

Background

In early childhood education and care services, children have close contact with each other, and this provides the opportunity for head lice to be transferred from child to child.

Whilst parents have primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the Service will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Policy statement

This policy outlines the roles, responsibilities and expectations of the Service and parents to assist with a consistent and coordinated approach to treating and controlling head lice.

Strategies and practices

- The Services *Head Lice Policy* and up-to-date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice is available at the Service for parents and educators.
- Children do not share hats or bedding at the Service.
- Parents of children with long hair are asked to tie their hair back before coming to the Service.
- Parents are asked to check children's hair regularly for head lice. Parents are expected to ensure that their child does not attend the Service with untreated head lice. Parents are asked to notify the Service if their child is found to have live lice and when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- Parents of a child found to have head lice while at the Service are contacted and asked to treat the child before they next attend the Service. A Head Lice Notification Form is sent home and parents are asked to return the form to the Service signed to confirm the treatment of their child's hair.
- The Service provides all parents with a Head Lice Notification when head lice has occurred in the Service. All parents are provided with information and are asked to check their own child's head daily once head lice have been detected in the Service.
- After a case of head lice has been detected in the Service, all items such as hats, bedding and dress-up clothes which may have been used by the child are washed in hot soapy water and hung out to dry in the sun.

Additional safe practices for babies

- No additional practices required.

Responsibilities of parents

- To tie back their child's long hair.

- To check children's hair regularly for head lice and advise the Service if head lice are detected.
- To treat their child's hair in the event of head lice being detected.

Procedures and forms

- Head Lice Notification form

Links to other policies

- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Managing Infectious Diseases Policy

Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2011

Regs	85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
	87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record.
	88	Infectious diseases

QA	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2020 (ACECQA)

Further reading and useful websites

- Queensland Health. Head Lice Fact Sheet: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/child-health/head-lice> accessed 25 June 2025
- Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services – 6th Edition: <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-preventing-infectious-diseases> accessed 25 June 2025
- Children's Health Queensland: <https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/fact-sheet-head-lice/> accessed 25 June 2025

Policy review

The Service encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the annual review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur, and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

Version Control

Version	Date Reviewed	Approved By	Comments/Amendments	Next Review Date
1	8 January 2018	Kaylene Harper	Updated to changed NQF requirements 1 February 2018.	January 2019
2	6 February 2019	Kaylene Harper	Reviewed policy. Accessed sources and further readings.	February 2020
3	29 January 2020	Kaylene Harper	Reviewed policy. Accessed sources and further readings.	January 2021
4	14 October 2020	Kaylene Harper	Reviewed policy. Accessed sources and further readings.	October 2021
5	22 September 2021	Kaylene Harper	Reviewed policy	September 2022
6	5 October 2022	Linda Hollard	Reviewed policy Accessed sources and further information	October 2023
7	22 August 2023	Grace McKinstry	Reviewed policy. Accessed sources and further readings.	August 2024
8	9 July 2024	Tiffany Boeske	Reviewed policy Accessed sources	July 2025
9	25 June 2025	Gen Mahaki	Reviewed policy. Accessed sources and further readings.	June 2026