

Childcare Centre Policy		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	12.1	
Policy Category:	Childcare Centre	
Authorised by:	Res-2020-02-037	
Date approved:	20 February 2020	
Review Date:	20 February 2022	

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to outline consistent governance of the Longreach Childcare Centre in accordance with the National Legislative Framework, this will include:

- (a) Achieving Council's strategic objectives, as identified in the Corporate Plan;
- (b) Supporting the consistent governance in accordance with the National Legislative Framework;
- (c) Developing an environment that encourages children's health and well being;
- (d) Promoting an awareness to Educators, staff, parents and guardians of their obligatory requirements in relation to all legislative documentation regarding children's health and wellbeing, safety, administration and program delivery;
- (e) Providing guidelines to Educators, staff, parents and guardians; and
- (f) Building awareness in the wider community on the importance of health and well being.

SCOPE

This policy will apply to all children enrolled, Educators, staff, volunteers, parents and guardians, employed, or visiting Longreach Childcare Centre.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

Local government Regulation 2012

Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

DEFINITIONS

Department of Education - Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) - Regulatory Authority responsible for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of services in their jurisdiction in accordance with the national legislative framework and in relation to the National Quality Standard.

Educator - early childhood or school age practitioner who works directly with children in early childhood or school age care settings.

National Quality Framework (NQF) – provides a national approach to regulation, assessment and quality improvement for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services across Australia.

National Quality Standard (NQS) – sets a high national benchmark for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services in Australia. The NQS includes seven quality areas that are important outcomes for children. Services are assessed and rated by their regulatory authority against the NQS, and given a rating for each of the 7 quality areas and an overall rating based on these results.

Parents/Guardians – a person who has parental responsibility for the child.

Staff – employee of Longreach Regional Council based at the Longreach Childcare Centre.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council recognises that the Childcare Centre must meet a variety of obligations based on the requirements of the Department of Education - Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). This office holds regulatory responsibility for the approval, monitoring and quality assessment of Child Care Services in their jurisdiction. These assessments are conducted in accordance with the National Quality Framework (NQF) and in relation to the National Quality Standard (NQS).

The NQF is the basis of the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations. To meet this standard a range of procedures have been developed under the Strategic Framework of Council to support children's health, safety, administration and program delivery and ensure all legislative framework requirements and the NQF are upheld consistently throughout the day to day operations of the Centre.

In order for the Childcare Centre to meet all obligations required by legislation, various Management Directives have been developed and implemented to support the objectives of this policy and ensure compliance in day to day operations of the Centre. All Management Directives and other supporting documents will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure the recommendations of regulatory authorities and Longreach Regional Council are incorporated into the operating policy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Childcare Centre Management Directives

National Quality Standard

Authorised by resolution as at 20 February 2020:



Mitchell Murphy
Chief Executive Officer