



Policy Title	Provision of Children's Services Policy
Policy Category	Public
Number & Version	SVC-ChildServ-PO-119-01
Policy Owner	Community Services
Approval by	Council
Effective date	TBA
Date for review	January 2022

1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

Snowy Valleys Council (Council) advocates for strong and vibrant communities and promotes the provision of education and care services for children and their families to enable work life participation, supporting and contributing to the wellbeing of our communities.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Effective provision of children's services that are accessible, visible and sustainable to our communities is our aim. Council recognizes the need for Education and Care Services in the region, as it ultimately assists families to maintain their contribution to the local workforce and supporting the regional economy.

Council strives to provide quality services that meet regulations and quality standards for Australian Children's Services. Provision of quality services will be provided through collaboration with other professionals in the industry to ensure we deliver the best service we can provide to our communities.

As a public authority, Snowy Valleys Council has made the commitment to being a Child Safe Organization, working to ensure the implementation of the 10 Child Safe Standards across the Snowy Valleys Council operations.

The policies and procedures are determined by the National Quality Framework governed nationally by Australia Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and corresponding State and Federal Legislation. Our policies, procedures, forms and guidelines are sourced from "The Childcare Centre Desktop" to ensure we are adhering to recent changes in legislation and industry practice.

To maintain affordable and sustainable education and care services, Council will continue to work with Federal and State Governments to attain funding.

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The annexures listed in this policy document are regulated (policies required under the National Education and Care Regulations 2011), and non - regulated (policies not required under National Education and Care Regulations 2011), that are applicable to SVC Children's Services.

3. DEFINITIONS

Childcare Centre Desktop: A company that specializes in supporting childcare services in remote and regional areas to access affordable and easy to access resources to assist with complying to industry standards and regulations.

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): Independent national authority that assists governments in administering the National Quality Framework (NQF) for children's education and care.

National Quality Framework (NQF): Encompasses the National Law and National Regulations, National Quality Standard, assessment and quality rating process, and national learning framework.

4. CONTENT

Children's Services falls under the Community Services section of Council. Council will be guided by the following principles to enhance the capacity to effectively deliver Children's Education and Care services

- Equity in the distribution of services
- Access to quality services
- Participation in decision – making
- Equality of opportunity

This will lead to enhancement of relationships and formal partnerships with families, communities and a range of organisations and businesses. Opportunities also exist to capitalise on diversifying funding sources from outside Council, including seeking new funding opportunities for Council as a partner.

Stronger engagement and connections with the community would provide the residents with a better understanding of Education and Care Services, Council processes and provide them with a say on matters and decisions that are important to them.

In local government, community development and provision of community services is a process whereby council works with families, residents, community groups and other government agencies to improve the social wellbeing of the community within a social justice framework, making a more inclusive place to live.

By applying the following social justice principles, Snowy Valleys Council Children's Services will be committing to:

- treat families and children with dignity and respect.
- recognise and promote individual freedom of expression.
- support active decision-making and individual choice, including the timely provision of information in appropriate formats to support individuals, families, friends and carers to make informed decisions and understand their rights and responsibilities.

- provide support strategies that are based on the minimal restrictive options and are contemporary, evidence-based, transparent and capable of review.
- to have preventative measures in place to ensure that individuals are free from discrimination, exploitation, abuse, harm, neglect and violence.
- address any breach of rights promptly and systematically to ensure opportunities for improvement are captured.
- support individuals with information and, if needed, access to legal advice and/or advocacy.
- recognise the role of families, friends, carers and advocates in safeguarding and upholding the rights of people with disability.
- keep personal information confidential and private.

Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) supports the fundamental right of people with a disability to choose how they live their lives, to access opportunities and enjoy the benefits of living and working in the Snowy Valleys Council Region.

4.1 Children's Services Offered by Council

Each of Snowy Valleys Children's Services are unique and reflect the type of service, and the communities they provide education and care in. Our services are vibrant, flexible and responsive to the needs of our families, communities and ever-changing environments.

Children's Services provide education and care for children ages 6 weeks to twelve years of age. Carcoola Children's Centre; Khancoban Preschool; Khancoban Toy Library; Puggles Mobile Children's Services Van; and Tumboosh are all children's services operated by Snowy Valleys Council.

4.2 Provision of Services by Work Participants

The services provided by Council in the Provision of Children's Services policy are conducted and implemented by employed staff and work participants (Volunteers), and as such they are required to abide by Councils Code of Conduct, and demonstrate behaviour that will not bring the Councils reputation into disrepute.

4.3 Record Keeping and Confidentiality

All records regarding clients and enrolments within children's services will be stored in accordance with Councils Records Management Policy. The clients and enrolments personal information will be managed in accordance with Councils Privacy Management Plan

5. ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

Carer Recognition Act 2010
Child Protection and Working with Children Act 2012
Children's Guardian Act 2019
Disability Inclusion Act 2014
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

6. ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Disability Inclusion Action Plan – SVC-CorpPlan-Pln-001
Code of Conduct - SVC-RP-STY-001

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7. ANNEXURES

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3040662	Additional Needs	Policy	1
3040663	Celebrations	Policy	2
3040664	Early Childhood Intervention Practitioner Management	Policy	3
3040665	Educational Program	Policy	4
3040666	Multicultural	Policy	5
3040667	Technology	Policy	6
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8. HISTORY

Date	Action	Name	Policy Number	Resolution Date	Resolution Number
EG	Supersede		SVC-XXX-XX-XXX		