

Asthma Foundations have been supporting the Australian community for over 50 years. This fact sheet explains how Foundations can assist childcare services to meet their national regulatory requirements in relation to asthma and other health care management and to access approved asthma training.

### WHAT THE REGULATIONS SAY ABOUT ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

The National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations are explicit about management of medical conditions, and of asthma, diabetes and anaphylaxis in particular.

- The National Law [section 5] covers all long day care, family day care, preschool (kindergarten) and outside school hours care services. It adopts a broad **definition** of 'education and care service' ie "any service providing or intending to provide education and care on a regular basis to children under 14 years of age".
- One of the **objectives** of the National Law [section 3(2)] is to "ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of children attending **education and care services**"
- **Guiding principles** in the National Law [section 3(3)] include the following:
  - Outcomes for children is the focus
  - The rights and best interests of the child are paramount
  - The role of parents and families is respected and supported
  - Best practice is expected in the provision of education and care services.
- The Education and Care Services National Regulations [89, 168] state that the service must "provide an appropriate number of suitable **first aid kits** that are easily recognisable and readily accessible to adults. The service must have policies and procedures about the administration of first aid to children being educated and cared for by the service." and "First aid kits should also be taken when leaving the service premises".
- The National Regulations [90-91] states that a service must have a policy regarding **medical**

**conditions** that sets out:

- Management of medical conditions
- Requirements for parents to provide a medical management plan for children with a specific health care need
- A risk minimisation plan developed with the parents
- A communications plan for staff and parents

The policy must explicitly address asthma, diabetes and risk of anaphylaxis.

- For **administration of medication**, the National Regulations [92-96, 178, 181-184] require authorisation from a parent or other person authorised to consent to administration of medical attention, however, "in the case of an anaphylaxis or asthma emergency, medication may be administered to a child without authorisation. In this circumstance, the child's parent and emergency services must be contacted as soon as possible."
- Regarding **first aid qualification requirements**, [National Regulation 136] state that "The following persons must be **in attendance and immediately available in case of an emergency**:
  - At least one educator who holds a first aid qualification
  - At least one educator who has undertaken anaphylaxis management training, and
  - At least one educator who has undertaken emergency asthma management training."

**Asthma Australia's Course in Emergency Asthma Management** enables services to meet the first aid qualification requirements under the new National Law and Regulations.

**Asthma Australia's Asthma Friendly Early Childhood Education & Care Program** enables services to meet the broader medical management and inclusion requirements for children with asthma and assists services to develop their broader medical management policies.

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### **ACCESS TO APPROVED EMERGENCY ASTHMA MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

10392NAT Course in Emergency Asthma Management is a competency assessed training course and an approved asthma management qualification for the purposes of Regulations 136(1)(c) and 136(3)(c) of the National Regulations for Early Childhood Education and Care. Contact your local Asthma Foundation to book training.

### **ASSISTANCE IN MEETING OTHER ASTHMA-RELATED REGULATIONS: ASTHMA FRIENDLY CHILDCARE SERVICES**

Asthma Australia's Asthma Friendly Early Childhood Education & Care Services program is based on over a decade's work in schools, supported by the Australian government, to create asthma friendly environments.

An Asthma Friendly Early Childhood Education & Care Service is one where:

#### **1. Training**

The majority of staff have current training in Asthma First Aid and routine management, conducted or approved by the local Asthma Foundation. At least one staff member on duty at any time holds a current certificate for ACECQA\* approved competency assessed Emergency Asthma Management training.

\*Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority ([acecqa.gov.au](http://acecqa.gov.au))

#### **2. Equipment**

Asthma Emergency Kits (AEKs) – available from Asthma Australia and widely used in schools - are accessible and include in-date reliever medication, single person use spacers – with masks for under 5 year olds.

#### **3. Information**

Asthma First Aid posters are on display; up-to-date asthma information available is for staff and parents.

#### **4. Policy**

First aid and other health-related policies explicitly include asthma.

**Contact your local Asthma Foundation to find out more about becoming Asthma Friendly.**

### **ASTHMA AND CHILDREN**

**Asthma is common.**

**One in ten children have current diagnosed asthma.**

- Asthma is a common reason for hospitalisation of children
- Children's asthma is a major contributor to their being absent from education or care

Asthma is different for everyone - individuals can have different triggers, symptoms and medications for their asthma, and these can also change.

A child could have their first asthma attack while at school or in care. Asthma Emergency Kits, available through local Asthma Foundations, are recommended for education and care services and can assist in dealing with these situations.

Asthma Australia provides asthma training for education and care services across Australia. Training in schools and preschools is supported by the Australian government.

**For further information contact your local Asthma Foundation:**

**1800 ASTHMA Helpline** (1800 278 462)  
[asthmaaustralia.org.au](http://asthmaaustralia.org.au)