



Smoke Free Policy

Background:

This policy was developed in support of the Care and Education Services National Regulations 2011 which states:

The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that children being educated and cared for by the service are provided with an environment that is free from the use of tobacco, illicit drugs and alcohol (Regulation 82)

Aim:

Passive smoking is the inhalation of environmental tobacco smoke. Children are most vulnerable to the effects of passive smoking because of “their smaller bodies higher breathing rates and less well developed respiratory and immune system”. Some studies have shown that children exposed to passive smoking are four times more likely to take up smoking in later life.

Maryland Care and Early Education Centre recognises the responsibility and duty of care they have to ensure children in our care are not exposed to the effects of passive smoking. As a result our service has adopted a Smoke Free policy to ensure the safety of children, staff, families and any other people that visit our service.

Legislative requirements / Sources:

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Regulation 82: Tobacco, drug and alcohol-free environment

National Quality Standard:

Smoke-free environment Act (2000).

www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/smokefree-legislation.aspx

Preventing Passive Smoking Effects on Children. Centre for Community Child health (2006).

Implementation:

As part of our daily practices our service will:

- Ensure new and existing employees are aware of our smoke free policy
- Parents, family members and all persons visiting our service are not permitted to smoke on site, within 10 metres of children's play equipment or within 4 metres of the pedestrian access point to a public building (Smoke-free environment Act 2000)
- The nominated supervisor will ensure the service is smoke free
- Provide parents with advice in the form of fact sheets for issues to do with passive smoking & related smoking issues
- The responsibility for enforcing the Smoke free policy at our service rests with all employees of Maryland Care & Early Education Centre.

For staff who smoke:

- Employees who smoke before they come to work are to ensure they or their clothing do not smell of cigarette smoke or covered in strong perfume to mask the cigarette smell. Employees who arrive at work smelling of cigarette smoke or strong perfume will be asked to return home to shower and change
- An employee who repeatedly arrives at work smelling of cigarette smoke will be placed on performance management
- Employees are requested not to smoke during work hours as residual smoke can be smelt on clothing, hair and skin when returning from a break
- Employees will be provided with information on request about services to support them if they choose to quit smoking
- Employees who smoke need to be aware of wearing excessive perfume to remove the smell of smoke as this can effect children and staff who have asthma and have difficulty breathing at times.

Review:

This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care & Early Education Centre and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service. This policy is available in other languages upon request.

Last Review: March 2016

Next Review: March 2018