

## 7.5 Extreme Weather Policy

The service acknowledges that extreme weather conditions could pose significant risk to children and educators attending the service during operating hours therefore precautions to ensure the health and wellbeing of children and educators will be implemented. Extreme weather conditions may include excessive heat, bushfires, cyclones, torrential storms, floods, hail and/or snow storms.



### Relevant Laws and other Provisions

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and Regulations 2011*
- *Duty of Care*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety*
- *Policies: 3.1 – Educational Program Planning, 3.3 – Educator Practices, 3.7 – Physical Activity, 3.12 – Sustainability Practices, 4.8 – Sun Safety, 6.5 – Use and Maintenance of Air Conditioning, 7.1 – Emergency Equipment and Facilities, 7.2 – Drills and Evacuations, 9.3 – Communication with Families, 10.9 – Risk Management and Compliance.*



### Procedures

In relation to extreme weather events, the service will take its lead predominantly from the school, weather warnings and forecasts. Therefore if the school in which the service is located is closed, the SAC service may also be closed.

The Coordinator/Responsible Person will be responsible to ensure that the heating and cooling requirements of the service are adequate and maintained at an acceptable temperature.

In the case of extreme weather events and possible power outages, the Coordinator/Responsible Person will ensure an 'emergency/storm pack' including a torch, batteries, a small radio and drinking water is readily accessible to educators. The Coordinator/Responsible Person will ensure the service mobile phone is accessible to educators, when required.

The Coordinator/Responsible Person will ensure that risk assessments are conducted for identified extreme weather events with control measures identified. Educators will be required to read and sign all risk assessments.

During times of hot weather, educators and children will be encouraged to:

- Follow the service's Sun Safety Policy by wearing sun smart clothing, a broad brimmed hat and applying sunscreen;
- Drink fluids more frequently throughout the session, particularly cold water;
- Keep cool by wrapping a bandana or washer around their neck or using a mist bottle to spray themselves;
- Staying indoors, preferably in an air-conditioned or well-ventilated building with fans and open windows; and

- Limit strenuous outdoor activities by conducting games and activities indoors or in shaded areas outdoors.

During times of inclement weather, educators and children will be encouraged to:

- Conduct games and activities indoors or in an undercover area outdoors.

If an extreme weather event occurs during service operating hours, the Coordinator/0 will:

- Monitor the situation using local radio or other social media; and
- Ensure educator and children's safety by remaining indoors or in an area that is deemed safe (as per Lockdown Policy 7.3).

If, during normal operating hours, closure of the service is expected as the result of an extreme weather event, the Coordinator will:

- Contact the Approved Provider to notify them of the situation;
- Contact families to arrange collection of their child when safe to do so; and
- Ensure the Regulatory Authority (<https://closures.earlychildhood.qld.gov.au>) are notified of closure as soon as practicable.

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
May 2021	October 2021		