

## ARMIDALE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

### *Water Safety Policy*

<b>Policy/policies:</b>	Excursions, Sun Safe, Child Protection and Child Safe Policy (including Providing a Child Safe Environment)
<b>Regulation/s/ Standards:</b>	Education and Care Services National Regulations 25(1)(c), 26(1)(l), 101, 115, 116, 116A, 116B, 116C, 168(2)(a)(iii), 169, 170, 171, 172. National Quality Area 2.
<b>Related procedures:</b>	Supervision
<b>References:</b>	Staying Healthy in Child Care (5 <sup>th</sup> Edition) Kidsafe- FDC Safety Guidelines, Health and Safety in FDC Models and Practices - 2nd Edition- Frith, Kambouris, O’Grady
<b>Date effective</b>	November 2025
<b>Date for review</b>	November 2028
<b>Purpose</b>	Water safety policies and procedures help keep children safe in and around water and support children’s learning in a safe environment. Children’s safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education.
<b>Responsibility</b>	Management, Nominated Supervisors and Educators

#### **Key information:**

The Education and Care Services National Regulations requires Armidale Out of School Hours Care to ensure we have policies and procedures in place for managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities.

The safety, health and wellbeing of children is our number one priority. All water-based activities will be adequately supervised and no child will be left unattended when in proximity to water.

#### **Water Play:**

Water activities involving sprinklers, hoses, soaker hoses and water mats are acceptable and are an important way to promote children with fun activities during the warmer months. In Armidale OSHC close supervision is mandatory at all times when water play is occurring and no children are to be left alone when water play is occurring.

#### **Definitions**

Any body of water that is accessible to children is considered a water hazard this includes but is not limited to:

- Rivers and Creeks
- Dams and Ponds, and

- Swimming Pools, in ground spas, portable above ground spas

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met.
- Ensure that there is adequate supervision provided given the ages and developmental needs of children who may be undertaking water activities (including ratios).
- Ensure risk assessments are undertaken, and water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities are taken into consideration prior to an excursion being conducted.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that the policy and procedures are current, reviewed regularly and communicated to Educators, staff, and stakeholders.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that Nominated Supervisors, Responsible Persons and Educators follow this policy and procedures.
- Ensure copies of the policy and procedures are readily accessible to Nominated Supervisors, Responsible Persons and Educators.

#### Nominated Supervisors and Responsible Persons will:

- Ensure that there is adequate supervision provided given the ages and developmental needs of children undertaking water activities (including ratios).
- As per regulatory requirements, must maintain an educator to child ratio 1:n of AFDC's excursion policy, any excursion with a water hazard, must maintain the educator to child ratio of 1:8.
- Inform families about this Water Safety Policy in the Family Handbook
- Ensure first aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.
- Undertake risk assessments for excursions near water and for water-based activities.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that the policy and procedures are current, reviewed regularly, and communicated to Educators and families
- Take reasonable steps to inform and support Educators in implementing the policy and procedures.
- Undertake risk assessments for excursions near water and for water-based activities.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that the policy and procedures are current, reviewed regularly, and communicated to Educators, staff, and stakeholders.
- Take reasonable steps to inform and support Educators and staff of their responsibilities in implementing the policy and procedures at all times.
- Guide and mentor Educators and staff to be able to follow the policy and procedures.