



# Wesley Out of School Hours Care policy

## Environmental Sustainability

### 1. Purpose

Wesley Out of School Hours Care (Wesley OOSH) aims to help children learn about and implement sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to the staff, children, families and visitors of Wesley OOSH as required by the following Regulations and Standards.

#### National Quality Standard

QA3	3.2.3	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible
QA6	6.2.3	The service builds relationships and engages with their local community.

#### My Time, Our Place

LO2	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
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### 3. Policy statement

Children develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching adult's model sustainable practices. Children learn to live interdependently with the environment.

#### Environmental Sustainability and our Curriculum

Wesley OOSH Educators will promote a holistic, open ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- Connecting children to nature through art and play and allowing children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand, recycled materials, plants including native vegetation, trickle streams or ponds, nesting boxes, a potting bench with gardening tools and watering cans.
- Ensuring natural resources are available for children to play with along with the resources found in the natural environment.
- Developing education programs for water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction.
- Celebrating children's environmental knowledge and sustainable activities.
- Involving children in nature walks, gardening education and growing plants and flowers from seed.
- Engaging children in learning about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking food for our service kitchen.



- Enlisting the help of groups with expertise in environmental issues, for example bush care groups, wildlife rescue groups, Clean Up Australia, to deliver elements of our sustainability program.
- Acknowledging and celebrating environmental awareness events like Clean Up Australia Day and Walk to School Day.

### **The Role of Educators**

Wesley OOSH Educators will model sustainable practices by embedding sustainability into the daily running of our service operations. For example:

- Recycling materials for curriculum and learning activities.
- Minimising waste and effectively using service resources.
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use.
- Using the least hazardous cleaning substance appropriate for the situation, for example, ordinary detergent for cleaning dirt from tables and other surfaces
- Composting.
- Maintaining a worm farm.
- Maintaining a no dig vegetable/herb garden.
- Incorporating water wise strategies such as drip irrigation and ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed.
- Using food that we have grown in meals on our weekly menu.
- Implementing environmentally friendly pest management.

### **Partnerships with Families and the Community**

Wesley OOSH will facilitate collaborative partnerships with local community groups, government agencies and private companies to enhance and support children's learning about sustainable practices. We will share brochures and fact sheets on sustainable practices like recycling, saving water and power and green cleaning with our children and their families. Families will be encouraged to participate in decision making and information sharing about environmental sustainability through our newsletters, parent input forms, wall displays, meetings.

### **4. Responsibility and policy owner**

The policy owner is the General Manager, Wesley Health, Conferences and Education. The owner is responsible for implementing the policy and achieving the desired outcomes. Wesley OOSH staff shall adhere to this policy.

### **5. Consultation & Approval**

This policy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders including families and the community, the Head of Wesley OOSH, Area Manager/s, Wesley OOSH, Centre Coordinators, Wesley OOSH and the Quality, Risk and Compliance Coordinator, Wesley OOSH.

This policy has been approved by General Manager, Wesley Health, Conferences and Education.