

Early Learning

Tobacco, E-cigarette (vaping), Alcohol and Other Drugs policy

1. Policy Statement

The educators, staff and management acknowledge the importance in reducing harm from tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs. Providing a smoke-, vape- and drug-free environment and promoting responsible alcohol consumption contributes to the overall health and wellbeing of the children, staff and families related to the service. This policy confirms our commitment to:

- Ensure a smoke-, vape- and drug-free environment for children, families, educators, staff, volunteers, and visitors.
- Promote low-risk alcohol consumption to our service community.
- Encourage educators and staff to build on opportunistic learning moments with children.
- Provide information to educators, staff, and families about the health benefits of not smoking, vaping, or taking drugs, and low-risk alcohol consumption.

As a health promoting service, we will provide a smoke-free and drug-free environment for children, educators, staff, and families, and promote low-risk alcohol consumption through learning, policies, creating a safe and healthy physical and social environment and developing community links and partnerships.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the following groups working in Uniting Early Learning:

- Approved provider and persons with management or control
- Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge
- ECT, Educators, FDC educators and all other staff
- Parents/guardians
- Contractors, volunteers, and students.

3. Policy

3.1 Leadership and commitment

- This policy is shared with the whole service community with opportunities to provide feedback/input.
- This policy is ratified by management and reviewed at least every three years.

3.2 Healthy physical environment

- There is smoke-and vape-free signage that can be easily seen and understood by the whole community.
- All events, on and off site, are smoke-vape-and drug-free.

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- If there is alcohol at a staff or family event, management ensures all legal requirements related to the sale and supply of alcohol are met. Low-risk consumption of alcohol is promoted.
- If external organisations use the premises, a formal agreement ensures the service premises are smoke-vape-and drug-free and low-risk alcohol consumption is promoted.

3.3 Healthy culture

- Diversity and cultural practices are considered when implementing this policy and preventative smoking, e-cigarettes, alcohol, and other drugs education initiatives.
- Staff, educators, families, and visitors are required to adhere to legislation and service policies related to smoke-and vape-free areas - no smoking or vaping within 4 meters of the service and not in sight of children.
- Staff and educators who smoke or vape are encouraged to take appropriate hygiene measures after smoking or vaping so that children are not exposed to second-hand smoke or e-cigarette aerosol.
- Staff, educators, and families are encouraged to abstain or engage in low-risk alcohol behaviours, and abstain from taking drugs, particularly while around children. Our service encourages its events, celebrations, awards, gifts and fundraising to be free of alcoholic products.

3.4 Child teaching and learning

- Educators will guide age-appropriate, sensitive discussions about health issues related to smoking, vaping, alcohol, and drug use as opportunities arise (e.g. if a child is pretending to smoke).
- Professional development and resources are provided to educators and staff to help them guide age-appropriate, sensitive discussions about health issues related to smoking, vaping, alcohol, and drug use as opportunities arise.

3.5 Supported staff and educators

- Educators and staff who want to quit smoking or vaping, drinking, or using other drugs are supported and referred to appropriate agencies.
- Smoking, vaping, alcohol, and other drug policy requirements are included in educator and staff induction/orientation.
- Resources about the health risks related to smoking and vaping, excessive drinking and taking drugs are available to educators and staff.

3.6 Families and community partnerships

- Information about health risks related to smoking and vaping, excessive drinking and using other drugs is available for families and community members, including information about accessing support services.
- Partnerships are established with relevant organisations and health professionals to support smoke-, vape-and drug-free and alcohol harm initiatives where appropriate.
- There are no partnerships with organisations that manufacture or wholesale alcohol, tobacco, or e-cigarette products.

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4. Legislation/Regulations

ACECQA National Quality Standard 2018 – Quality Area 2
Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for children)
Children’s Services Act 1996 Children’s Services Regulations 2020
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Liquor Control Reform Act 1998
Tasmanian Licensing Standards for Centre Based Care Class 5
Tobacco Act 1987

5. Related Documents

Uniting

[Diversity Statement](#)

[Child Safety Commitment Statement](#)

Child Safety Policy

Child Safety Code of Conduct

WHS & Wellbeing Policy

Code of Conduct

Drug & Alcohol Protocol

Early Learning

Education Program and Practice Policy

Uniting Early Learning acknowledges the contribution of the Central Gippsland Health Promotion Officers, in the development of this policy.

Review

This policy is to be reviewed by April 2029

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