



## Environmental Sustainability

### POLICY STATEMENT:

Lake Mac Newy OOSH aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility for children, educators, and families. We aim to make our practices eco-friendly and involve all children, families and educators so that we are successful in reducing our environmental impact. Sustainability is embedded in both our philosophy and program.

### PROCEDURE:

#### Routines

- Children, families and educators will share and engage in eco-friendly practices to encourage children and their families to develop an awareness of the need to protect the planet and it's future for the generations to come.
- The service will make the following part of their daily routine:
  - ✓ Recycling
  - ✓ Water Conservation
  - ✓ Energy Conservation
  - ✓ Gardening
  - ✓ Purchasing sustainable equipment
  - ✓ Using recycled material for craft
  - ✓ Sustainability to be included in newsletters
  - ✓ Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan
  - ✓ Saving leftover water to place in the garden.
  - ✓ Turn off taps, light switches etc.
- Review procedures and policies regularly to ensure there is an underlying focus on sustainable practices.
- Reduce paper by considering electronic newsletters, invoices, enrolment records etc.
- Keep up to date with your local council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in your local community. Look for grants that allow you to improve water and energy conservation.
- Educators to role model good sustainable practices.
- Use recycled materials as containers instead of using new plastic containers.
- Encourage children to recycle paper. Putting a recycle shelf in the craft area to encourage them to use it.



- Sustainability will be embedded in the program. Discuss it with the children and the families. Ask the children and the families to come up with some ideas to improve the sustainability of the service.
- Consider establishing a vegetable garden, worm farm and compost bin where possible. Discuss with the children how it all works and why we need to do this.
- Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment at the service and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres.
- Promote the motto “Reduce, re-use and recycle” via posters etc. and make it a natural process for all concerned.
- Provide information to families about how they can help their children learn about sustainability and what they can do at home, as well as at the service. (Eg. email/social media ie. Facebook)
- Set up a “Sustainability” book at the service with photos and ideas, which show your sustainability journey. Children can be responsible for updating and adding to this book.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

<b>Education and Care Services National Law &amp; Regulations</b>	<b>National Quality Standards &amp; Elements</b>	<b>Links to other Service Policies</b>	<b>Other Documentation/ Evidence</b>
S168 R108, 110, 113	Standards 1.2, 3.2, 5.2  Elements 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 3.2.3, 5.2.1  Child Safe Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10	- Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy - Interactions with Children Policy	- My Time Our Place - Parent Handbook - Staff Handbook - Sustainability book/checklist - Meeting minutes

**ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:**

**Approval date: February 2025**

**Date for Review: February 2026**