

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

The Mueller College Outside School Hours Care Service will make every effort to encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and will work to develop practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children and young people will be supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.



The Service aims to incorporate sustainability discussions with educators at the Service and provide ongoing professional development opportunities to assist them to confidently implement sustainable practices. We promote conservation and encourages children, young people and families to protect and care for the environment. Educators model, environmentally friendly and sustainable practices and build strategies into the program to encourage children and young people towards critical thinking in relation to questioning and discussing sustainable issues such as food scrapes, droughts and water conversation. The use of fresh food for lunches and morning and afternoon teas will be encouraged to reduce the over use of packaging.

GROWING IN NATURE



Healthy ecosystems and environments are necessary to the survival of humans and other organisms. Education and care Services play an important part of improving sustainability understanding and practice as it is situated to educate children and young people in meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This responsibility is reflected in the National Quality Standard, which asks that each Service takes an 'active role' in caring for the environment and contributes to a sustainable future (NQS Standard 3).

UNDERSTANDING NATURE



The Service will actively examine reduction in energy and water consumption. It will also continue to examine waste management and implement recycling practices.

Wherever possible, environmentally friendly cleaning products will be used. Native animals and insects will be treated with care and respect and if captured for use in the educational program, will be set free after an appropriate observation time. Plants and animals should be cared for as per the cleaning roster ensuring any animal feeding, water changes and watering of plants is diligently adhered too.

VALUING NATURE



Educators model environmentally friendly and sustainable practices including recycling, gardening and composting. Sustainable practices are imbedded so the concept of "reduce, re-use and recycle" should be part of everyday practice for children, young people and educators and will help to develop lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices. Themes in relation to the importance of our natural environment and environmental protection and sustainability will be included in the students' programs and in the day to day operation of the Service. Children and young people are encouraged to appreciate elements of the natural environment. Materials used for art and craft activities will include recycled or reused products. Wherever possible children and young people will be intricately involved in the caring for plants and animals and the processes taken through compost care and recycling.

EXPERIENCING NATURE

