

## 2.6 WATER SAFETY

### Policy Statement:

Water safety policies and procedures help keep children safe in and around water, and support children's learning in a safe environment. Mackay Family Day Care is committed to eliminating and minimising risks associated with water play, water hazards and aquatic environments. Particular attention will be paid to any water hazards when planning outings.

### Background:

According to Kidsafe (the recognised authority on the prevention of injuries in children), drowning continues to be one of the main causes of fatalities of Australian children.

### Legislative Requirements:

Section/regulation	Description
Section 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children.
Section 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazard.
Regulation 25(1)(c)	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises.
Regulation 100	Risk Assessment Must be Conducted Before Excursion
Regulation 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion.
Regulation 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision.
Regulation 116	Assessments of family day care residences and approved family day care venues.
Regulation 116A	Inspection of swimming pools, water features and other potential water hazards at family day care residences and approved family day care venues.
Regulation 116B	Inspection Report.
Regulation 116C	Compliance with fencing requirements for swimming pools at family day care residences and approved family day care venues.
Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during water based activities.
Regulation 169	Additional policies and procedures – family day care services
Regulation 170	Policies and procedures to be followed.
Regulation 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available.
Regulation 172	Notification of change to policies or procedures.

### Definitions:

**Water Hazard** Any body of water that poses a risk to children (e.g. swimming pools, wading pools, buckets, tubs, ponds, creeks, puddles, fish ponds, baths )

**Wading Pool** Small, portable pool with water depth not exceeding 30cm.

**Active Supervision** Intentionally observing, engaging with, monitoring and responding to children's behaviour and environmental factors to ensure safety.

**General Procedures:**

1. All children near water will be directly and closely supervised and no child will be left unsupervised near water at any time.
2. An educator will not permit children in their care to be on premises where a pool is not fenced in accordance with current Queensland pool safety laws.
3. Any containers that hold or collect water should be emptied, securely covered or made inaccessible to children
4. All fish ponds and water features must be securely covered by material which can support the weight of an adult and remains above the water level at all times.

**Water Play**

1. Prior to any water-based activities taking place educators must develop a comprehensive written risk assessment if it has not already been addressed as part of the educator's house risk assessment.
2. Wading pools and water play receptacles must be filled to a depth not exceeding 30cm.
3. Educators must remain within arm's reach and in direct line of sight of children who are undertaking water play activities.
4. Wading pools and other water play containers must be emptied immediately after use and stored to prevent the collection of water.

**Swimming Pools and Spas**

1. All swimming pools and spas at a family day care educator's residence/venue must have a current pool safety certificate.
2. Monthly Pool Inspections must be completed by the Approved Provider or delegate.
3. The person who conducted the inspection must provide the Approved Provider and the Family Day Care Educator with a written report within 7 days of conducting the inspection.
4. Any items around the perimeter of the pool or spa must be situated at least 900mm away from the top of the pool fence.
5. Pool gates must not be locked.
6. Pool gates must always be latched and never propped open.
7. Children in care are not permitted to swim in an educator's pool.
8. Educator's own children and visitors may only use the pool during family day care operating hours if they are being actively supervised by an adult who is not the family day care educator.
9. Children must not be taken within the grounds of a public swimming pool.

## Outings to Beaches, Dams, Creeks, Rivers and other Water Sources

1. Prior to gaining authorisations to take children on outings, educators must visit the venue and develop a comprehensive risk assessment.
2. Children are not permitted to swim in the ocean, dams, lakes, creeks, rivers, or other natural bodies of water.
3. Educators should consider the ages, skills and abilities of the children in their care when planning outings.
4. Educators should discuss the risks and safety precautions with children before undertaking outings to/near any body of water.

Date Implemented	Review Due	Date Reviewed	Date Updated	Source
2009 July	2011 January 2012 July 2014 January 2015 July 2017 January 2018 July 2019 March 2021 February 2022 August 2024 February 2025 August 2027 February 2027 June	2011 January 2012 July 2014 January 2015 July 2017 January  2022 August  2025 August	   2017 September 2019 August 2021 February  2024 February  2025 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010</li><li>• Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</li><li>• Guide to the National Quality Standard.</li></ul>