

3.14 Valuing Diversity, Culture and Reconciliation Policy

Policy Statement

The service supports, respects and actively promotes principles of diversity and equity. These principles are integral to embedding culturally diverse experiences within the service's day to day program for children. Educators, children and families are encouraged to share relevant aspects of their culture thus enabling the service to make informed and appropriate responses to the multiple ways of being and belonging.

Procedures

Management, Coordinators and educators shall be committed to providing a service which embraces children and their families holistically. They will be active, focused and reflective in embracing principles of social justice and demonstrate sensitivity and respect for cultural differences.

Coordinators and educators support children's cultural experiences through:

- Talking about culture with children
- Responding to children's curiosity about culture with thoughtful and appropriate experiences
- Encouraging children to value the multiple ways of seeing, being and belonging
- Actively challenge bias through conversations; and
- Demonstrate principles of equity and anti-bias through their own behaviour and interactions with others.

Coordinators and educators will actively seek opportunities to develop their own knowledge and skill demonstrating their commitment to cultural competence.

Management, Coordinators and educators will collaborate with families and explore opportunities to embed culture within the program's experiences and activities.

Management, Coordinators and educators will demonstrate value and respect for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and collaborate on the development of a reconciliation plan which includes:

- Identifying the local elders within the community
- Building a relationship with local elders and exploring ways in which these elders can share in the service's plan for reconciliation
- Including an 'Acknowledgement of Country' in appropriate ceremonies and events; and
- Other aspects as seen relevant to promoting respectful partnerships between the service and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

References

- Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011
- Family and Child Commission Act 2014 QLD Anti-Discrimination Act 1991
- NQS Area: 1.1, 5.1, 5.2; 6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 7.3.
- Policies: 2.1 – Respect for Children, 2.9 – Inclusion and Anti-bias, 2.11 – Including Children with Special/Additional Needs, 3.1 – Educational Program Planning, 3.3 – Educators Practice, 5.6 – Menu Development, 8.4 – Educator Professional Development & Learning, 9.2 – Enrolment, 9.Communication with Families, 9.4 – Communication with Community, 9.6 – Parent and Community Participation

Date of Development	Reason for Modification	Date Ratified	Date of Review