

TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY

Best Practice – Quality Area 2

PURPOSE

The educators, staff and management acknowledge the importance of a smoke-free environment that contributes to good health and overall wellbeing.

This policy confirms our commitment to:

- ensure a smoke-free environment for children, families, educators, staff, volunteers and visitors
- encourage educators and staff to build on opportunistic learning moments with children
- provide information to educators, staff and families about the health benefits of not smoking.

As a health promoting service we will provide a smoke-free environment for children, educators, staff and families through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment and developing community links and partnerships.

POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Thomastown West Kindergarten is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, educators, staff and others attending the service
- providing a clear set of guidelines in relation to the provision of a smoke-free environment.
- ensuring that the service has the capacity to deliver a smoke-free environment that contributes to good health and overall wellbeing.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Thomastown West Kindergarten, including during offsite excursions and activities.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

The key to tobacco control in the early years is prevention. The most effective means of prevention is providing an early childhood environment that is supportive and protective of all children. Building resilience and developing social and emotional competencies should start early to enhance the potential for children to resist risky behaviours later on.

It is recognised that every member of the service impacts on the children's health and can contribute to creating a healthy, smoke free environment. All members of our service, including educators, staff, children, families and volunteers will be supported to meet this policy.

LEGISLATION

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard 2013

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for children)

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

DEFINITIONS

Resilience: the ability to bounce back from adversity in order to lead a healthy and fulfilling life. 1

Social and emotional competence: the ability to recognise and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships and handle challenging situations capably. 2

SOURCES

1. School Drug Education and Road Aware. Challenges and Choices. Early Childhood Resource for resilience, drug and road safety education.

Government of Western Australia, 2005

2. Zins J E and Elias M J. Social and Emotional Learning in Safe and Sound: An educational leader's guide to evidence-based social and emotional learning programs. Developed by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, USA, 2003.

6. PROCEDURES

Health policies

- Educators, staff, families and children are active participants in the development and implementation of the whole service tobacco policy.
- Educators, staff and families are provided with information about policy requirements.

Healthy physical environment

- The service provides a totally smoke-free environment.
- All service sanctioned events (both on and off premises), including excursions, fetes and celebrations are totally smoke-free.
- Compliance with the tobacco legislation is ensured with contract agreements with stakeholders, suppliers, providers of services, and users of service facilities.

Healthy social environment

- Staff who smoke are supported to quit or manage their smoking.
- As role models, educators, staff and families present smoke-free behaviour in line with this policy.
- Service contractors and visitors model smoke-free behaviour and refrain from smoking whilst in view of children.

Learning and skills

- Tobacco education and related health messages are reinforced in opportunistic learning moments.
- Educators are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to provide opportunistic learning about tobacco education and prevention initiatives.

Engaging children, educators, staff and families

- Families, children, educators and staff are key partners in developing and supporting smoke-free initiatives.
- Information, ideas and practical strategies are provided to families, educators and staff on a regular basis to promote and support smoke-free behaviour in the service and at home.
- The service engages families in smoke-free initiatives.
- The service engages with families and children from culturally diverse backgrounds to ensure cultural values and expectations about tobacco are considered.

Community partnerships

- The service engages local health professionals, services and other organisations to increase educator and staff capacity to deliver and promote tobacco education and prevention initiatives.
- Information is provided to educators, staff and families about local support to quit smoking as required.
- Partner organisations are required to comply with smoke-free strategies identified in the service's tobacco policy at service events on and off site.

7. EVALUATION

This tobacco policy will be monitored by educators, staff, families, management and the health and wellbeing team. It will be reviewed, and if necessary revised, as part of a policy review schedule.

8. AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Thomastown West Kindergarten on 10/09/2014.

REVIEW DATE: 10/09/2017