

## 7.14 (e) Hazardous Items and Plants Policy

<b>Policy number:</b> 7.14(e)
<b>Date last reviewed:</b> January 2025
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Child Care Team

This policy relates to	
Family Day Care/Venue Care/In Home Child Care	
National Quality Standards Early Childhood Education & Care	2.2 Each child is protected 2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard. 3.1 The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service. 3.1.1 Outdoor and indoor space, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.

### Policy

Educators are to be guided by the service safety audit and daily safety checks to ensure that all measures are taken to prevent harm to children, by making hazardous or potentially hazardous items inaccessible to children.

### Hazardous or Potentially Hazardous Items

Service policy requires that the following items need to be **inaccessible to children**:

- Pills and medicines including medicines in the fridge;
- Sharp knives and sharp cooking utensils e.g. metal skewers, corkscrews and cooking forks, vegetable/cheese graters;
- Cigarettes, butts, lighters and matches are out of sight of children;
- Plastic bags (or individually tied in a knot);
- Small items that may cause choking (e.g. coins, Lego, buttons, hair ties and hair clips) inaccessible;
- Rolls of cling wrap and containers with serrated edges i.e. alfoil;
- Polystyrene;

- Sharp scissors;
- Aerosol sprays;
- Open bottles of alcohol;
- Loose cords over 30cm in length including ropes, beads and blind cords;
- Razor blades and shavers;
- Spray cans including hairspray, deodorant and room freshener;
- Chemicals and cleaning products (material safety data sheets should be kept accessible)
- Toilet bowl fresheners and sanitisers;
- Double adaptors;
- Incense/oil burners;
- Pedestal fans;
- Bar heaters and kerosene heaters;
- Firearms (to be locked according to Fire Arms Act 1996 & Firearms Act Queensland 1999 & Qld Police Service Guidelines for lock up of firearms);
- Hunting or fishing gear;
- Petrol and diesel;
- Sharp or heavy gardening tools;
- Gas bottles (or fitted with a catch (door knob cover) over the control to prevent gas being turned on);
- Pet food dishes and litter trays;
- Water in fish tanks;
- Paint;
- Pet droppings;
- Rusty or sharp or protruding items including swings;
- Unstable wood or brick piles, loose metal or wood with nails protruding;

- Overflow tap on hot water systems (or made inoperable);
- All items marked “keep out of reach of children” by the manufacturer including medicated shampoos, chemicals etc.

Service policy requires that the following items need to be unplugged or inaccessible to children:

- Kettles;
- Toasters;
- Hair dryers/straighteners;
- Electric razors.

### **Poisonous Plants**

The child care environment is required to be free from any poisonous plants or plants that could injure children. The service and educator have access to copies of the book “*Plants and Fungi Poisonous to People in Queensland*” as a reference:

Refer to the link [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/PoisonsInformationCentre/plants\\_fungi/default.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/PoisonsInformationCentre/plants_fungi/default.asp)

This book lists the following plants as poisonous:

- *Category 1 plants (extremely toxic, removal of plants required)*

African Milk Bush, Angel’s Trumpet, Castor Oil plant, Crab’s Eye, Foxglove, Lantana, Naked Lady, Pink Oleander, White cedar, Yellow Oleander

- *Category 2 plants (potentially toxic)*

Aroid Plants, Arum Lily, Black Bean, Brazilian Nightshade, Cestrums, Cunjevoi, Cycads, \*Duranta, Physic Nuts, Stinging Trees, Wintersweet

- *Category 3 (irritant to skin and eyes from sap, removal of plant required)*

Stinging nettles

\*As it is the berries on the Duranta that are poisonous, risk management practices of pruning flowers to prevent berries has been discussed with Queensland Health as a viable practice to reduce the risk of this plant.

Thorny plants and shrubs such as cactus and bougainvillea should be pruned or managed in a way that limits children’s access to the risk.

## Relevant Legislation

National Law and National Regulations

51 (1)(a) Conditions on service approval (safety, health and wellbeing of children)

81 Sleep and rest

98 Telephone or other communication equipment.

103 Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair

106 Laundry and hygiene facilities

107 Venue care only Space requirements indoor space

108 Venue care only-space requirements outside

109 Toilet and hygiene facilities

110 Ventilation and natural light

112 Nappy Change facilities

113 Outdoor space- natural environment

114 Outdoor space shade

115 Premises designed to facilitate supervision

116 Assessments of family day care residences and approved family day care residences and approved family day care venues.

117 Glass

168(2)(a)(v) Education and care service must have policies and procedures in relation to sleep and rest for children

Weapons Act 1990 Queensland

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/act-1990-071>

Firearms Act 1996

<https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/1996-74>

Queensland Police Department

<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/weaponsLicensing/licenceApplication/storage/howto.htm>

## Associated Beaucare Policies and Documents

[Appendix A Legislation](#)

[Appendix D Privacy and Communication](#)

[Appendix F QIP and Compliance](#)