

# **DETERMINING THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON POLICY January 2018**

## **Purpose**

Montessori Works ensures that a Responsible Person is in attendance at all times the service is educating and caring for children. The Responsible Person is either the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor of the service or an allocated candidate who has been placed in day-to-day charge of the service.

## **Responsibilities for the Approved Provider**

The Approved Provider of an education and care service must –

- Ensure there is a Responsible Person on the premises at all times the service is educating and caring for children.
- Ensure that the name and position of the Responsible Person in charge of the service is displayed in a visible position at the main entrance of the service.
- Ensure that the name of the Nominated Supervisor is displayed prominently at the main entrance of the service.
- Notify the Regulatory Authority through the NQA ITS Portal if there is a change of person in the role of Nominated Supervisor.
- Ensure that, in the absence of the Nominated Supervisor from the service, the Responsible Person is placed in day-to-day charge of the service.
- Ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor and Responsible Person have an understanding of their role, and have given their acceptance of this role in writing.
- Ensure that there are sufficient staff-at the service who meet the criteria to be a Responsible Person at the service during periods of leave or illness.

## **Responsibilities of the Nominated Supervisor**

The Nominated Supervisor of an education and care service must –

- Provide written consent to accept the role of Nominated Supervisor.
- Ensure that, in their absence from the service premises, another Responsible Person is placed in day-to-day charge of the service.
- Ensure that all staff have a sound understanding of the role of Responsible Person.
- Ensure that the name of the Responsible Person is displayed prominently at the main entrance of the service.
- Create a roster in accordance with the availability of a Responsible Person, hours of operation and attendance patterns of children.
- Notify the Approved Provider and the Regulatory Authority within 7 days of any changes to their personal situation, including a change in mailing address, circumstances that affect their status as fit and proper (such as the suspension or cancellation of a Working with Children Check card of teacher registration) or if they are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

## **Responsibilities of the Responsible Person**

The Responsible Person of an education and care service must –

- Provide written consent to accept the role of Responsible Person.
- Check that the name and position of the Responsible Person in charge of the service is displayed and is easily visible from the main entrance of the service.
- Ensure that they have a sound understanding of the role of Responsible Person.
- Understand that a Responsible Person placed in a day-to-day charge of an approved service does not have the same statutory responsibilities under the National Law as the Nominated Supervisor.

## **Responsibilities of the Family/Guardian**

The Family/Guardians of an education and care service must –

- Reading and understanding this policy
- Being aware of who is the Responsible Person at the service on a daily basis.

## **Procedure**

Appointing a Responsible Person

The Approved Provider is responsible for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children at the service and will consider a person's qualifications, experience and age when deciding whether they are suitable to be placed in day to day charge of the service.

- The Approved Provider or the Nominated Supervisor identifies that an educator meet the criteria to be given a Responsible person role, and
- they give their written consent to be placed in day to day charge of the service (required regulation 54)

Criteria to be determined a Responsible Person

Educators at the service who have been deemed suitable by the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor and wish to be considered for the role of Responsible Person in the absence of the Nominated Supervisor will be considered based on the following:

- Their practical knowledge of the day-to-day responsibilities of being an educator at the service, including how to work through unexpected problems.
- Must be over 18 years of age.
- A demonstrate understanding of:
  - Children (Education and Care Services National Law) Act 2010, and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
  - Equal Opportunity Employment Conditions.
  - Health and Safety, including Child Protection responsibilities.
  - Privacy and Confidentiality and Equal Opportunity/Anti-Discrimination policies and procedures.
  - The education and care service's policies and procedures.

- Consideration will be also given regarding whether the individual has been subject to compliance action to or disciplinary proceedings under a children’s service law, education law, or a previous education and care service aw, in any state or territory. Candidates will be asked to submit a Compliance History Statement.

## Determining the Responsible Person

- Whenever possible the Nominated Supervisor will be the Responsible Person. If the Nominated Supervisor will be absent, they will ask a suitable staff member/s to be the Responsible Person.
- The Responsible Person will sign in, as on duty, on the Responsible Person register and upon leaving, hand over to the next responsible person to sign in.
- The name of the Responsible Person will be displayed in the main entrance to the service.
- Only one staff member can be appointed to the position of Responsible Person at any one time.
- A record will be kept of who has fulfilled the role each day.

## Definitions, Terms & Abbreviations

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Approved Provider	Holds the Provider Approval granted under the Children (Education and Care Services National Law) Act 2011. This approval authorises the Approved Provider to operate an approved education and care service.
Nominated Supervisor	This person is responsible for the day to day management of an Approved Service and has legal responsibilities under the Law and Regulations that govern the operation of education and care services.
Responsible Person	The person the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor deems fit to be left in charge of the day to day operations of the service. A Responsible Person however, does not have any statutory responsibilities under the National Law and Regulations in the absence of the Nominated Supervisor.

## Related Statutory Obligations & Considerations

**ACECQA [www.acacqa.gov.au](http://www.acacqa.gov.au) – Information Sheets**

**ACECQA Guide to the National Law and National Regulations**

**ACECQA Compliance History Statement**

[files.acecqa.gov.au/files/.../Compliance%20history%20statement.docx](http://files.acecqa.gov.au/files/.../Compliance%20history%20statement.docx)

**Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010**

**Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011**

**Guide to the National Quality Standards 2011**

## Related Telephone Numbers

Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate 1800-619-113

## Amendment History

Version	Amendment	Short Description
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This policy will be updated to ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements every year. Appropriate consultation of all stakeholders (including staff and families) will be conducted on a timely basis. In accordance with Regulation 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulation*, families of children enrolled will be notified at least 14 days and their input considered prior to any amendment of policies and procedures that have any impact on their children or family.

Date:

Version:

Last Amended By:

Next Review:

Position: