



Wesley Out of School Hours Care policy

Water Safety

1. Purpose

Wesley Out of School Hours Care (Wesley OOSH) will plan experiences with appropriate levels of challenge where children will be encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks ("My Time, Our Place", Outcome 4), including the use of water as a medium for play in both the outdoor and indoor environment and on excursions.

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

QA2	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
	2.2.2	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented
QA3	3.1	The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service

National Law(s) and National Regulations(r)

r99	Children leaving the education and care premises
r100	Risk assessment must be conducted for excursion
r101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
r102	Authorisation for excursion
r103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
r168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
s165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
s167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

My Time, Our Place:

LO1	Children feel safe, secure and supported
LO4	Children are confident and involved learners



3. Policy statement

Water use will be supervised at all times to ensure the safety of children is a priority. The hygienic state of water will be assessed before it is used for children's play. Drinking water will be accessible, hygienically stored and maintained at all times.

4. Principles

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near or at bodies of water (swimming pools, water fun parks, wading pools, lakes, ponds, the sea/ocean, creeks, dams, rivers, or equipment used by the service containing 5 cm or more of water), hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment.

Children will be instructed in the safe use of equipment used during water-based activities. Any buckets of water that may be used for cleaning or hand washing will not be left unsupervised near children and will be emptied immediately after use.

Children's play areas will be checked each morning to ensure that no containers or pools of water are accessible to children. If rain occurs during the day, outdoor play areas will be checked for safety prior to the children entering the outdoor environment.

Parents are advised of any planned water activities prior to the day the activity is to be run to ensure we are able to take all precautions specific to the needs of each child.

The National Law and Regulations does not specify a specific Educator to child ratio for activities where water is a feature. The number of Educators present is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity, including adequate supervision (National Law sections 165, 167 and 169):

- Numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- Number and positioning of Educators
- Each child's current activities
- Areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- Risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- Educator's knowledge of each child and each group of children
- The experiences, knowledge and skill of each Educator

5. 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.

6. 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.