

Smoke-Free Environment

Introduction

All workplaces have a regulatory and legislative duty of care to provide a safe, healthy, smoke and vape free environment. Children, educators, and families will not be exposed to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, vapour, or residue from vaping devices while on education and care service premises.

Goals

Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten has adopted a smoke and vape free environment policy to protect all persons who access the service from the effects of environmental tobacco smoke and vapour. Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten does not permit the smoking, vaping, or use of any tobacco, nicotine, or other inhaled substances (including e-cigarettes, vaping devices, or similar products) in any area of the premises.

Strategies

The philosophy of Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten will guide educator interactions and practices by providing a vision, a purpose and meaningful direction regarding goals for children and families.

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that the education and care environment is free from the use of tobacco, vaping substances, and vaping devices for the children being cared for and educated.
- Take precautions to promote the health and wellbeing of children by protecting them from exposure to tobacco smoke, vapour, and residues from vaping devices.
- Designate all areas of the education and care service, including the building, outdoor areas, and the car park, as smoke free and vape free zones.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Seek to protect children from passive smoke and vapour environments during excursions.
- Ensure that educators receive an induction where they are informed of the Smoke and Vape Free Environment Policy.
- Inform educators who choose to smoke or vape while employed at the service that they are only able to leave the premises during allocated break periods, must inform the nominated supervisor or colleagues, must not be within view of the service, and must sign in and out. Upon return, they must wash their hands thoroughly and minimise any smell of tobacco or vapour residue on clothing.
- Ensure that during orientation and enrolment visits, families are reminded that the service is both smoke free and vape free.
- Encourage educators and families to dispose of cigarette butts, vaping cartridges, or other related waste appropriately to ensure the safety of all children.
- Ensure 'No Smoking' and 'No Vaping' signs are displayed in all relevant areas through WHS checklists and ensure universal signage is available to indicate a smoke and vape free zone.

- Ensure information is available in family rights and responsibilities documents, family handbooks, etc.
- Make information available about the effects of smoking and vaping and ensure that the Quitline number is displayed on all relevant signage.

Educators will:

- Read and follow this policy and abide by the Smoke-Free Environment Act 2016 (NSW) and related vaping restrictions, which prohibit smoking and vaping in childcare facilities and within the legislated distance of a pedestrian entrance to a public building.
- Only leave the premises during allocated break periods and after informing the Nominated Supervisor or colleagues. At such times, educators must sign in and out.
- Refrain from smoking or vaping in view of the service.
- Wash their hands thoroughly and minimise the smell of tobacco or vapour residue on their clothing when returning to the service.
- Dispose of any cigarette butts, vaping cartridges, or similar waste appropriately.

Families will:

- Read and follow this policy and abide by the Smoke-Free legislation for NSW and related vaping restrictions.
- Dispose of any cigarette butts, vaping cartridges, or similar waste appropriately.

Evaluation

Quirindi Preschool Kindergarten is a smoke and vape free environment. Educators and families will not expose other adults and children to the effects of passive smoking or vapour inhalation. The health benefits of smoke and vape free environments will be promoted.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

- NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Australian Smoke-Free Legislation NSW
- Smoke-Free Environment Act 2016 (NSW)
- Related vaping and e-cigarette restrictions under NSW law
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations