



Environmental Sustainability

POLICY STATEMENT:

Lake Mac Newy OOSH aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility for children, educators, and families. Sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic responsibility across all aspects of the service. 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. Sustainable practices implemented within the service will support children's safety, well-being, and best interests while encouraging respect for the environment and community.

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 its 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 sustainability with children and families and invite their ideas to improve sustainable practices within 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.

Program

- Educators will intentionally teach children about sustainability through planned and spontaneous learning experiences, using discussions, questioning and hands-on activities to build children’s understanding of environmental responsibility. Learning will be documented and linked to My Time, Our Place learning outcomes, particularly Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- Children will be supported to contribute ideas, make decisions and take leadership roles in sustainability practices within the service, promoting agency and a sense of responsibility.
- The service will, where appropriate, incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and sustainable practices, recognising the importance of caring for Country.

Evaluation

- Sustainability practices will be regularly evaluated through critical reflection, staff meetings and the Quality Improvement Plan to assess effectiveness and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.



CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
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 V2.0 – Outcome 2 - Parent Handbook - Staff Handbook - Sustainability book/checklist - Meeting minutes - ACECQA Information Sheet – Sustainability (MTOP V2.0)

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

Approval date: May 2026

Date for Review: May 2027