ANTI-BIAS AND INCLUSIONS POLICY

Anti-bias is the practice of inclusion, and it is the acceptance that all children are valued and respected. We believe in the statement of inclusion as advocated by Early Childhood Australia (ECA) that '*Inclusion means every child has access to, participates meaningfully in, and experiences positive outcomes from early childhood education and care programs.*' (2016).

Our Service believes that children have the right to be treated equally, and our goal is to develop children's identity and self-esteem in a trusting and supportive environment. We embrace diversity in all its forms to help develop positive and accepting attitudes in children and to help them gain a better understanding of their environment, community, country, and the world.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.
5.2	Relationships between children	Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.
5.2.1	Collaborative learning	Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
S. 2A	Paramount consideration—safety, rights and best interests of children
S. 162B	Child safety training
S.166A	Offences relating to inappropriate conduct
155	Interactions with children
156	Relationships in groups
157	Access for parents
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures are to be followed

ADVENTIST IDENTITY EARLY CHILDHOOD STANDARDS		
4.3	Convey Christian character and professionalism to enhance children's learning and development	Demonstrate a commitment to professional excellence and quality teaching practices.
		Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how Adventist Christian Worldview is integrated and modelled into learning, development, and care.
5.3	Build strong and Trusting relationships With children in a Christlike manner	Recognise and affirm that each child is a unique and valued child of God.
		Support and be inclusive of children with additional developmental needs and disabilities.
7.3	Develop a Christian virtue of professional excellence.	Develop, implement, and lead professional teaching, learning and care in a Christian context through strategies supported in the Quality Adventist Schools improvement framework.
		Develop and implement a statement of philosophy that guides the mission and ethos of an Adventist Early Learning Service.

RELATED POLICIES

Additional Needs Policy Behaviour Guidance Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Educational Program Policy Gender Equity Policy	Interaction with Children, Family, and Staff Policy Orientation of Families Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Respect for Children Policy

PURPOSE

We aim to provide an inclusive environment for all children, families, and educators, acknowledging the uniqueness of every person regardless of their race, gender, religion, culture, physical and mental abilities, and socio-economic background. This policy ensures all children, families, and staff are welcomed and treated equitably and with respect. Our *Gender Equity Policy* provides further direction on how our Service promotes equitable opportunities and challenges gender stereotypes within the broader Anti-Bias and inclusion framework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to educators, families, staff, management, approved providers, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers, and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our *Anti-Bias and Inclusion policy* underpins the philosophy of our Service. The role of educators is to encourage children to share and learn about the individuality of each child and their family, and their role in the Service. This policy aims to assist children in forming positive social relationships, developing their identity and self-awareness, and to learn to accept the diversity of members within and outside of the Service community. Our Service embeds the Queensland Child Safe Standards and promotes a culture of safety and wellbeing to minimise the risk of child abuse or harm to children whilst promoting children's sense of security and belonging.

"Being culturally responsive includes a genuine commitment to take action against discrimination in any form, embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum and working collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families." (EYLF, V2.02, 2022, p.65)

Child Safety and Inclusion

Inclusion supports children's rights, fosters diversity, and overcomes bias and barriers that may exist, preventing children from participating in experiences within our Service. Inclusion is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international conventions, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Inclusion involves considering all children's social, cultural, and linguistic diversity, including learning styles, abilities, disabilities, gender, family circumstances, and geographic location in curriculum decision-making processes. (EYLF.V2.0, 2022. p.66)

Our Service recognises that inclusion, equity and respect are fundamental to child safety. We ensure that the safety, rights and best interests of the child are the paramount consideration in all decisions and practices. We acknowledge that discriminatory, exclusionary or humiliating behaviour may constitute inappropriate conduct and is inconsistent with child safe obligations.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educators will:

- ensure all children are treated with dignity and respect
- actively prevent and respond to discriminatory language, stereotyping, exclusion or bias
- promote a culturally safe and inclusive environment that supports children's identity and sense of belonging
- document and respond to incidents of bias or discrimination in accordance with the *Child Safe Environment Policy and Code of Conduct*
- ensure all staff complete mandatory child safe training, including awareness of inappropriate conduct and culturally safe practices
- ensure any behaviour that compromises a child's dignity, rights or wellbeing will be addressed promptly and managed in line with legislative requirements and Service policy
- ensure all children are provided with equitable access to resources, activities and environments; participate meaningfully while learning to foster a sense of belonging; and have opportunities to experience positive learning outcomes.

Cultural or National Origin and Racial Identity

Our Service values and promotes equity, respect, and awareness of different cultures. We ensure a culturally inclusive curriculum that reflects the cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity of our society.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educators will:

- ensure obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care National Regulations and Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)are met
- ensure obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA) are met
- access information and professional development/awareness about other cultural and racial identities, especially those relevant within the Service
- engage in critical reflection about stereotypes and biases
- foster an inclusive environment within the Service
- have zero tolerance for racist or discriminating behaviour by adults or children
- ensure our program design and delivery build on community and cultural strengths
- develop strong partnerships with families and children to extend their individual and communities' cultural responsiveness
- ensure children have opportunities to participate with a wide variety of resources from the daily life of a variety of families and cultures
- where possible, engage educators that reflect a variety of cultural, national origin, and racial identities
- affirm and foster children's knowledge and pride in cultural identity
- foster children's curiosity, enjoyment, and empathetic awareness of cultural differences and similarities
- provide children with tools to respond appropriately to bias- build on children's strengths, interests, and individuality
- teach children to overcome any inappropriate responses triggered by cultural differences
- encourage children to ask about differences in physical characteristics
- enable children to feel pride and equity in their racial identity
- help children to become aware of our shared physical characteristics – what makes us all human
- encourage parent input into the program and to participate on a level that they feel comfortable with, sharing their culture, and, for example, their language
- collect information from each family on enrolment and incorporate it into the program to meet individual family needs regarding ethnicity and home language
- develop communication plans with families to ensure inclusion- use of interpreter/cultural support
- where possible, use both the educators' and children's first language as appropriate within the Service environment
- respect all cultures by presenting photographs, pictures, play equipment, books, posters, music, dramatic play resources, and dolls that will encourage open discussion and exploration of a variety of cultures
- provide resources that include diversity and skin tone to foster respect and understanding for people of all backgrounds
- develop an understanding of the needs, strengths, and attitudes of each culture represented at the Service
- challenge inappropriate or stereotypical conversations or remarks by children.

Diversity in Family Composition

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educators will:

- create an environment that is welcoming to all families
- respect each family, and work in partnership to support the child's emergent identity as an individual, member of their family, our Service, and the community
- engage in simple discussions about families that focus on fact rather than values
- be encouraged to seek awareness and reflect on his/her own feelings, beliefs, and background and evaluate the effect these may have on their attitudes and interactions with families
- respect family lifestyle choices
- treat all families respectfully, regardless of socioeconomic background
- discuss how members of the community can support one another and less fortunate people through the provision of resources, donations of goods or time, etc.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives

The Approved Provider/ Nominated Supervisor and Educators will:

- demonstrate commitment to cultural safety as a child safety obligation
- show respect and a commitment to reconciliation
- reflect on the current level of cultural responsiveness of our staff
- promote the inclusion of children's voices in all decisions that affect them
- build and strengthen our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, and contributions
- embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in all aspects of the curriculum.
- attend professional development to support our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives
- provide opportunities for professional reflection
- create a culturally safe environment to ensure children can express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights [Child Safe Standards]
- identify and challenge our cultural assumptions, beliefs, and commitments to cultural competency
- engage with local Aboriginal families and communities through Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups
- invite Elders and Traditional Owners to speak to children, staff, and families about the histories and cultures of the local area
- develop an Acknowledgement of Country in collaboration with Elders, community members, children, and families, which will be displayed and given during special events and incorporated into the program regularly
- develop awareness and meaningful understanding about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians
- encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to access children's services

- show sensitivity and respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages by incorporating verbal and visual languages into the Service environment.

Ability

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educators will:

- provide an inclusive educational environment in which all children can succeed
- promote acceptance, respect, and appreciation for individuals' varying abilities
- consult with all families and other professionals to enable full participation in the program for children with varying abilities
- evaluate and intentionally plan for inclusive learning environments, including making reasonable adjustments to optimise access and enabling all children to develop autonomy, independence, competency, confidence, and pride
- provide children and parents with developmentally appropriate information about varying abilities to foster understanding that we are all similar and different
- empower children in their learning to ensure that they gain a feeling of self-respect
- treat all children fairly and develop an understanding that everyone has something important to contribute
- find examples in books, movies, and TV shows that reflect attitudes about diversity, ability, and disability
- observe all children and, with family consultation, provide an individualised program to extend each child's interests and abilities
- create an environment where all children can participate in activities and experiences.

Promoting Inclusion, Diversity, and Home Language in the Curriculum

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor/Educators will:

- promote inclusive practices that reflect children's social, cultural and linguistic diversity
- acknowledge that the use of children's home language underpins their sense of identity and conceptual development (EYLF V2.0)
- work collaboratively with culturally and linguistically diverse children and their families to support meaningful participation (EYLF V2.0)
- ensure all children have equitable access to resources, experiences and learning opportunities
- adapt activities, interactions, communication, the environment, and documentation to ensure all children and families are actively included and supported to participate in the curriculum
- promote positive influences, modelling appropriate communication, non-bias or gender specific language and attitudes
- develop appropriate expectations for each child based on their individual strengths, developmental needs, and interests
- provide children with a range of resources, equipment and opportunities to enhance their awareness of diversity
- present books that reflect different languages and children's first language and multicultural perspectives
- create an environment which supports natural language learning and interaction

- encourage and support families to maintain and value their home language and English
- engage in professional development about cultural competence and building linguistic capacity
- assist educators with the development of required skills and knowledge for working with all children and families
- subscribe to Early Learning Languages Australia (ELLA) or other online programs to support children's learning with play-based language learning experiences. (check eligibility for ELLA)

RELATED RESOURCES

Cultural Competency Road Map (CCRM)	Inclusive Audit

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The *Anti-Bias Inclusion Policy* will be evaluated and reviewed on an annual basis or earlier if there are changes to legislation, ACECQA guidance or any incident related to our policy. Feedback will be requested from children, families, staff, educators and management, and notification of any change to policies will be made to families within **14 days.**

SOURCE

Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW
Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. PSCA Fact Sheet. *Exploring diversity and equity in education and care services*.
Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2026). *Guide to the National Quality Framework*
Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2023). *Information sheet. Belonging, Being and Becoming: Equity, inclusion and high expectations.*
Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2022). *The Disability Discrimination Act: What do Children's Education and Care Services Need to Know?*
Australian Government Department of Education. (2022). *Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. V2.0.*
Australian Human Rights Commission (2020). *Child Safe Organisations.* https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/
Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (NSW)
Early Childhood Australia (2016). *Code of Ethics.*
Early Childhood Australia (ECA) (2016) *Statement on the Inclusion of every child in early childhood education and care*
Early Childhood Australia (ECA), & Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA). (2012*). Position statement on the inclusion of children with disability in early childhood education and care.*
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education Welcome to Country. https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	KAREN PETRIE	POSITION	PROJECT OFFICER EARLY CHILDHOOD
POLICY REVIEWED	APRIL 2026	NEXT REVIEW DATE	APRIL 2027
VERSION NUMBER	• V15.04.26		

MODIFICATIONS	• annual policy review • added child safe practices including paramount consideration and child safe training to policy • merged home language within the curriculum with promoting inclusion and diversity and condensed dot points • sources updated as required	
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
APRIL 2025	• annual policy review • Childcare Centre Desktop resource section added • sources checked and updated as required	APRIL 2025