

ARMIDALE FAMILY DAY CARE Sustainability Policy	
Related Policy/policies	Educational Program and Practice, Inclusion, Promoting Children's Wellbeing and Resilience, Nutrition, Food, Beverage & Dietary Requirements.
Regulation/s/ Standards	National Quality Standard Areas 1, 3 6 & 7 , Early Years Learning Framework, My Time Our Place
Related procedures	Supervision, Workplace Health and Safety
References:	ACECQA, Kooricurriculum, Dr. Sue Elliott, Environmental Education in Early Childhood, NSW Early Childhood Nature Connections
Date effective	April 2025
Date for review	April 2028
Purpose	To promote the importance of sustainability in early childhood education in AFDC and to encourage all stakeholders to embed sustainability in educational programs and service practices.
Responsibility	Board of Directors, Management, Nominated supervisors, Coordinators, Educators and families

Key Information:

AFDC believes that Sustainability is multidimensional but intertwined:

- *Environmental Sustainability* focuses on caring for our natural world and protecting, preserving and improving the environment
- *Social Sustainability* is about inclusion and living peacefully, fairly and respectfully together
- *Economic Sustainability* encourages practices which support economic development without negatively impacting the other dimensions. This includes focusing on fair and equitable access and conservation of resources and reducing consumption and waste.

The Approved Provider, Management, Nominated Supervisors and Coordinators will support every child's agency and right to be an active participant in all matters affecting their life.

We believe that the concept of "borrowing, using and returning" rather than "taking, making and wasting" provides a framework for sustainable practice that aligns with Aboriginal perspectives on caring for Country.

Aboriginal, South Sea Islander and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives:

We are committed to engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families, using our best endeavours to guide practices towards more meaningful, culturally respectful approaches that honour Aboriginal connections to land, to emphasise the importance of ethical procurement of goods and resources within AFDC and to encourage all stakeholders to critically reflect on their

environmental impact in ways that respect the traditional owners of the land on which AFDC operates.

Responsibilities:

Approved Provider and Management:

- To ensure that a strong Philosophy guides all aspects of AFDC's operations
- To endeavour to provide a service environment that is inclusive and promotes competence
- To endeavour to ensure that sustainable practice is embedded in AFDC service operations
- To oversee the building of collaborative partnerships between stakeholders which enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing
- To support community engagement, encouraging the building of strong collaborative relationships
- When purchasing new appliances and equipment, to endeavour to source them from ethical, local suppliers, ensuring that consideration is given to energy ratings, and where affordable, select the article with the higher environmental performance.

Nominated Supervisors and Coordinators:

- To engage with local Aboriginal community markets and events and take opportunities to procure authentic, place-based resources while building meaningful relationships
- To provide Educators with support and encouragement to positively engage in advocacy and transformative change towards sustainable ways of thinking and acting
- To ensure that lighting and appliances are to be turned off when not in use
- To ensure that computers are to be put into lower power state when not in use
- To ensure that the use of heating and cooling devices is limited to necessary areas only and is switched off when no longer needed or otherwise operated in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
- Where possible, to ensure that correspondence is emailed to educators and families and other stakeholders
- Where copying is necessary, to ensure that double-sided copies are produced and that colour copying is limited to essential items only
- To ensure that archived documentation is shredded or composted and recycled accordingly
- To use their best endeavours to conserve water within AFDC

Educators

- To use their best endeavours to ensure that sustainable practises are embedded in their service
- To recognise children's interest in their world and their ability to engage with concepts and practices of sustainability
- To encourage children to feel a part of the natural world and to appreciate and take joy from it
- To support children to become environmentally responsible
- To support children's learning and development by encouraging exploration and play-based learning
- To incorporate conservation and recycling into their programs
- To encourage natural play spaces, ensuring there is a balance between indoor and outdoor experiences
- To consider their use of chemicals and reduce it where possible, sourcing natural alternatives if available

Families

- To foster their children's capacity to value and respect the broader environment so that they develop an awareness of shared community responsibility
- To promote the qualities of acceptance, understanding and empathy in children, essential for children's present and future roles in society
- To provide children's meals in reusable containers and lunchboxes, limiting convenience and pre-packaged foods and providing healthy meal options and fresh fruit
- To provide children with reusable drink bottles
- To communicate with Educators regarding the upcycling of unneeded resources that the Educator may use as part of their education and care program