

# COONARA EARLY LEARNING CENTRE POLICY NO: 46

## RECRUITMENT POLICY

Our Service aims to implement a robust, well-planned recruitment process to ensure we select the best person for the position and the needs of our early childhood education service. We aim to engage employees who are suitably qualified, experienced and passionate about the early years. Our recruitment policy outlines our processes to ensure they are aligned with legislative obligations, our Service’s values and support diversity and inclusion.

### NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 4: STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS		
4.1	Staffing arrangements	Staffing arrangements enhance children’s learning and development.
4.1.1	Organisation of Educators	The organisation of Educators across the Service supports children's learning and development.
4.1.2	Continuity of staff	Every effort is made for children to experience continuity of Educators at the Service.
4.2	Professionalism	Management, Educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.
4.2.1	Professional collaboration	Management, Educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other’s strengths and skills.
4.2.2	Professional Standards	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.
QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
QUALITY AREA 7: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP		
7.1.3	Roles and Responsibilities	Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and understood and support effective decision making and operation of the service.
7.2.3	Development of professionals	Educators, co-ordinations and staff members’ performance is regularly evaluated, and individual plans are in place to support learning and development.

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EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS	
4	Definitions
84	Awareness of child protection law
Part 4.4	Staffing Arrangements
Division 7	Approval and determination of qualifications
Division 9	Staff and educator records—centre-based services
Division 10	Register of family day care educators, co-ordinators and assistants and records of family day care service

## RELATED LEGISLATION

Equal Opportunity Act 2010	Fair Work Act 2009
Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Legislation	Federal and State Equal Opportunity Legislation and any other relevant industrial awards
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010	Children, Youth & Families Act 2005
Sex Discrimination Act 1984	Child Care Subsidy Secretary's Rules 2017
Age Discrimination Act 2004	Disability Discrimination Act 1992
Racial Discrimination Act 1975	A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999
Family Law Act 1975	Family Assistance Law – Incorporating all related legislation for Child Care Provider Handbook in Appendix G <a href="https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/resources/child-care-provider-handbook">https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/resources/child-care-provider-handbook</a>

## RELATED POLICIES

Child Safe Environment Policy Child Protection Policy Code of Conduct Policy	Dealing With Complaints Policy Governance Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Staffing Arrangements policy
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## PURPOSE

We aim to ensure the most suitability qualified, experienced and reliable staff are employed at our Service. We are committed to ensuring we meet all legislative and regulatory requirements including the Education and Care Services National Law, Children, Youth & Families Act, Fair Work Act and Equal Opportunity Act.

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Our Service is committed to be a child safe Early Education and Care Service and uphold the 11 Child Safe Standards as recommended by the Victorian Child Safe Standards and our recruitment and screening processes play a vital role in protecting children from harm.

Our Service values workplace diversity and inclusion and we strongly encourage applicants from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, women, and individuals with disability. Recruitment and selection of staff will be guided by the requirements of relevant legislation, issues of equity and diversity, qualification, knowledge and skills, workforce participation and experience.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to staff, educators, approved provider, nominated supervisor and management of the Service.

### RECRUITMENT DECISIONS

The Approved Provider or assigned nominee will approve all recruitment decisions as outlined in this Recruitment Policy. Recruitment decisions will be based on the need and requirements of the service and will consider the following:

- ensuring the Service meets all staffing requirements as per Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations
- any resignation of existing staff
- an increase in occupancy

The recruitment processes will be consistent, transparent, professional and timely. Any grievances relating to the recruitment procedure will be addressed as per the *Dealing with Complaints Policy*. All personal information regarding recruitment will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Selection criteria for each vacant position will be determined before advertisement and will take the following into consideration:

- position title
- qualifications required for the position
- experience required for the position
- position description/skills required for the position
- conditions of employment

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- mandatory employment screening requirements including verifying Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration (VIT) or Working with Children Check (WWCC), where applicable National Police Criminal History checks, immunisation requirements and conducting reference checks for every candidate to ascertain the candidate's attitudes and behaviours in previous child-related roles.
- clear expectations about commitment to child safety (Child Safe Standards)

Comprehensive job descriptions for each advertised position will be available for all applicants. Any applicants deemed unsuitable will be advised within an appropriate time frame

### ADVERTISEMENTS

Information about the position and the Service will be provided to potential applicants which includes:

- job title
- job description
- location
- hours of work
- salary (award/ above award)
- Service Philosophy
- operation hours, age group of children educated and cared for
- selection criteria relating to the position available
- how to apply for the role
- a commitment to providing a safe environment for children
- closing date for applications
- contact information for further information
- immunisation requirements
- VIT Registration or WWCC requirements

Vacant positions may be advertised internally to encourage career advancement and opportunity. External advertisements may be placed through relevant media and networks including social media, newspaper and employment services.

### SELECTION PANEL AND INTERVIEWS

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A selection panel will be determined for applicants short listed for an interview. The selection panel will consist of at least 2 people. Our service will use the interview guide and questionnaire when preparing for interviews. (*See Interview Guide and Questionnaire*)

Applicants who require support or access provisions, are encouraged to advise this at the time of their application, to ensure appropriate assistance is provided throughout the recruitment process.

Questions will be prepared in advance of the interview and applicant responses will be recorded during the interview. Each applicant will be asked the same questions to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all applicants. Interviews will be conducted in a private space and confidentiality will be maintained at all times. Applicants will be provided an opportunity to ask questions relating to the service and position at the end of the interview.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any person on a selection panel must disclose to the Approved Provider or person organising the interview process if there is a conflict of interest at the time of reviewing the applications. A conflict of interest may arise if the applicant is a personal friend or past or present close work colleague. Management must promote transparency and accountability, promote integrity and impartiality during the employment process and therefore consider if the conflict of interest poses a risk to the consistency of the application process.

### PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING- PROBITY CHECKS

Effective pre-employment screening ensures our Service is compliant to legislative and regulatory requirements and aims to ensure we engage staff who have the skills, experience, qualifications and general 'fit'.

All preferred candidates will undergo appropriate pre-employment checks including reference checks, Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Registration or Working with Children Checks (WWCC), immunisation status checks and where applicable National Police criminal history checks before an offer of employment is recommended. Measures should be in place to ensure probity checks are completed by a person or persons who have no prior professional relationship with the applicant to mitigate the perception of bias in the recruitment process.

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## REFERENCE CHECKS

Verbal reference checks will be conducted over the phone for preferred applicants. Reference check questions will be determined prior to the check conducted and will establish the relationship the referee has with the applicant.

At least 2 references are to be provided for a reference check. Where possible references should be from the immediate previous employer. The reference checks will ascertain, where possible, the applicant's attitudes and behaviours in previous child-related roles and ascertain whether the applicant has ever been the subject of complaints.

## VIT REGISTRATION/WWCC/POLICE CHECKS

Legislation aims to prevent people who pose a risk from working with children as paid employees or volunteers. All employees, volunteers and students must undergo Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration or a Working with Children Check (or its equivalent) prior to working at the service. Employees, volunteers or students that are unable to provide a copy of a validated VIT Registration or WWC Check (or equivalent) prior to the start of engagement or employment will not be able to undertake any work-related activity within the service.

**VICTORIA:** Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration or a Working with Children Check is required prior to engagement of work-related activities for employees, volunteers and students. Employees, volunteers or students under the age of 18 may be able to apply for a Working with Children Check.

[Working With Children Check Victoria](#)

## OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

An offer of employment will be made to the successful applicant following careful consideration by the selection panel. A confirmation of employment letter will be provided to successful applicants upon acknowledgment. Successful applicants are required to provide documentation regarding qualifications and immunisations and complete an employee immunisation record

A written employment contract will be provided to the successful applicants detailing the position, hours of shift, Award information, wages and salary, date and time of commencement, contact person, probationary period.

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Applicants who are unsuccessful will be notified within an appropriate time frame and offered feedback regarding their application.

### PROBATIONARY PERIOD AND INDUCTION

Each new employee is subject to a Probationary Period of three (3) months. This ensures assessment for both the employee and service to ensure suitability of the role for the employee. During this time employees will receive advice, training and guidance to help them become familiar with and competent in, performing the work they have been appointed to do. The appointment is subject to the satisfactory completion of the Probationary period which itself is subject to termination during any stage, by either party, upon notice in writing, or by payment in lieu of notice.

Our Service is committed to providing a comprehensive induction program to ensure the smooth integration of new employees. The Approved Provider or assigned nominee will support the new employee and help them to understand the organisational structure, how decisions are made and communicated and what role they will have in the decision-making process. An induction checklist will be used to support this process, which explains an employee's responsibility to know the policies, procedures and practices within our Service and their duty of care obligations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children. Induction will include relevant information on child safe practices adhering to the Child Safe Standards, Code of Conduct, strategies that identify, assess and minimise risks to children and mandatory reporting procedures.

Continuity in care within the Service is paramount. By orientating staff professionally and correctly, it guarantees the consistency of care across the Service. New employees will undergo regular supervision appraisals, mentoring, training and development as part of the orientation process.

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our Recruitment Policy will be updated and reviewed annually in consultation with families, staff, educators and management.

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## SOURCE

Australian Government Department of Education. *Child Care Provider Handbook (2022)*

<https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/resources/child-care-provider-handbook>

Australian Government. Fair Work Ombudsman. (2020). Hiring employees <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/small-business/hiring-employees>

Australian Human Rights Commission. Child Safe Organisations. <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/projects/child-safe-organisations>

Commission for children and young people *Being a child safe organisation* <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/>

Victoria Government. Business Victoria. (2020). Staff recruitment <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/hiring-and-managing-staff/staff-recruitment/write-a-contractual-letter-of-offer>

Victorian State Government. Creating child safe organisations. <http://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/creating-child-safe-organisations>

## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Carol Czaplowski	Nominated Supervisor	
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