

ASTHMA

AIM:

To minimise the risks associated with Asthma in children.

To ensure a prompt and appropriate response in the event of a child suffering an Asthma attack whilst in care.

To comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011, specifically Part 4.2 Children's Health and Safety, Division 4 Administration of Medication, Clause 94, Exception to Authorisation Requirement; and Part 7.1 Division 2, Clause 247, Asthma Training.

RATIONALE:

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 15% of children in Australia. It is one of the most common reasons for childhood admission to hospital. While about 300 people die in Australia each year from asthma, many of these deaths are thought to be preventable. Asthma symptoms can be mild, moderate or severe.

Correct asthma management will assist in minimizing the impact of asthma.

It is generally accepted that children under six do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively. With this in mind, Clarence Family Day Care recognises the need to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

POLICY:

Carer/educators will facilitate effective care and health management of children with asthma, and assist in the prevention and management of acute episodes of illness and medical emergencies.

PROCEDURES:

1. Parents who indicate that their child has asthma, are required to provide the carer/educator and the scheme with an Asthma Management Plan, completed in consultation with, and signed by, the child's doctor, and including the details of any medication prescribed for that child by the medical practitioner.

2. Parents of children with asthma are to ensure that the carer/educator is supplied with the appropriate asthma medication for the child at all times when the child is in care. Parents of children who use a nebuliser are to ensure that the nebuliser is available for use by the child when at the carer/educator's home.

If the appropriate asthma medication is not supplied, carer/educators should not accept the child into care unless the parent provides written confirmation from the child's medical practitioner that it is safe to do so.

3. Carer/educators are required under the national regulation to undertake training in the management of asthma and administration of asthma medications and have written authorisation from the child's parent **and doctor** to administer the medication.

4. Carer/educators are informed about asthma in the Carer's Handbook (*supplied by the scheme*). Should a carer/educator require more information regarding asthma, further details can be obtained from the scheme, the child's doctor or other health services.

5. (1) Despite the regulatory requirement to obtain authorisation to administer medication, medication may be administered to a child without an authorisation in the case of an asthma emergency.

(2) If medication is administered under this regulation, the nominated supervisor of the service or the carer/educator must ensure that the following are notified as soon as practicable—

- (a) a parent of the child;**
- (b) emergency services.**

Relevant Legislation: *Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011*

Key Resources: *The Asthma Foundation, Victoria: Asthma & the Child In Care;*
National Asthma Council of Australia: www.nationalasthma.org.au