

# Governance Policy

## NQS

QA6	6.1.2	Families have opportunities to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.
	6.2.1	The expertise of families is recognised and they share in decision making about their child's learning and wellbeing.

QA7	7.1.1	Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to manage the service.
	7.3.1	Records and information are stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality, are available from the service and are maintained in accordance with legislative requirements.
	7.3.2	Administrative systems are established and maintained to ensure the effective operation of the service.
	7.3.3	The Regulatory Authority is notified of any relevant changes to the operation of the service, of serious incidents and any complaints

## National Regulations

Reg	168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
	177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider
	181	Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider
	181-184	Confidentiality and storage of records

## Aim

Seaford District Community Children's Centre will meet its legal and financial obligations by implementing appropriate governance practices that support our aim to provide high quality child care that meets the objectives and principles of the National Quality Framework, the National Quality Standard and the Early Years Learning Framework.

## Related Policies

Privacy and Confidentiality Policy  
National Quality Framework Policy  
Record Keeping and Retention Policy

## Implementation

### Service Structure

Seaford District Community Children's Centre has the following organisational structure.

The Approved Provider is: **Seaford District Community Children's Centre Incorporated**

- The approved provider has a range of responsibilities prescribed in the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations, including keeping accurate records and retaining them for specified timeframes.

Our approved provider is also responsible for:

- ensuring the financial viability of the service
- overseeing control and accountability systems
- supporting the Nominated Supervisor / Responsible Person / Certified Supervisors in their role and providing resources as appropriate for the effective running of the service.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for the day to day management of our service and has a range of responsibilities prescribed in the national law and regulations.

Seaford District Community Children's Centre	Long Day Care	Out of School Hours Care & Vacation Care
Nominated Supervisor	Jodie Berkinshaw Director	Alison Clarke Director
Certified Supervisors	Kate Holmesby Assistant Director Alison Clarke OSHC Director Kate Gould Kuula Team Leader Heidi Morris Kari Team Leader Jacinda Tibbles Kari Team Leader Magdalen Beard Pilta Team Leader Lisa Brandt Tarnda Team Leader Tania Cunningham Rachal Tree Kerryn Barwick Maureen Collins Nikki Cross Deb Power Siuling Bisogno	Maria Chandler Assistant Director Jodie Berkinshaw LDC Director Cherylyn McMillan Ellijana Shigrov Lisette Pettit Kate Holmesby LDC As Director Lisa Brandt Siuling Bisogno Jacinda Tibbles Magdalen Beard Tania Cunningham Maureen Collins Deb Power Kate Gould
Educational Leader and Early Childhood Teacher	Lisa Brandt	Alison Clarke

### Commitment to good governance

Our service has adopted the following eight ASX Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations, which we recognise as suitable for our business

#### 1. Lay solid foundations for management and oversight.

##### *Management Principles*

To ensure our working relationships are characterised by open and respectful communication, accountability and trust our service adheres to the following management principles.

##### **A. Management by Agreement**

Nominated Supervisors and educators agree to produce outcomes together. Educators agree on their accountabilities and to work according to existing procedures and policies. Nominated Supervisors agree to provide educators with training, resources and support.

## **B. Management by Exception**

Once a system is in place or the Nominated Supervisor and educators have agreed upon a course of action, the educator is accountable for identifying and reporting whenever something significant occurs that isn't part of the plan.

## **C. Clearly Defined Reporting Relationships**

Everyone in the Service has only one primary manager. This reduces confusion and increase accountability and transparency.

Information, requests, or delegations that would cause our educators/staff to take action or change the course of their actions will only come from the person to whom they report.

Our reporting relationships are:

- The Nominated Supervisor reports to the Approved Provider.
- The Certified Supervisor in day to day charge of the service reports to the Nominated Supervisor.
- Each Room Leader reports to the Nominated Supervisor.
  - The Nominated Supervisor has the authority to communicate information about the work and to direct the activities of the Team Leader.
- Educators in their rooms report to their Team Leader
- Seaford District Community Children's Centre Management Committee make overall business decisions of all the children's services.

## **D. Guidelines for Effective Delegation**

Our service will:

- identify the work/result to delegate and to whom  
Educators/staff will not delegate responsibilities for which they are accountable or work/results that have been delegated to them with their agreement or work/results attached to someone else's position (unless that person has agreed).
- put the delegation in writing with a clear due date
- discuss the delegation with the educator/staff member whenever possible
- get the educator/staff member's agreement for example through signed job descriptions, signed delegation agreements.

The person who delegates remains accountable for making sure the right result is achieved.

## **E. Guidelines for Effective Regulation**

Regulating work means monitoring, reviewing, and adjusting it to get the right result.

Our service will:

- regularly review the work process
- give quick, clear, and direct feedback and instruction that is timely and specific
- communicate in writing
- avoid under-regulating, over-regulating and unnecessary meetings.

### **2. Structure the management committee /partnership/management team to add value**

To comply with these principles to the best of our ability and to ensure we can discuss issues and (potential) changes to policies, procedures or the regulatory environment, we will schedule regular communication between all members of our management team through meetings, phone communication including SMS messaging, a communication book, written communication such as letters, notices, and electronic communication including email, Skype, video conferencing.

### **3. Promote ethical and responsible decision-making**

Our service will make decisions which are consistent with our policies, our obligations and requirements under the national education and care law and regulations, our approved learning framework (EYLF) and the ethical standards in our code of conduct.

#### **4. Safeguard integrity in financial reporting**

Our financial records will be completed/reviewed by an independent accountant /auditor.

#### **5. Make timely and balanced disclosure**

Unless there is a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child enrolled at the service, our service will provide at least 14 days notice before making any change to a policy/procedure that may have a significant impact on our provision of education and care or a family's ability to utilise our service, including making any change that will affect the fees charged or the way fees are collected.

Our service will also:

- advise the regulatory authority of any required notifications including any change to the person designated as the Nominated Supervisor no later than 14 days after the change
- develop a Quality Improvement Plan that is completed regularly, available on request and ready for submission to the Regulatory Authority when requested.

#### **6. Respect the rights of shareholders, parents, children**

Our service will support and encourage the involvement of parents and families by:

- developing and implementing plans to ensure regular communication with families including advice about events, activities and policy updates
- enabling them to have access and provide input to reviews of policies and procedures
- providing space for private consultations
- providing and displaying a range of information about relevant issues
- ensuring we follow all policies and procedures including the Parental interaction and Involvement Policy and Privacy and Confidentiality Policy.

Our service will respect the rights of children by ensuring:

- the Nominated Supervisor complies with their responsibilities under the national law and regulations
- we follow our policies and procedures including the Relationships with Children Policy, Child Protection Policy and Privacy and Confidentiality Policy.
- our children are provided with the experiences and learning which allows them to develop their identities, wellbeing and social connection.

#### **7. Recognise and manage risk**

Our service will take every reasonable precaution to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury. We will follow service policies including those covering Workplace Health and Safety, Child Protection, Excursions and the Delivery and Collection of Children and complete regular risk assessments and safety checks.

#### **8. Remunerate fairly and responsibly**

### **Sources**

**Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**

**National Quality Standard**

**Early Years Learning Framework**

**Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations ASX Corporate Governance Council**