

## **Policy Preface**

### **Description of Preschools**

Koorana Child and Family Services has two Preschools.

Phillip Street Preschool is located in Roselands and provides education and care for preschool aged children (3 years and over). The Preschool is licensed for 40 places per day. Out of those 40 places 9 places are supported places for children with a diagnosed disability. Children, and their families, in supported places are typically supported by a Key Worker.

Croydon Street Preschool is located in Lakemba and provides education and care for preschool aged children (3 years and over). The Preschool is licensed for 24 places per day. Out of those 24 places 6 places are supported places for children with a diagnosed disability. Children, and their families, in supported places are supported by a Key Worker.

### **Supported Places**

Supported places within the Preschools are allocated a maximum of two days a week. Each child in a supported place has an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) and an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that addresses the family's goals for their child. The Preschools work on an inclusive model where a child's learning that takes place in a Preschool environment is extended into home and community life and the child's learning from home and community life is extended into the Preschool. Preschool staff work collaboratively with the family, Koorana's Transdisciplinary Preschool Intervention Support Team and Koorana or other external services supporting the child and family.

### **Preschool Intervention Support Transdisciplinary Team**

Koorana's Transdisciplinary Preschool Intervention Support Team is a team of specialist teachers and therapists who work closely with the child and family to develop individual and group programs suited to the child's interests, strengths, learning needs, and relationships using the Key Worker model.

### **Key Worker Model**

The Key Worker model means that one staff member out of the Transdisciplinary Preschool Intervention Support Team is nominated to work with the child and family. The Key Worker is the primary contact for the family and is supported by the transdisciplinary team. This allows the family to build a trusting relationship, which is key to all learning, and a single point of contact for families with Koorana. The Key Worker will support the child and family in the Preschool, home and community to achieve agreed outcomes.

## **Policy Development**

The Preschool Philosophy in conjunction with Koorana's Vision, Mission, Core Values and Practices informs this policy document.

Furthermore, the Preschool policies are informed by and are in line with the *Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010*, *Education and Care Services National Regulations* and *National Quality Standards for education and care services*. These are:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements, including staff-to-child ratios and qualifications
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

In addition, the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* also inform this policy document as Koorana Preschools receive funding for children who have a disability. Therefore, the Preschools must adhere to the "Preschool Disability Support Program (PDSP)" guidelines set by the NSW Department of Education.

The three main obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 for Preschools are:

- a child's application to, or enrolment, in preschool
- a child's access (either denying or limiting access) to preschool; and
- curriculum that would exclude or limit the participation of a child with disability.

Under the Disability Standards for Education 2005 preschools are obliged to:

- provide reasonable adjustment where necessary
- consult with families about the reasonable adjustments that will be provided; and
- prevent harassment and victimisation.

The *NSW Disability Service Standards* are a further document that influence Koorana's Preschool policies.

Lastly, Koorana Child and Family Services would like to acknowledge Willoughby City Council, Jenny Bray (Consultant) and Community Childcare Cooperative as a resource in the development of this policy document.