

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: **Emergency and Evacuation Policy**

Manual: Early Years Services

Scope: This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management or Control, Nominated Supervisor, Persons in Day to Day Charge, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of the Early Years Services, including during offsite excursions and activities.

Responsible Position: Director of Community Services

1. STATEMENT

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* define an emergency in relation to an education and care service as any situation or event that poses an imminent or severe risk to the persons at the service premises e.g. flood, fire or a situation that requires the service premises to be locked down.

Comprehensive emergency management includes prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Services are required to have policies and procedures in place detailing what needs to be done in an emergency, including an emergency and evacuation floor plan. These policies and procedures must be based on a risk assessment that identifies potential emergencies relevant to the service (Regulation 97).

Early childhood services have a duty of care to all attending the facility including the children, staff, volunteers, students, visitors, and contractors. It is also a requirement under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* that employers provide a healthy and safe environment for all persons who access the service's facilities and/or programs.

All services in Victoria are required to have an *Emergency Management Plan (EMP)* as part of their everyday 'best practice' operations. All education and care services listed on the Department of Education and Training (DET)'s Bushfire At-Risk Register are required as a condition of their service approval to submit their EMP to their regional office annually. DET provides *Emergency Management Plan Guidelines* and an *Emergency Management Plan* template to assist services develop and review their EMP (refer to *References* below for the link). All services must complete the required sections of the plan and lodge it with the relevant DET regional office. A copy will be available on PROMPT. A copy should also be distributed to the approved provider.

2. OBJECTIVES

This policy will provide a framework for:

- The development of specific emergency and evacuation procedures, practices and guidelines at the Early Years Services.
- Raising the awareness of everyone attending the Early Years Services about potential emergency situations and appropriate responses.

The Early Years Services are committed to:

- Providing a safe environment for all children, staff and persons participating in programs at the Early Years Services.
- Having a plan to manage emergency situations in a way that reduces risk to those present on the premises.
- Ensuring effective procedures are in place to manage emergency incidents at the service.
- Ensuring an appropriate response during and following emergency incidents to meet the needs of the children, their families, staff and others at the service.

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Approved Provider and Persons with Management or Control are responsible for:

- Completing the DET *Emergency Management Plan* (refer to *References*), lodging this with the relevant DET regional office and attaching a copy to this policy.
- Conducting a risk assessment to identify potential emergencies that the service may encounter (Regulation 97(2)) (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Developing instructions for what must be done in the event of an emergency (Regulation 97(1)(a)) (refer to attached *Emergency Management Plan*).
- Appointing an Incident Management Team (IMT) to oversee safety at the service in the event of an emergency (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Developing an emergency and evacuation floor plan (Regulation 97(1)(b)) (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Ensuring that a copy of the emergency and evacuation floor plan and instructions are displayed in a prominent position near each exit at the service premises (Regulation 97(4)).
- Ensuring that the emergency and evacuation procedures are rehearsed at least once every 3 months by all at the service (Regulation 97(3)(a)).
- Ensuring that the rehearsals of the emergency and evacuation procedures are documented (Regulation 97(3)(b)) (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Ensuring that those working at, or attending the service, have access to a phone for immediate communication with parents/guardians and emergency services (Regulation 98), and that phone numbers of emergency services are displayed.
- Identifying potential onsite hazards and taking action to manage and minimise risk (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Ensuring all infrastructure and service equipment are regularly checked for condition and maintenance, including emergency exit lighting.
- Ensuring the location of first aid kits, fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment are clearly signposted.
- Ensuring all emergency equipment is maintained on a regular basis in accordance with requirements specified by regulations, such as the Australian Standards Building Code e.g. fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, evacuation kits, sprinkler systems and alarm or duress systems.
- Providing a fully-equipped portable first aid kit (refer to *Administration of First Aid Policy*).
- Keeping lock-down areas in a state of readiness so they are safe for children, staff and visitors to be used.
- Developing a regular training schedule for staff to ensure that they are able to deal with emergency situations e.g. first aid, emergency management and OH&S training.
- Regularly reviewing, evaluating and updating emergency management plans, manuals and procedures (at least annually or following an emergency incident).
- Developing procedures to debrief staff following emergency incidents.
- Conducting checks of documentation and practices to ensure all requirements of this policy are being complied with.
- Notifying DET in writing within 24 hours of a serious incident (refer to *Definitions*).
- Completing the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* (refer to *Definitions*) where required.

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

- Notifying DET within 7 days of an incident that required the service to be closed, or a circumstance that posed a significant risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a child attending the service (National Law: Section 174(2)(c); Regulations: 175(2)(b)&(c), 176).
- Reporting notifiable incidents (refer to *Definitions*) in the workplace to WorkSafe Victoria.
- Engaging with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and/or Country Fire Authority regarding fire safety awareness and training for the service, including demonstrations of fire equipment, basic fire safety, smoke alarm, fire blankets and escape plans.
- Identifying staff and children requiring additional assistance in the event of an emergency (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Ensuring that emergency contact details are provided on each child's enrolment form and that these are kept up to date.
- Ensuring that an attendance record (refer to *Definitions*) is maintained to account for all children attending the service (Regulation 158).
- Keeping a written record of all visitors to the service, including time of arrival and departure.
- Ensuring all staff, parents/guardians, children, volunteers and students on placement understand the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.
- Ensuring there are induction procedures in place to inform new staff, including casual or relief staff, of the emergency and evacuation policy and procedures.
- Ensuring all staff, parents/guardians, children, volunteers, students on placement and others attending the service are accounted for in the event of an evacuation.
- Developing procedures to deal with loss of critical functions, such as power/water shut off.

- 3.2 The Nominated Supervisor and Persons in Day to Day Charge are responsible for:**
- Ensuring that the emergency and evacuation floor plan is displayed in prominent positions and that all parents/guardians, volunteers, contractors, staff and relief staff are briefed and aware of the procedures.
 - Ensuring that children are adequately supervised at all times and protected from hazards and harm (refer to *Supervision of Children Policy*).
 - Ensuring that the *Emergency Management Plan (On PROMPT)* is followed in the event of an emergency.
 - Testing alarms and communication systems regularly, such as on a monthly basis.
 - Keeping lock-down areas in a state of readiness so they are safe for children, staff and visitors to be used.
 - Informing the Approved Provider of any serious or notifiable incidents (refer to *Definitions*) that must be reported to DET or WorkSafe Victoria.

- 3.3 All other educators are responsible for:**
- Implementing the procedures and responsibilities in this policy and the service's *Emergency Management Plan (On PROMPT)*.
 - Supervising the children in their care and protecting them from hazards and harm (refer to *Supervision of Children Policy*).
 - Providing support to children before, during and after emergencies.

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

- Checking that the attendance record (refer to *Definitions*) is completed at the beginning and end of each session.
- Keeping lock-down areas in a state of readiness so they are safe for children, staff and visitors to be used.
- Checking that the emergency evacuation procedure is displayed in prominent positions and that all persons at the service are made aware of these (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Rehearsing emergency evacuation procedures with the children at least once every 3 months (or more often, as required) and ensuring that these are documented (refer to *Emergency Management Plan on PROMPT*).
- Providing feedback regarding the effectiveness of emergency and evacuation procedures to inform policy, procedures and manuals etc.
- Completing the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*, as required.
- Informing the Nominated Supervisor or Persons in Day-to-Day Charge or, in their absence, the Approved Provider or Person with Management and Control, about any serious incidents or notifiable incidents (refer to *Definitions*) at the service.
- Attending first aid, emergency management and OHS training, as required.
- Communicating with parents about emergency procedures.
- Raising children’s awareness about potential emergency situations and appropriate responses.

3.4 Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with the service’s emergency and evacuation policy and procedures and the service’s *Emergency Management Plan (On PROMPT)*.
- Ensuring they complete the attendance record (refer to *Definitions*) on delivery and collection of their children (refer to *Delivery and Collection of Children Policy*).
- Providing emergency contact details on their child’s enrolment form and ensuring that this is kept up to date.
- Reinforcing the service’s emergency and evacuation procedures with their child.
- Following the directions of staff in the event of an emergency or when rehearsing emergency procedures.

3.5 Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the [Glossary of Terms – Early Years](#).

Attendance record: Kept by the service to record details of each child attending the service including name, time of arrival and departure, signature of person delivering and collecting the child or of the Nominated Supervisor or educator (Regulation 158).

Country Fire Authority (CFA): CFA respond to a variety of fire and emergency incidents. They are also involved in a range of other activities including:

- Fire safety building inspections.
- Delivering community awareness, education and safety programs.
- Post-incident analysis, and fire investigation.

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

- Fire prevention planning and land use planning at a municipal level.

Duty of care: A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of a service to provide an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonable foreseeable risks.

Emergency: Includes any situation or event that poses an imminent or severe risk to the persons at the education and care service premises e.g. flood, fire or a situation that requires the service premises to be locked down (National Regulations, page 21).

Emergency Management Plan (EMP): A written set of instructions for the service to prepare for and respond to emergencies. A guide to preparing an emergency plan and an *Emergency Management Plan* template are available on the DET website (refer to *References* below).

Hazard: A source or situation with a potential for harm in terms of human injury or ill health, damage to property, damage to the environment or a combination of these.

Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record: Contains details of any incident, injury, trauma or illness that occurs while the child is being educated and cared for by the service. Any incident, injury, trauma or illness must be recorded as soon as is practicable but not later than 24 hours after the occurrence.

These details must be kept for the period of time specified in Regulation 183. A sample *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* is available from the ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au (Search 'Sample forms and templates')

Mandatory closure: When services identified as being at high bushfire risk are directed by the regulatory authority to close on days declared a Code Red Fire Danger Rating day.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB): provide a fire and rescue service and are the first to respond to specific medical emergencies. The MFB aims to reduce the incidence and impact of fire and other emergencies on the community. This is achieved through the delivery of educational strategies that assist the community to become more self-reliant, including:

- Fire safety building inspections, and checking fire-fighting equipment.
- Delivering community awareness, education and safety programs.

Notifiable incident: An incident involving workplace health and safety that is required by law to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria. Notification is required for incidents that result in death or serious injury/illness, or dangerous occurrences. For a complete list of incidents that must be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, refer to the *Guide to Incident Notification* on the WorkSafe Victoria website: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

Planned closure: services identified as being at high fire risk and on the DET's Bushfire at-Risk Register will close on days determined to have a fire danger rating of Code Red by the Emergency Management Commissioner. Where possible, four to seven days' notice of a planned closure will be provided. Services not on the Department's Bushfire at-Risk Register will remain open, unless directly threatened by fire or another emergency.

Risk management: A structured approach to managing uncertainty related to a threat; a sequence of activities including the identification, assessment and prioritisation of risks followed by co-ordinated and economical application of resources to minimise, monitor and control the probability and/or impact of those risks.

Serious incident: A serious incident (regulation 12) is defined as any of the following:

- The death of a child while being educated and cared for at the service or following an incident at the service.
- Any incident involving serious injury or trauma while the child is being educated and cared for, which:
 - a reasonable person would consider required urgent medical attention from a registered medical practitioner; or

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

- the child attended or ought reasonably to have attended a hospital e.g. a broken limb*
- Any incident involving serious illness of a child while that child is being educated and cared for by a service for which the child attended, or ought reasonably to have attended, a hospital e.g. severe asthma attack, seizure or anaphylaxis*
*NOTE: In some cases (for example rural and remote locations) a General Practitioner conducts consultation from the hospital site., Only treatment related to serious injury or illness or trauma are required to be notified, not other health matters
- Any emergency for which emergency services attended. NOTE: This means an incident, situation or event where there is an imminent or severe risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a person/s at an education and care service. It does not mean an incident where emergency services attended as a precaution.
- A child appears to be missing or cannot be accounted for at the service.
- A child appears to have been taken or removed from the service in a manner that contravenes the National Regulations.
- A child was mistakenly locked in or out of the service premises or any part of the premises.

Examples of serious incidents include amputation (e.g. removal of fingers), anaphylactic reaction requiring hospitalisation, asthma requiring hospitalisation, broken bone/fractures, bronchiolitis, burns, diarrhoea requiring hospitalisation, epileptic seizures, head injuries, measles, meningococcal infection, sexual assault, witnessing violence or a frightening event.

State Emergency Service (SES): Volunteer-based organisation responding to emergencies and working to ensure the safety of communities around Victoria.

State of emergency: A situation in which the government is granted special powers, by constitutional or legal provision, to deal with a perceived threat to law and order, or public safety.

WorkSafe Victoria: The manager of Victoria’s workplace safety system. WorkSafe Victoria:

- Strives to prevent workplace injuries, illness and fatalities.
- Provides benefits to injured workers and helps them to return to work.
- Enforces Victoria’s occupational health and safety laws.
- Provides reasonably priced workplace injury insurance for employers.
- Provides an emergency response service 24 hours per day.

5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1**
- Complete DET’s *Emergency Management Plan template* The template is available at: https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/support/EmergencyManagementPlanTemplate_EarlyChildhood.docx
 - File a copy in F:\Mallee Minors\License information\Emergency Evacuation Information.
 - Each service will have their own individualised copy on PROMPT.

5.2 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event that the service needs to be evacuated, we aim to conduct this in a rehearsed, timely, calm and safe manner to secure the safety of each person using the service.

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

The safety and wellbeing of each child, educator and person using the service is paramount above any other consideration in the time of an emergency or evacuation. Any other procedures will be carried out only if it is safe to do so.

An evacuation may be necessary in the event of a fire, chemical spill, bomb scare, earthquake, siege, flood etc.

5.2.1 Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Drills:

- Emergency Evacuation Plan and Procedures that are based on the service's floor plans will be prominently displayed in the following location:
 - At all EXIT doors.
 - Inside the children's room.
 - In the foyer, if applicable.
 - In the office.
 - In the children's bathroom.
 - Inside the kitchen.
- In the emergency/evacuation grab bag be taken in an emergency or evacuation:
 - An up-to-date and compact register of emergency telephone numbers.
 - The Emergency Management Plan.
 - Contents listed in the Emergency Management Plan.
- Emergency telephone numbers will be displayed prominently throughout the service near telephones and in the office.
- The service will ensure educators are provided with training on how to use fire extinguishers, fire blankets and other emergency equipment.
- Arrangements will be made for fire extinguishers, fire blankets and other emergency equipment to be tested as recommended by the manufacturer by recognised authorities.
- Emergency procedures will be discussed with families and as necessary, information will be provided to families.
- The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that all educators, including relief educators and staff members, are aware of the service's policy and procedures relating to Emergency Management and Evacuation.
- Discussions will be used to familiarise children with the service's evacuation and emergency procedures.

5.2.2 Rehearsal Evacuation Drill (Minimum Every Three Months):

- The service will add to each child's sense of security, predictability and safety by conducting rehearsal evacuation drills every three months. All persons present at the service during the evacuation drill must participate accordingly.
- A list of possible evacuation scenarios is listed in the back of each services Emergency Management Plan.
- Rehearsal evacuation drills must be documented on the Evacuation Record.
 - The record will then be emailed to Quality at lstele@mthcs.vic.gov.au
- When a rehearsal alarm is heard, the children will drop what they are doing and go with an educator to the designated safe area. This safe area may be a designated area outside the services boundary.

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

- Our service's emergency and evacuation safe area is detailed in the Emergency Management Plan located near the EXIT doors of the service.

5.2.3 Role of Educators:

- Immediately when the alarm sounds, educators will return to the group with which they are working if it is safe to do so. Educators will then assist with the evacuation.
- Educators are to ensure that sign in/out rolls remain in the vicinity of that particular group of children at all times and if evacuation is required that a primary carer collect that roll in the process of evacuating children.
- After the alarm has been raised, group children and evacuate through the nearest exit to the designated safe area with the children's sign in/out roll.
- Primary carer (Room Leader/Teacher) to call roll and settle children.
- Supervise and reassure children.

5.2.4 Nominated Supervisor's Role:

- Collect educator sign in book, a phone, emergency contact details and emergency kit/bag.
- Check toilet, kitchen, playrooms and designated rest areas.
- Ring triple zero '000' as soon as possible.
- Follow children and other educators to designated area.
- Oversee and check attendances of children, educators, volunteers, families and visitors.
- Supervise and reassure children.

5.2.5 Emergency Communication Plan:

- At all times, the service will have access to a fixed-line telephone.
- Note that a cordless phone will not operate in a power failure and an alternate source will be required.
- A personal mobile phone may be used if there is a complete loss of electricity and the telephones at the service are not available.

5.3 Maintenance of Fire Equipment:

All fire equipment at our service will be maintained as per the legal standards. Our equipment will be checked as required as per the timeframes below.

The following agencies are responsible for testing/ maintaining fire equipment at the service:

Ouyen Preschool	Mildura Rural City Council
Manangatang Preschool	Swan Hill Rural City Council
Ouyen Mallee Minors Child Care Centre	Ouyen CFA
Ouyen Mallee Minors Vacation Care Program	Ouyen P12 College
Sea Lake Kinder and Mallee Minors Child Care Centre	Buloke Shire Council
Underbool Mallee Minors Child Care Centre	Mildura Rural City Council
Murrayville Mallee Minors Child Care Centre	Mildura Rural City Council

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

6. EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- Review the policy to determine whether it adequately addresses a range of potential emergency situations.
- Regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness particularly following an emergency.
- Review procedures, including evacuation procedures, to determine their effectiveness, including timing and processes.
- Assess the ability of the Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, children and others to follow the policy and procedures in the event of an emergency.
- Use information gained from checks on documentation and practices and the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record* to inform proposed changes to this policy.
- Revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required by legislation, research, policy and best practice.
- Consult with emergency services such as the MFB and CFA, to ensure the policy and procedures meet current best practices.
- Notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures unless a lesser period is necessary because of a risk.

Forms & Records: [Evacuation Record – Early Years](#)

Related MTHCS Policy / Procedure:

- [Administration of First Aid Policy](#)
- [Administration of Medication Policy](#)
- [Delivery and Collection of Children Policy](#)
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Staffing Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- [Emergency Management Plan – Manangatang Preschool](#)
- [Emergency Management Plan – Murrayville Early Learning Centre](#)
- [Emergency Management Plan – Ouyen Preschool](#)
- [Emergency Management Plan - Sea Lake Preschool & Child Care](#)
- [Emergency Management Plan – Underbool Early Learning Centre](#)
- MTHCS Emergency Management Plan manual on Prompt

References:

Australian Standards: Planning for emergencies in facilities (AS 3745–2010) available from https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Standards/AS-3745-2010-Amdt-2-2018-122637_SAIG_AS_AS_281639/

Department of Education and Training, Guide to Preparing an Emergency Management Plan:
https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/support/EmergencyManagementPlan_EarlyChildhood.docx

Department of Education and Training, Emergency Management Requirements:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/regulation/Pages/emergencymanagementrequirements.aspx>

Metropolitan Fire Brigade: www.mfb.vic.gov.au

Mallee Track Health and Community Service

Title: Emergency and Evacuation Policy

	Country Fire Authority: www.cfa.vic.gov.au State Emergency Service: www.ses.vic.gov.au WorkSafe Victoria: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au
Legislation:	Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to: Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 including Regulations 97, 98, 168(2)(e) National Quality Standard, including Quality Area 2: Children’s Health and Safety Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 Children’s Services Regulations 2009 Children’s Services Law 1996
Standards:	National Quality Standard – QA2 ISO 9001:2015 – .5, 8.75.3

MTHCS Early Years Services operate over two different regulatory requirements, Education and Care National Regulations 2011 and Children’s Services Regulations 2009, differentiating Kindergarten services from Child Care Subsidy services. To reduce the list of Policies and Procedures produced, MTHCS Early Years Services have combined these documents. Designations will only be referenced under the Education and Care National Regulations 2011, however this would be equivalent to the same delegation as the Children’s Services Regulations 2009 as needed but not stated.

Education and Care National Regulations 2011	Children’s Services Regulations 2009
Responsible Person The Approved Provider Persons with Management and Control	The Licensee
The Nominated Supervisor or Persons in Day to Day Charge	Primary Nominee
Certified Supervisors	Approved Nominee or Accepted Nominee