

# TECOMA PRIMARY SCHOOL OSHC WATER SAFETY POLICY

## POLICY STATEMENT

Tecoma Primary School OSHC currently does not have excursions however, we recognise that activities involving water pose risks. Tecoma Primary School OSHC identifies 'Water-based activities' as activities that engage children in an environment where they are in and/or near water. Tecoma Primary School OSHC is committed to exercising extra caution where any water-based activity or water-based excursion is delivered.

## BACKGROUND

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place for managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities. Drowning is one of the main causes of death in Australian children. A child can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. Supervision is paramount to preventing death by drowning.

## WATER SAFE PROCEDURES

- The staff-student ratio of 1:7 apply to all swimming activities.
- Parents must provide the completed and signed 'Swimming Ability Permission Form' for their child to participate in the swimming component of the program and/or any water-based activities.
- All educators supervising swimming or water-based activities, must be familiar with all relevant medical information of each child and where appropriate, measures are taken.
- All educators communicate and are made aware of all children's illnesses, individual needs, special equipment and/or medical conditions that may exist before entering the pool area.
- At all times, a minimum of one staff member will have their approved first aid and CPR training qualifications.
- Where educators and children are divided into groups and separate across a venue, all educators carry mobile phones and are contactable by all other staff members at any time.
- Educators discuss the rules of being near and around water with children before arriving at a pool and/or water-based activity.
- Educators are to ensure that they understand the swimming capability and competency of each child participating in swimming or water-based activities.
- Educators explain to each child how to signal for help, if needed, before entering the pool or water-based activity.
- Educators are positioned in a manner that supervision of all children occurs at all times near water.
- Educators ensure that children walk and never run when near water.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to Tecoma Primary School community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Made available in hard copy from the OSHC program upon request.