

(Revised September 2025)

## **Policy Statement:**

The Mueller College Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Service aims to provide all children and young people with appropriate, frequent and varied opportunities to explore their creativity and expressive potential. Such activities engage children and young people in fun and enjoyable recreational experiences.

## **Background:**

The Education and Care National regulations require Service providers to have Policies and procedures that support development and implementation of an educational program that includes access to creative and expressive arts for children and young people.

## **Important terms:**

<b>Children and young people</b>	Refers to the children and young people present in the care environment.
<b>Educator</b>	Refers to the staff employed by the Service to provide care for children and young people attending.

## **Legislation:**

### **National Quality Standard (NQS)**

**Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice**

**5: Relationships with Children**

**7: Governance & Leadership**

<b>1.1</b>	<b>Program</b>	The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.
1.1.3	Program learning opportunities	All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Practice</b>	Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development.
1.2.1	Intentional teaching	Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.
1.2.3	Child directed learning	Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events and their world. 1
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Assessment and planning</b>	Educators and co-ordinators take a planned and reflective approach to implementing the program for each child.
1.3.2	Critical reflection	Critical reflection on children's learning and development, both as individuals and in groups, drives program planning and implementation.
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Relationships between children</b>	Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships.
5.2.1	Collaborative learning	Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.
7.2.2	Educational leadership	The educational leader is supported and leads the development and implementation of the educational program and assessment and planning cycle.

## **Education and Care Services National Regulations**

73	<p><b>Educational program</b></p> <p>(1) This Part applies in relation to the program (the <i>educational program</i>) that is required to be delivered under section 168 of the Law to a child being educated and cared for by an education and care service.</p> <p>(2) An educational program is to contribute to the following outcomes for each child—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the child will have a strong sense of identity;</li> <li>(b) the child will be connected with and contribute to his or her world;</li> <li>(c) the child will have a strong sense of wellbeing;</li> <li>(d) the child will be a confident and involved learner;</li> <li>(e) the child will be an effective communicator.</li> </ul>
103 (1)	Requires all equipment and furniture used in providing the education and care service are safe, clean and in good repair.
105	<p>The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that each child being educated and cared for by the education and care service has access to sufficient furniture, materials and developmentally appropriate equipment suitable for the education and care of that child.</p> <p><b>Note.</b></p> <p>A compliance direction may be issued for failure to comply with this regulation.</p>

## Education and Care Services National Law

168	<p>Offence relating to required programs</p> <p>(1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that a program is delivered to all children being educated and cared for by the service that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) is based on an approved learning framework; and</li> <li>(b) is delivered in a manner that accords with the approved learning framework; and</li> <li>(c) is based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child; and</li> <li>(d) is designed to take into account the individual differences of each child.</li> </ul> <p>Penalty: \$4000, in the case of an individual. \$20 000, in any other case.</p> <p>(2) A nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that a program is delivered to all children being educated and cared for by the service that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) is based on an approved learning framework; and</li> <li>(b) is delivered in a manner that accords with the approved learning framework; and</li> <li>(c) is based on the developmental needs, interests and experiences of each child; and</li> <li>(d) is designed to take into account the individual differences of each child.</li> </ul> <p>\$4000.</p>
301 (3,f)	<p>Requirements and standards to be complied with for safety, security, cleanliness, comfort, hygiene and repair of premises, outdoor spaces, fencing, gates, resources and equipment used for providing education and care services;</p>

### Principals:

Varied creative and expressive arts are to be used throughout the program. Elements of movement, music, sculpture and visual arts are all expected to be included. Creative and expressive arts are a medium that can abolish boundaries with no set rules, level of accomplishment or expectation. Using this in the educational program allows all children and young people to have opportunity to express themselves in many different forms that cross barriers of language, difference and ability.

### Procedure:

#### **Educators and Lead educators will:**

- encourage children and young people to actively participate in a variety of creative and expressive experiences drawing on various cultures and methods.
- ensure every child or young person is provided with equal opportunity and choice to participate in an encouraging and supportive environment.
- encourage children and young people to express themselves creatively, freely and without judgement.

#### **Educational leaders will:**

- ensure planning allows varying levels of ability and interests are catered for, celebrated and used for display.
- Consider gender, culture, age and individual needs and differences are considered with planning and implementation of activities.
- work to have a program includes a balance of planned experiences and those which are spontaneous and child or young person initiated.

#### **Approved provider & Nominated Supervisor will:**

- The Service will provide a range of materials which extend children or young peoples creative interest and potential. This may include (but is not limited to) musical instruments, dress ups, props, art materials and puppets.
- Share the 'Creativity and Expressive arts Policy and Procedure' with all employees upon their induction and ensure it is available to staff and families at all times.
- Additional professional development will be provided as needed and during review processes.
- All Service policy will be reviewed annually through consultation with all stakeholders or sooner should there be identified changes or updates to legislative requirement.

**See also:**

- Mueller OSHC Educational Program Policy & Procedure
- Mueller OSHC Curriculum Development Policy & Procedure

**REFERENCES:**

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010, Current as at October 2024
- Education and Care Services National Regulations, Current as at September 2025
- Education and Care Services National Law Act (QLD) 2011, Current as at September 2025
- Guide to the National Quality Framework, Revised September 2025
- My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia – Produced by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Council of Australian Governments. Ver2.0, Revised 2022
- National Quality Standard, Revised 1 February 2018
- Guide to the National Quality Standard, Revised May 2022

**REVIEW**

POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Rachel Rose	OSHC Director	23/09/25
POLICY REVIEWED	SEPT 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	JAN 2026
VERSION NUMBER	V2.3		
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated references</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated references</li> <li>• Addition of review table</li> </ul>	DEC 2024	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated legislations</li> <li>• Allocation of tasks</li> </ul>	MAR 2025	