

6.6 Management of Poisonous Plants and Fungi Policy

The service understands the need to maintain a healthy and safe environment for children and educators whilst at the same time valuing the aesthetic appeal of the natural environment. A number of plants and fungi are known to be poisonous to people and may pose significant risk if consumed, or in some cases handled. The service shall endeavour to ensure the environment is free of potentially poisonous plants and fungi.



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*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Plants and Fungi Poisonous to People in Queensland*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 3 – Physical environment*
- *Policies: 4.4 – Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 6.1 – Space and Facilities, 6.3 – Workplace Health and Safety.*



Procedures

The service shall maintain a current copy of the Queensland Government Resource “Plants and fungi poisonous to people in Queensland” produced by the Queensland Health Environment Protection Agency. This resource will be made accessible to and discussed with all members of staff and management. This resource is available at http://www.health.qld.gov.au/poisonsinformationcentre/plants_fungi/default.asp

The service shall keep in a visually accessible location the number for the Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26.

The service environment will be maintained free from poisonous plants and fungi through:

- Negotiating with land owners, particularly where the space is shared, the removal and planting of suitable trees, plants and shrubs;
- Regularly checking the service environment for growth of potentially poisonous plants, in particular weeds and fungi; and
- Immediately removing any recognised poisonous plants from the service environment using appropriate gardening gloves and tools and disposing of these in a safe manner.

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
August 2018	August 2018	October 2021	October 2021
		October 2023	October 2023
		October 2025	November 2025