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1.06 Community Participation and Social Inclusion Policy

Practice Standard linked to: 1. Rights and Responsibilities / 1.1 Person-centred supports;
M3.3 Inclusion

Purpose

This policy defines how Muddy Puddles promotes community participation and social inclusion for children and young people with a disability or developmental delay and their families.

Scope

Muddy Puddles recognises that the ability to engage in educational, play and leisure activities beyond the immediate home environment is an important element of participation and inclusion in local communities and can help increase psychological wellbeing and physical health, and contribute towards positive social interactions and relationships.

This policy focuses on promoting participation and inclusion for children and young people with a disability or developmental delay and their immediate family members, and on addressing barriers such as attitudes, customs, social structures, infrastructure and lack of access to services.

Related policies

Service Design and Planning Policy
Rights and Responsibilities Policy
Cultural Safety and Diversity Policy

Services for children and young people

To address community participation and social inclusion for children and young people with a disability or developmental delay, Muddy Puddles services are designed to address the following considerations:

- removal of barriers to access by implementing the Muddy Puddles Cultural Safety and Diversity Policy
- provision of capacity building programs and professional services not otherwise available in the Eurobodalla area
- a focus on participation and inclusion in each child's service plan and goals
- provision of a range of capacity building programs that:
 - enable children and young people to socialise with other children, young people and adults
 - enable children and young people to experience diversity and different cultures

- teach children and young people social skills and encourage positive behaviour to support participation in the wider community
- encourage children and young people to express their views freely
- involve structured play that incorporates learning
- implement the Early Years Learning Framework (Belonging, Being, Becoming) for children up to six years of age
- are tailored to meet the needs of individual children and young people
- address the need for participation and inclusion to continue during school holidays
- are sensitive to the needs of children and young people who have been involved in the criminal justice system while also considering the rights and welfare of the broader community.

Support for families

To address community participation and social inclusion for parents of children and young people with a disability or developmental delay, Muddy Puddles services are designed to address the following considerations:

- removal of barriers by implementing the Muddy Puddles Cultural Safety and Diversity Policy
- education of families on services available to them in the Eurobodalla area, and facilitation of linkages
- the need for families to be heard: listening to parents, children and young people and basing services on the needs and desires they express
- the need for greater choice of services
- encouraging children and parents to participate in the planning and delivery of services, and to provide feedback
- provision of opportunities for parents to socialise and share experiences with other parents
- reduction of financial barriers by being a registered NDIS provider, and supporting parents to access NDIS
- provision of support for siblings of children with a disability or developmental delay.

Muddy Puddles must also regularly review feedback in relation to participation and inclusion to inform system and design improvements.

Versions and approval

Version	Change	Approved by	Date Approved	Review Date
V2.0	Update to new template; align with NDIS Practice Standards	Board	August 2019	August 2021
V1.1		Board Chair	June 2018	June 2019
V1.0		Board Chair	May 2017	May 2018

