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# WOODSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

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## Water Safety Policy

### Policy Statement

Water activities are a significant part of Australian life and provide children with opportunities to access a variety of activities for experience, learning and fun. However, all bodies of water present a significant hazard and require service educators to provide increased vigilance around them to ensure the safety of children. It is acknowledged that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

The Woodside Primary School OSHC service recognises these risks posed by bodies of water and takes the safety of children and educators involved in water-based activities and around bodies of water seriously. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities and the outcomes will underpin the educator to child ratio for the activities.

The service will ensure the safety of children around bodies of water by:

- Undertaking a risk assessment that will determine the required educator to child ratio for the proposed activity.
- Ensuring educators are placed in positions that allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Demonstrating a preference for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of life guards.
- Ensuring educators are placed in positions that allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Avoiding any venue with a body of water where sufficient precautions cannot be taken to ensure the safety of children.

The National Regulations do 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. It must also be noted that in sections 165, 167 and 169 of the National Law there are clear statements about adequate supervision.

The adequacy of supervision shall be determined by a range of factors that include:

- numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- number and positioning of educators
- each child's current activity
- areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children

## **Policy**

The number of educators present during water activities is to be determined by a risk assessment of the proposed activity. The adequacy of supervision shall be determined by a range of factors that include:

- numbers, ages and abilities of the children
- number and positioning of educators
- each child's current activity
- areas where children are playing, in particular the visibility and accessibility of these areas
- risks in the environment and experiences provided to children
- educators' knowledge of each child and each group of children
- the experience, knowledge and skill of each educator

## **Definition of a body of water**

The service recognises the following locations are bodies of water:

- swimming pools
- wading pools
- lakes
- ponds
- the sea
- creeks
- dams
- rivers
- equipment used by the service that could contain 5cm or more of water and would allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

## **The Director**

The Director is responsible for:

- Actively looking for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of life guards, when the venue contains or has access to a body of water.
- Conducting a risk assessment on any venue the service plans to visit, to ensure that the service is able to provide appropriate levels of supervision and that the risk does not exceed the service's ability to maintain the safety of children.
- Ensuring a risk assessment is carried out on any activity the service sets up that allows children to access a body of water.
- Ensuring educators position themselves in the environment so that every child is within sight of an adult at all times and that supervision is direct and vigilant; and that educators rotate their position in the environment on a regular basis to allow for movement and to maintain vigilance.
- On a swimming excursion, having some educators designated to supervise children from within the body of water.

## **Resources/References**

- Camps and Excursions Guidelines at <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/g/files/net691/f/camps-excursions-guidelines.pdf>