Determining Responsible Person Policy

Quality Area: 4: Staffing arrangements
6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7: Leadership and service management

Standard: 4.1: Staffing arrangements enhance children’s learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing
6.1: Respectful and supportive relationships with families are developed and maintained
7.1: Effective leadership promotes a positive organizational culture and builds a professional learning community

Element: 4.1.1: Educator-to-child ratios and qualification requirements are maintained at all times
6.1.3: Current information about Ellie V Pullin Preschool is available to families
7.1.1: Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to manage Ellie V Pullin Preschool

Purpose

This policy will provide guidelines to assist in determining the Responsible Person at Ellie V. Pullin Preschool.

Policy Statement

1. Values

Ellie V. Pullin Preschool is committed to:

• meeting its duty of care (refer to Definitions) obligations under the law
• ensuring staffing arrangements contribute to the health, safety, wellbeing, learning and development of all children at Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• meeting legislative requirements for a Responsible Person to be on Ellie V Pullin Preschool premises at all times.

2. Scope

This policy applies to Ellie V Pullin Preschool, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers and parents/guardians of Ellie V. Pullin Preschool.
3. Background and Legislation

**Background**

Under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*, it is an offence to operate an approved centre-based education and care service unless a Responsible Person is present.

Legislation requires that centre-based services have a Responsible Person physically in attendance at all times Ellie V Pullin Preschool is educating and caring for children. The Responsible Person is the person in day to day charge at Ellie V Pullin Preschool and can be either:

- the Approved Provider (or the person in management or control of Ellie V Pullin Preschool),
- the Nominated Supervisor of Ellie V Pullin Preschool, or
- a Certified Supervisor who has been placed in day-to-day charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool.

For more information regarding these terms, refer to *Definitions*.

An Approved Provider must not operate a service unless there is a Nominated Supervisor appointed for that service. The Nominated Supervisor does not have to be in attendance at Ellie V Pullin Preschool at all times, but in their absence, a Certified Supervisor is to be placed in charge, ensuring there is always someone on Ellie V Pullin Preschool premises who has been assessed as fit and proper.

Regulatory Authorities will issue a service supervisor certificate (refer to *Definitions*) for each approved education and care service and Ellie V Pullin Preschool can decide who will be the Certified Supervisor/s at Ellie V Pullin Preschool. To be covered by Ellie V Pullin Preschool supervisor certificate a person needs to be:

- responsible for the day-to-day management of Ellie V Pullin Preschool; or
- exercising supervisory and leadership responsibilities for part of Ellie V Pullin Preschool.

People who hold an individual supervisor certificate can also be placed in day-to-day charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool. It is important to note that a Certified Supervisor does **not** have the same responsibilities under the National Law as the Nominated Supervisor.

The staff record must include the name of the responsible person at the centre-based service for each time that children are being educated and cared for by Ellie V Pullin Preschool (Regulation 150).

**Legislation and standards**

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

Determining Responsible Person Policy
Ellie V Pullin Pre-School


National Quality Standard, Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements
Standard 4.1: Staffing arrangements enhance children’s learning and development and ensure their safety and wellbeing

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management
Standard 7.1: Effective leadership promotes a positive organisational culture and builds a professional learning community
Element 7.1.5: Adults working with children and those engaged in management of Ellie V Pullin Preschool or residing on the premises are fit and proper

Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)
Working with Children Regulations 2006 (Vic)

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

4. Definitions

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. National Law, National Regulations, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the General Definitions section of this manual.

Approved Provider: An individual or organisation that has completed an application and been approved by the Regulatory Authority as fit and proper (in accordance with Sections 12, 13 and 14 of the National Law) to operate one or more education and care services. Where the applicant is an organisation, each person with management and control of that organisation must complete a separate application form. (Note: Under the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, Section 5, Definitions: “person with management or control, in relation to an education and care service, means – (b) if the provider of Ellie V Pullin Preschool is an eligible association, each member of the executive committee of the association who has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service”.)

Approved service: An education and care service for which a service approval exists. A request for service approval must be made in writing to the Regulatory Authority and include prescribed information including details of the Nominated Supervisor and their written consent to be nominated as such.

Certified Supervisor: An educator who has been nominated by the Approved Provider or the Nominated Supervisor of a service (in accordance with the National Regulations), and consents in writing to being placed in day-to-day charge of the education and care service. A Certified Supervisor can be any person engaged to be responsible for the day-to-day management of Ellie V Pullin Preschool, or with supervisory and leadership responsibilities at Ellie V Pullin Preschool. Any person placed in day-to-day charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool must be assessed as a fit-and-proper person (refer to Definitions) and have suitable skills, qualifications and experience as determined by Ellie V Pullin Preschool. Individual supervisor certificates are also still valid.
A Certified Supervisor placed in day-to-day charge of a service does not have the same responsibilities under the National Law as the Nominated Supervisor.

**Duty of care:** A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of organisations to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonable foreseeable risk of injury.

**Fit and proper:** In determining whether an applicant is fit and proper, the Regulatory Authority must take into account the applicant’s history of involvement in education and care services, their compliance with current and prior law, criminal history record check and any bankruptcy or insolvency issues. The Regulatory Authority may reassess fitness and propriety at any time. Applicants are required to complete the Declaration of Fitness and Propriety form on the ACECQA website and have this approved by the Regulatory Authority. This form must be completed by an individual provider applicant or in the case of an entity provider applicant, each person with management or control of a service. The form is available at: http://acecqa.gov.au/application-forms/provider-approvals/ (Note: Under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*, Section 5, Definitions: “person with management or control, in relation to an education and care service, means – (b) if the provider of Ellie V Pullin Preschool is an eligible association, each member of the executive committee of the association who has the responsibility, alone or with others, for managing the delivery of the education and care service”).

**Nominated Supervisor:** A person who has been nominated by the Approved Provider of Ellie V Pullin Preschool under Part 3 of the Act and who has consented to that nomination in writing can be the Nominated Supervisor. All services must have a Nominated Supervisor with responsibility for Ellie V Pullin Preschool in accordance with the National Regulations. The Approved Provider must take reasonable steps to ensure the Nominated Supervisor is a fit and proper person (refer to Definitions), with suitable skills, qualifications and experience. The Regulatory Authority must be notified if the Nominated Supervisor for Ellie V Pullin Preschool changes or is no longer employed at Ellie V Pullin Preschool.

**Supervisor Certificate:** A supervisor certificate is provided to each centre-based service by the Regulatory Authority. The Approved Provider can nominate a person or persons to be the Certified Supervisor (refer to Definitions) at Ellie V Pullin Preschool without requiring Departmental approval or paying a fee. Individual supervisor certificates are still valid, however most individuals no longer need to apply.

**Responsible Person:** The Approved Provider (if that person is an individual, and in any other case the person with management or control of Ellie V Pullin Preschool operated by the Approved Provider) or a Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor who has been placed in day-to-day charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool in accordance with the National Regulations.

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**Ellie V Pullin Policy and Procedures**

*Ellie V Pullin Pre-School is responsible for:*

- ensuring there is a Responsible Person (refer to Background and Definitions) on the premises at all times Ellie V Pullin Preschool is delivering education and care programs for children
• ensuring that Ellie V Pullin Preschool has received a supervisor certificate (refer to Definitions) from the Regulatory Authority
• nominating sufficient Certified Supervisors to meet legislative requirements for a Responsible Person at Ellie V Pullin Preschool at all times, including during periods of leave or illness. Ensuring that a person nominated as a Responsible Person has appropriate skill level, experience, qualifications and approval to work with children, as required under the National Law and National Regulations
• ensuring that the name and position of the Responsible Person in charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool is displayed and easily visible from the main entrance of Ellie V Pullin Preschool (National Law: Section 172)
• ensuring that Ellie V Pullin Preschool does not operate without a Nominated Supervisor, and that this person has given written consent to be in the role
• ensuring that the name of the Nominated Supervisor is displayed prominently at Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• ensuring that information about the Nominated Supervisor, including name, address, date of birth, evidence of qualifications and approved training, and a Working with Children Check (refer to Staffing Policy) is kept on the staff record (Regulation 146)
• notifying the Regulatory Authority in writing if there is a change of person in the role of Nominated Supervisor (Section 56, Regulation 35)
• ensuring that, in the absence from Ellie V Pullin Preschool premises of a Nominated Supervisor a Certified Supervisor (refer to Definitions) is placed in day-to-day charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor and Certified Supervisors have a sound understanding of the role of Responsible Person
• ensuring details of supervisor certificates are recorded on the staff record
• notifying the Regulatory Authority in writing if there are any changes to:
  o the name of the Approved Provider
  o the appointment or removal of a person with management or control of Ellie V Pullin Preschool operated by the Approved Provider
  o the status of the Approved Provider as fit and proper
• notifying the Regulatory Authority if a Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor has their Working with Children Check card or teacher registration suspended or cancelled, or if they are subject to any disciplinary proceedings under the law.

Nominated supervisor is responsible for:
• providing written consent to accept the role of Nominated Supervisor
• ensuring that, in their absence from Ellie V Pullin Preschool premises, a Certified Supervisor (refer to Definitions) is placed in day-to-day charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• ensuring they have a sound understanding of the role of Responsible Person (refer to Definitions)
• ensuring that the name and position of the Responsible Person in charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool is displayed and easily visible from the main entrance of Ellie V Pullin Preschool

1 The guidelines to the National Regulations state that, given the Responsible Person in charge may change throughout the day (for example, at a changeover of shifts), this requirement might be met on a whiteboard or interchangeable name plate at the entrance of Ellie V Pullin Preschool premises.
• developing rosters in accordance with the availability of Responsible Persons, hours of operations and the attendance patterns of children
• notifying the Approved Provider and the Regulatory Authority within 7 days of any changes to their personal situation, including a change in mailing address, circumstances that affect their status as fit and proper, such as the suspension or cancellation of a Working with Children Check card or teacher registration, or if they are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Certified supervisors are responsible for:
• providing written consent to accept the role of Certified Supervisor
• checking that the name and position of the Responsible Person (refer to Definitions) in charge of Ellie V Pullin Preschool is displayed and easily visible from the main entrance of Ellie V Pullin Preschool
• informing the Approved Provider and/or Nominated Supervisor in the event of absence from Ellie V Pullin Preschool due to leave or illness so they can be replaced by another Responsible Person
• ensuring they have a sound understanding of the role of Responsible Person
• understanding that a Certified Supervisor placed in day-to-day charge of an approved service does not have the same responsibilities under the National Law as the Nominated Supervisor
• notifying the Approved Provider and the Regulatory Authority within 7 days of any changes to their personal situation, including a change in mailing address, circumstances that affect their status as fit and proper, such as the suspension or cancellation of a Working with Children Check card or teacher registration, or if they are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Educators are responsible for:
• meeting the qualifications, experience and management requirements if they wish to be nominated as a Certified Supervisor ensuring they have a sound understanding of the role of Responsible Person (refer to Definitions)
• providing written consent if accepting the nomination to be a Certified Supervisor.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:
• reading and understanding this policy
• being aware of the Responsible Person at Ellie V Pullin Preschool on a daily basis.

Volunteers and students, while at Ellie V Pullin Preschool, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.
Evaluation

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, Ellie V Pullin Preschool will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of Ellie V Pullin Preschool’s policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

Sources and other related policies

Sources


Service policies

- Code of Conduct Policy
- Participation of Volunteers and Students Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
- Staffing Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy

Attachments

Nil
Authorisation

This policy was approved and passed by the Ellie V Pullin Committee of Management and adopted by Ellie V Pullin Pre-School on:

19th October 2015

Authorised by: ________________ Julie Simpson [President]

Authorised by: ________________ Betty Krober [Nominated Supervisor]

Witnessed by: ________________

Review Date: October 2018