

STATEMENT

Kogarah Community Services (KCS) will request authorisation from families when required to ensure the safety of the children and staff and may refuse a request unless the appropriate authorisation is provided.

Under the National Law and National Regulations, early childhood services are required to obtain written authorisation from parents or guardians for some circumstances, to ensure that the health, safety, wellbeing, and best interests of the child are met and upheld. An authorisation is given where a person who has legal responsibility for a child gives permission to another person to do something or to make a decision on that person's behalf. Authorisations are usually authenticated by a signature either in writing or as an electronic signature. All authorisation and refusals are to be kept in the child's enrolment record.

PURPOSE

Our priority is ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children. To ensure that all educators, staff and volunteers of the Service are consistent in how authorisations are managed and what constitutes a correct authorisation and what does not, which consequently may lead to a refusal. Our governance and quality management processes are effective and transparent and meet all regulatory requirements.

Decisions around refusing an authorisation will be made on a case-by-case basis by the service in discussion with the Nominated Supervisor, Police or other authorities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to families, staff, management, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, and visitors of the OSHC Service

IMPLEMENTATION

Our OSHC Service will ensure compliance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations, and have policies and procedures in place in relation to the acceptance and refusal of authorisations which require parent or guardian written authorisation to be provided in matters including:

- Administration of medication to children;
- Self-Administration of medication
- Administration of medical treatment, dental treatment, and general first aid treatment;
- Emergency ambulance transportation;
- Transportation- including regular outings and regular transportation
- Excursions including regular outings and transport arrangements;
- Incursion attendance;
- Photo-taking;
- Water based activities;
- Enrolment of children, including providing details of persons nominated to authorise consent for medical treatment, to collect children from the Service, or to provide authority for the child to be taken outside the Service;
- Children leaving the premises in the care of someone other than a parent or authorised person.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/MANAGEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT:

- The Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy is reviewed and maintained by Service management and adhered to at all times by educators and staff
- Policies and procedures are readily accessible to nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators and staff and available for inspection
- All Educators follows the policies and procedures of our Service in relation to authorisations;
- parent/guardians are provided with a copy of relevant policies for our Service or are aware of how they can be accessed

- An enrolment record is kept for each child that includes authorisations signed by a parent or a person authorised to consent to medical treatment of the child if relevant
 - consent to medical treatment of the child if relevant
 - to authorise the education and care service to transport the child or arrange transportation for the child
- all authorisations relating to each child in their enrolment record
- documentation relating to authorisations contains:
 - the name of the child enrolled in the service
 - date
 - signature of the child's parent/guardian and authorised nominee as named on the enrolment form
- All staff understand circumstances that may lead to refusal of an authorisation;
- the right of refusal is exercised if written or verbal authorisations do not comply with National Regulations or Child Protection Legislation. If an authorisation is refused by the OSHC Service, it is best practice to document:
 - the details of the authorisation
 - why the authorisation was refused, and
 - actions taken by the service. For example: if the service refused an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the service as they were under the influence of alcohol, the action taken to ensure that the child was collected (Refer to Refusal of Authorisation Record)
- All parents/guardians have completed the authorisations in their child's enrolment form, and that they are signed and dated before the child commences care at the Service;
- Attendance records are maintained for all children attending the Service;
- A written record of all visitors to the Service, including time of arrival and departure and reasons for visit is documented;
- Educators do not administer medication without the authorisation of parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the enrolment record as authorised to consent to the medical treatment of the child, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis, or epilepsy or diabetes emergency;
- Where a child requires medication to be administered by Educators, this is authorised in writing, signed and dated by the parent/guardian or authorised person and included in the child's record;
- where a child over preschool age, and is authorised by the parent or guardian to self-administer medication, this is recorded in the Administration of Medication Record
- when a child requires emergency medical treatment for conditions such as anaphylaxis or asthma compliance for authorisation is waived. In accordance with National Regulations (R. 93) the Service can administer medication in these circumstances without authorisation. If these situations occur Management will be required to contact the parent/guardian as soon as practicable after the medication has been administered and emergency services. Notification to the Regulatory Authority is required within 24 hours of a serious incident
- parents/guardians and the child's health practitioner are consulted to determine the circumstances that the child could self-administer their medication as per their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis or Asthma Foundation Action Plan for Asthma
- a location to store self-administered medication is determined by the OSHC service (asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes medication must be stored in an easily accessible location)
- educators and staff only allow a child to participate in regular outings and regular transportation with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee name in the child's enrolment record
- Educators and staff only allow a child to participate in excursions after the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record is received and documented;
- Educators allow a child to depart the Service only with:
 - A person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record; or
 - With a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - Leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent; or authorised nominee; or
 - Is taken on an excursion; or

- In the case of a medical emergency or another emergency.
- there are procedures in place if an inappropriate person, or a person who does not appear to be fit to take care of the child attempts to collect the child from the OSHC Service or poses a risk to the safety of children or staff (refer to Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy)
- families are notified at least 14 days before changing the policy or procedures (Reg. 172).

EDUCATORS WILL:

- Follow the policies and procedures of the Service
- ensure that written authorisation is provided by the parent or other person named in the child's enrolment record for a regular outing or regular transportation
- ensure that parents/guardians sign and date permission/authorisation forms for excursions prior to the excursion being implemented
- Allow a child to participate in an excursion only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised person;
- check that parents/guardians or an authorised nominee sign the attendance record as their child arrives and departs from the OSHC Service
- Administer medication only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma, anaphylaxis, epilepsy, or diabetes emergency.
- allow a child over pre-school age to self-administer medication under the following circumstances:
 - a parent or guardian provides written authorisation with consent on the child's enrolment form - administration of medication.
 - medication is stored safely by an educator, who will provide it to the child when required
 - supervision is provided by an educator whilst the child is self-administering.
 - a recording is made in the medication record for the child that the medication has been self-administered
- Allow a child to depart from the Service only with:
 - With a person authorised by a parent or authorised nominee; or
 - leaves in accordance with the written authorisation of the parent, or authorised nominee; or
 - is taken on an excursion with prior consent; or
 - in the case of a medical emergency or any another emergency.
- follow procedures if an inappropriate person attempts to collect a child from the OSHC Service and poses a risk to the safety of the children and staff (for example, an intoxicated person).
- inform the Approved Provider when a written authorisation does not meet the requirements outlined in Service's policies.

FAMILIES WILL:

- Read and comply with the policies and procedures of the Service
- Complete and sign the authorised nominee section of their child's enrolment form before their child commences care at the Service;
- Ensure that changes to nominated authorised persons are provided to the Service in a timely manner;
- Advise nominated authorised persons that they will require photo identification (such as a driver's licence) in order to collect their child from the Service;
- sign and date permission forms for regular transportation and regular outings
- Sign and date permission forms for excursions;
- Sign the attendance record as their child arrives and departs from the Service;
- provide written authorisation on the Administration of Medication Form when their child requires medication to be administered by educators/staff, including signing and dating it for inclusion in the child's medication records
- provide a Medical Management Plan or Action Plan from their child's health practitioner regarding circumstances by which the child could self-administer their medication (e.g.: Asthma inhaler)

- be familiar with circumstances where authorisations may be refused/not applicable.

AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENTS

Authorisation documents are required for the following situations and must have details recorded as specified:

Administration of Medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Administration of Medication Record is signed by a parent or a person named in the child's enrolment record as authorised to consent to administration of medication • Authorisation is provided by a parent or guardian for the child to self-administer medication as per their Action Plan • Name of the medication to be administered • Clearly indicate the time and date the medication is to be administered • Dosage of the medication to be administered • Method of dosage (e.g.: oral or inhaled) • Whether the medication is to be self-administered (asthma, diabetes) • Period of authorisation (actual days and dates: from and to). • Date the authorisation is signed • Medication must be in its original container and bearing the correct child's name • Medication is not past its expiry or use-by date • Medication is administered in accordance with any instructions attached to the medication or provided by a registered medical practitioner • A second person checks the signed Administration of Medication Record, checks the dosage of the medication, and witnesses its administration • The educator administering medication and witness must write their full name and sign the medication record • Details of the administration must be recorded in the medication record • Supervision is provided by an educator whilst a child is self-administering medication • A recording is made in the medication record for the child that the medication has been self-administered
Medical treatment of the child including transportation by an ambulance service (Included and authorised initially as part of the child's enrolment record)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child. • Authorisation to seek medical treatment for the child from a registered medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service. • Authorisation for the transportation of the child by an ambulance service. • Name, address and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner or medical service. • Child's Medicare number. • Name of the parent or guardian providing authorisation. • Relationship to the child.
Emergency Medical Treatment (included and authorised as part of the child's enrolment record or as updates after enrolment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Service is able to seek emergency medical assistance for a child as required (i.e. medical practitioner, ambulance or hospital) without seeking further authorisation from a parent or guardian in the case of an emergency, including for emergencies relating to medical conditions noted on the enrolment form.

<p>Transportation (other than as part of an excursion)</p>	<p>If the transportation is 'regular transportation' the authorisation is only required to be obtained once in a 12-month period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • the reason the child is to be transported • if the authorisation is for regular transportation, a description of when the child is to be transported and the date the child is to be transported • a description of the proposed pick-up location and destination • the means of transport • the period of time during which the child is to be transported • the anticipated number of children likely to be transported • the anticipated number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children during the transportation • any requirements for seatbelts or safety restraints under a law of each jurisdiction in which the children are being transported • that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the education and care service • that written policies and procedures for transporting children are available at the education and care service
<p>Excursions</p>	<p>The authorisation must state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • Date of the excursion • Reason for the excursion • Proposed destination for the excursion • Method of transport to be used • Route to be taken to and from the excursion • Period of time away from premise- include time leaving premise and time returning to premise • Proposed activities to be undertaken by the child during the excursion • Anticipated number of children likely to be attending the excursion • Ratio of educators attending the excursion to the number of children attending the excursion • Number of staff members and any other adults who will accompany and supervise the children on the excursion (including parents, students, volunteers) • Statement that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the service • Name of the parent or guardian-providing authorisation • Relationship to the child • Signature of the person providing authorisation and date of authorisation • Details of any water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities (to be included in risk assessment). • Items that should be taken on the excursion
<p>Regular outing</p>	<p>A regular outing means a walk, drive or trip to and from a destination that the service visits regularly as part of its educational program and where the circumstances relevant to the risk assessment are the same on each outing. Written authorisation only needs to be given once in a specified 12-month period for a regular outing. (Reg. 102(5)). If the conditions of the regular outing change, a new authorisation is required. The written authorisation must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the child • a description of when the child is to be taken on the regular outings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a description of the proposed destination method of transportation (including walking) proposed activities to be undertaken anticipated ratio of educators to the anticipated number of children that a risk assessment has been prepared and is available at the service
Collection of Children (included and authorised as part of the child's enrolment record or as updates after enrolment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the child. Name of the parent or the guardian of the child or the authorised nominee on the enrolment form providing authorisation. Name of the person/s authorised by a parent or authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record to collect the child from the premises. State the relationship to the child of the persons authorised to collect the child from the premises. Signature of the person providing authorisation and date of authorisation.
Sunscreen and Insect Repellent application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of child Permission authorised for staff to apply sunscreen supplied by the service or Permission authorised for staff to apply sunscreen supplied by parent/guardian Material Safety Data Sheet required for all products Permission authorised for staff to apply insect repellent supplied by the service or Permission authorised for staff to apply insect repellent supplied by the parent/guardian <p>Note: the use of sunscreen on babies under 6 months is not recommended due to their sensitive skin.</p>
Confirmation of Authorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All authorisations (excluding the initial enrolment form) are checked to ensure that the authoriser (name and signature) is the parent, guardian or an authorised person named on the enrolment form as having authority to authorise. If incomplete or inappropriately signed, the authorisation form should be returned to the parent or guardian for correction. Children will be suspended from any activity requiring authorisation until the appropriate form has been correctly completed and signed.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

The Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with children, families, staff, educators and management.

COMPLIANCE

National Quality Standard (NQS)		
Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented.

2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, Educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.
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Education and Care Services National Regulations	
92	Medication record
93	Administration of medication
94	Exception to authorisation requirement – anaphylaxis or asthma emergency
96	Self-administration of medication
99	Children leaving the education and care service
102	Authorisation for excursions
102D	Authorisation for service to transport children
157	Access for parents
160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider
161	Authorisation to be kept in enrolment record
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
170	Policies and procedures must be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
172	Notification of change to policies and procedures

SOURCE

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014)
- ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. Acceptance and refusal of authorisations
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018)
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011)
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017)
- Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020)
- Revised National Quality Standard. (2018)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Administration of Medication Policy
- Anaphylaxis Management Policy
- Asthma Management Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Safe Environment Policy
- Delivery of Children to, and collection from Education and Care Service Premises Policy
- Diabetes Management Policy
- Governance Policy

- Emergency & Evacuation Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Epilepsy Management Policy
- Excursion/incursion Policy
- Governance Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Nutrition Food Safety Policy
- Orientation of Families Policy
- Safe Transportation Policy
- Sun Safe Policy
- Water Safety Policy

RECORD OF REVISIONS

Unless the Policy specifically states otherwise, the Policy does not form part of your employment agreement with KCS. KCS may unilaterally vary, remove or replace this Policy at any time. To the extent that this Policy imposes any obligations on KCS and/or purports to provide any right or benefit to you, those obligations are not contractual and do not give rise to any contractual rights. The Employee is required to be familiar with the content of the Policy and comply with the terms at all times.

File Reference	CSP005 – Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations				
Date Created	14/10/2021	Created By	Jordan Ross	Responsible	Children's Services Manager

Version Number	Modified or Reviewed by	Modifications Made/Notes	Date	STATUS (Internal, External, Archived)
V1	SR	Compliance with NQF & Rebrand	January 2016	External
V2	TT	Incorporating template from Childcare Desktop	October 2019	External
V3	TT	Update to reflect practice	November 2020	External
V4	MT	Content review	November 2020	External
V5	SR	Content review	February 2021	External
V6	JR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Format • Additional law/regulations added- ACECQA Guidelines to Policy and Procedures document-(June 2021) • Regular outing authorisation information added insect repellent authorisation- optional and service specific 	October 2021	External
V6	MT	Content Reviewed and formatting updated	19/11/2021	External
V7	JR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual policy maintenance • section- Nominated Supervisor/Responsible person merged with Approved Provider/ Nominated Supervisor/Management will ensure section (double up of points) • hyperlinks checked and repaired as required • continuous improvement/reflection section added • Additional law/regulations added- ACECQA Guidelines to Policy and Procedures document-(June 2021) • Regular outing authorisation information added 	March 2023	External