular discussions regarding their performance with an appointed mentor.

Staff induction includes provision of the Service's policies and procedures, code of conduct, Child Safe Standards, child protection, work, health and safety guidelines, behaviour guidance, service routines, human resource documentation, physical environment, communication with families' processes,

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Our OSHC Service will ensure a copy of the policies and procedures are available to all staff at all times, either electronically or in hard copy. The approved provider will ensure steps are taken to ensure staff follow policies and procedures through the following practices:

- new staff members are to read and acknowledge key policies and procedures during the induction process
- policy review is to be conducted during staff meetings to support staff understanding and adherence
- staff meeting minutes will record evidence of policies and procedures reviewed with staff
- policy review will be systematic and occur on a regular basis to support regular review and maintenance of policies and procedures
- staff are requested to provide feedback following policy reviews
- policy review will be conducted following updates to legislation or regulation amendments or following an incident or complaint
- the *Staff Policy Acknowledgement Form* is completed for each staff member
- performance reviews and improvements plans will be linked to policies and procedures
- checklists and audits will be used to identify any practices inconsistent with policies and procedures
- the *Performance Management Policy* outlines procedures for dealing with non-compliance of policies
- Performance improvement plans reflect expectations of behaviours required from staff linked to policies and procedures

EDUCATOR TO CHILD RATIOS

Age	State	Educator to Child Ratio
Over Pre-School Age	NT, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC, NSW	1 :15

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Regulations 321

- Our OSHC Service will ensure the first of every 2 educators included in the educator to child ratio holds a qualification as per the ACECQA list of approved OSHC qualifications for South Australia.