



Blackall-Tambo

Regional Council

Tambo Child Care Centre Child Centre Incident Reporting Policy

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Version Number: One	Review Date:
Policy Compiled by: Tambo Child Care Centre Coordinator	
Policy Approved by: Director of Finance Corporate and Community Services	

INCIDENT RECORDS

- Document the following child and centre incidents via a *Child Centre Incident Record* as soon as practical after an incident:
 - injury (an instance of being injured)
 - illness (disease or period of sickness affecting the body or mind)
 - trauma (emotional shock following a stressful event or a physical injury)
 - security breach
 - near miss
 - lockdown
 - evacuation
 - environmental/ property damage
- Record only information and avoid emotive language.
- Complete separate incident records for each child involved in the same incident, without identifying other children involved.
- Inform parents/guardians of all incidents relating to their child as soon as practical, but not later than 24hrs of the incident occurring. Ask parents/guardians of a child involved in an incident to review, sign and date a completed record.
- If an incident/injury relates to a child's head or face inform the child's parents/guardians by telephone immediately after an incident. If the incident/injury is serious and/or displays any sign/symptoms of concussion, direct the parent/guardian to collect their child immediately and seek medical attention.
- In the event of a medical emergency, immediately telephone 000 for an ambulance.
- Provide a copy of the incident record to parents/guardians when requested.

Identifying and reflecting on incident trends

- Identifying and reflecting on incident trends (via optional tool - *Identifying and Reflecting on Incident Trends*) is an important element of continuous improvement and ensuring a safe environment for children.
- Once trends are identified, implement preventative actions to improve practice and minimise the risk of incidents re-occurring.

NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS

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A notifiable incident is any incident involving a serious injury or trauma to a child while attending a centre, which:

- a reasonable person would consider required urgent medical attention from a registered medical practitioner; or
- the child attended or ought to have reasonably attended a hospital (e.g., broken limb). In some rural and remote locations, a GP completes consultations at a hospital. Only treatment related to a serious injury, illness or trauma needs to be reported.
- Any incident involving serious illness of a child while attending a centre and the child attended or ought to have reasonably attended a hospital (e.g., acute asthma, seizure, or anaphylaxis).
- Any emergency for which emergency services attended. Not all instances that required the attendance of emergency services need to be reported. An emergency is defined as an incident or event where there is an imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of a person present at a centre.
- A child is missing or cannot be accounted for.
- A child appears to have been removed from the premises by a person not authorised by a parent / guardian.
- A child is mistakenly locked in or out of the premises or any part of the premises.
- Any incident that required the centre to close or reduce the number of children attending the centre for a period.
- The centre-based service is educating and caring for an extra child/ren due to an emergency.
- The death of a child while at a centre or following an incident while attending a centre.
- Any incident of physical and/or sexual abuse of a child/ren has occurred or is occurring while the child is being educated and cared for by the centre.
- Any circumstance at the centre that poses a significant risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of a child attending the centre.

How to report a notifiable incident:

Educator

1. Respond appropriately. If required, administer appropriate first aid.
2. Immediately notify Centre Coordinator / Designated Supervisor.
3. When practical, complete *Child/Centre Incident Record*.
4. When directed complete *Incident Review Form*

Nominated Supervisor (or approved delegate)

1. As soon as practical, but not later than 24hrs of the incident occurring, notify parent / guardian. Ask parent to review and sign completed *Child/Centre Incident Record*.
2. Within 12hrs → notify the coordinator. Seek Early Childhood Education Consultant support if required.
3. Within 24hrs → notify (via phone) local regulatory authority – Early Childhood Education and Care and submit notification via the National Quality Agenda IT System with attached incident record.

NOTIFIABLE COMPLAINTS

A notifiable complaint is:

- Any complaint alleging that a serious incident has occurred or is occurring at an education and care centre.
- Any complaint alleging that the law/regulations has been breached.

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- An allegation that physical or sexual abuse of a child/ren has occurred or is occurring while the child is being educated and cared for by the centre.

How to report a notifiable complaint:

Educator

1. Listen and thank person for raising their concerns. Provide reassurance their complaint will be addressed.
2. Immediately notify Centre Coordinator/Designated Supervisor.

Centre coordinator / Designated Supervisor

1. Fulfil responsibilities as per complaint management service protocols.
2. Within 12hrs → Notify the Coordinator. Seek Early Childhood Education Consultant support if required.
3. Within 12hrs → Complete relevant notification via the National Quality Agenda IT System with record of complaint attached.
4. Within 24hrs → Notify local regulatory authority via phone.

CHALLENGING CHILD BEHAVIOUR INCIDENT

A challenging behaviour is defined as a single incident or pattern of behaviour that has posed a significant risk to a child’s or educator’s health, safety and/or well-being. Such as biting, hitting, or throwing objects.

How to report a challenging child behaviour incident:

Educator

1. Respond appropriately. If required, administer appropriate first aid.
2. As soon as practical complete *Child Behaviour Record*.
3. Notify centre Coordinator/Designated Supervisor.

Centre Coordinator/Designated Supervisor

1. Notify parent/guardian as soon as practical, but not later than 24hrs of the incident occurring. Ask parent/guardian to review and sign *Child Behaviour Record*.
2. Determine if a notification to regulatory authority is required. Seek support from Early Childhood Education Consultant if required.
3. If not already in place, develop an *Education Support Plan* (with the assistance of the Wellbeing and Inclusion Advisor) in consultation with parent/guardian and other relevant stakeholders. If already developed, update plan accordingly.
4. If appropriate and when directed, develop a *Risk Assessment*.
5. Ensure all educators are aware of behaviour guidance and risk management strategies.

Acknowledgements and references

- Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority, *Guide to the National Law and National Regulations* <http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/National-Quality-Framework-Resources-Kit/NQF-Resource-02-Guide-to-ECS-Law-Regs.pdf>.
- *Oxford Dictionaries*