

Best Practice – Quality Area 3

PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines to assist Goulburn Region Preschool Association Inc to take an active role in caring for the environment and promoting and contributing to a sustainable future.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Goulburn Region Preschool Association Inc is committed to:

- promoting respect for, and an appreciation of, the natural environment among all at the centres
- fostering children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment, and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land
- supporting the development of positive attitudes and values in line with sustainable practices
- ensuring that educators and other staff engage in sustainable practices during the operation of the centre.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Goulburn Region Preschool Association Inc.

3. PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- ensuring that all staff and volunteers have access to this policy and have a clear understanding of the procedures and practices outlined within
- collaborating with the Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, parents/guardians, children and others at the centre to identify environmental sustainability strategies for implementation.
- allocating the necessary resources to implement the identified environmental sustainability strategies at the centre
- ensuring the Nominated Supervisor and all staff are aware of their responsibilities under this *Environmental Sustainability Policy*
- ensuring the identified strategies are implemented at the centre
- ensuring parents/guardians are aware of, and have access to, the *Environmental Sustainability Policy*.

All Early Childhood Staff are responsible for:

- collaborating with the Approved Provider, educators, staff, parents/guardians, children and others at the centre to identify environmental sustainability strategies for implementation at the centre.
- implementing identified strategies for which they have responsibility at the centre
- ensuring environmental education and practices are incorporated into the curriculum (refer to *Curriculum Development Policy*)
- providing families with information about environmentally sustainable practices e.g. through displays, fact sheets and local community resources, and by ensuring that they have access to the *Environmental Sustainability Policy*
- making recommendations to the Approved Provider about green and sustainable options for the centre, that reflect the guidelines within this policy
- seeking and applying for grants, where appropriate, to support the implementation of strategies within this policy
- keeping up to date with current research, resources and best practice through newsletters, journals and support agencies such as Environmental Education in Early Childhood (EEEC).
- engaging in activities that support the centre to become more environmentally sustainable (e.g. recycling)
- planning opportunities for children to connect with nature and the natural world at the centre, including on excursions and at other centre events
- incorporating celebrations of environmental awareness into the program e.g. National Tree Day, National Recycling Week, Clean Up Australia Day and Walk to Workday

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- collaborating with the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, children and others at the centre to identify environmental sustainability strategies for implementation at the centre.
- following the strategies identified and outlined in this *Environmental Sustainability Policy*
- encouraging their children to adopt environmentally sustainable practices at both the centre and at home.

Volunteers and students, while at the centre, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.**EVALUATION**

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the GRPSA policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Goulburn Region Preschool Association Inc in November 2012.

Reviewed and Approved: 24th September 2016

Reviewed and Approved: June 2020

Review Date: June 2023