



## TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY

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### Best Practice – Quality Area 2

Shine Bright EYM acknowledge the contribution of the Healthy Together Victoria Achievement Program in the development of this policy.

### PURPOSE

The educators, staff and management acknowledge the importance of a smoke-free environment that contributes to good health and overall wellbeing.

This policy confirms our commitment to:

- ensure a smoke-free environment for children, families, educators, staff, volunteers and visitors
- 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

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

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### 1. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

##### Background

The key to tobacco control in the early years is prevention. The most effective means of prevention is providing an early childhood environment that is supportive and protective of all children. Building resilience and developing social and emotional competencies should start early to enhance the potential for children to resist risky behaviours later on.

##### Whole service engagement

It is recognised that every member of the service impacts on the children's health and can contribute to creating a healthy, smoke free environment. All members of our service, including educators, staff, children, families and volunteers will be supported to meet this policy.

##### Legislation and standards

*Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:*

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- *National Quality Standard 2013*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for children)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

### **Service policies this may link to:**

- *Educational program*
- *Occupational health and safety*
- *Staff Health & Wellbeing*

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

**Resilience:** the ability to bounce back from adversity in order to lead a healthy and fulfilling life.<sup>1</sup>

**Social and emotional competence:** the ability to recognise and manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships and handle challenging situations capably.<sup>2</sup>

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Healthy policies**

- Educators, staff, families and children are active participants in the development and implementation of the whole service tobacco policy.
- Educators, staff and families are provided with information about policy requirements.
- Families failing to abide by this policy may result in the withdrawal of their child's enrolment at the service
- Staff failing to abide by this policy may result in disciplinary action

### **Healthy physical environment**

- The service provides a totally smoke-free environment.
- All service sanctioned events (both on and off premises), including incursion, excursions, and celebrations are totally smoke-free.
- Compliance with the tobacco legislation is ensured with staff, stakeholders, suppliers, providers of services, and users of service facilities.

### **Healthy social environment**

- Staff who smoke are supported to quit or manage their smoking.
- As role models, educators, staff and families present smoke-free behaviour in line with this policy.
- Service contractors and visitors model smoke-free behaviour and refrain from smoking whilst in view of children.

### **Learning and skills**

- Tobacco education and related health messages are reinforced in opportunistic learning moments.
- Educators are supported to access resources, tools and professional learning to enhance their knowledge and capacity to provide opportunistic learning about tobacco education and prevention initiatives.

### **Engaging children, educators, staff and families**

- Families, children, educators and staff are key partners in developing and supporting smoke-free initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup>School Drug Education and Road Aware. Challenges and Choices. Early Childhood Resource for resilience, drug and road safety education. Government of Western Australia, 2005

<sup>2</sup>Zins J E and Elias M J. Social and Emotional Learning in Safe and Sound: *An educational leader's guide to evidence-based social and emotional learning programs*. Developed by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning, USA, 2003.

- Information, ideas and practical strategies are provided to families, educators and staff on a regular basis to promote and support smoke-free behaviour in the service and at home.
- The service engages families in smoke-free initiatives.
- The service engages with families and children from culturally diverse backgrounds to ensure cultural values and expectations about tobacco are considered.

### **Community partnerships**

- The service engages local health professionals, services and other organisations to increase educator and staff capacity to deliver and promote tobacco education and prevention initiatives.
- Information is provided to educators, staff and families about local support to quit smoking as required.
- Partner organisations are required to comply with smoke-free strategies identified in the service's tobacco policy at service events on and off site.

### **EVALUATION**

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

### **AUTHORISATION**

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider- Shine Bright EYM on September 2016.

**REVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 2019**