

Title	Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy
Policy Category	Children's Programs
Policy Type	Mandatory
NQF Standard	NQS: Quality Area 2
Related Legislation	See legislation map

Background and Context

This policy outlines procedures to be followed when:

- obtaining written authorisation from a parent/guardian or person authorised and named in the enrolment record
- refusing written authorisation from a parent/guardian or person authorised and named in the enrolment record.

Glen Education service is committed to:

- ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children attending the service
- meeting its duty of care obligations under the law.

Under the National Law and Regulations, early childhood services are required to obtain written authorisation from parents/guardians, and/or authorised nominees (refer to Definitions) in some circumstances, to ensure that the health, safety, wellbeing and best interests of the child are met. These circumstances include but are not limited to:

- administration of medication (Regulation 96)
- children leaving the service premises (Regulation 99)
- children being taken on excursions (Regulation 102).

Specific service policies (including the Administration of Medication Policy, Delivery and Collection of Children Policy, Enrolment and Orientation Policy and Excursions and Service Events Policy) should include details of the conditions under which written authorisations will be accepted. However, there may be instances when a service refuses to accept a written authorisation. The Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (Regulation 168(2)(m)) specify that services are required to develop a policy in relation to the acceptance and refusal of authorisations to help educators/staff and parents/guardians understand exactly what they need to do.

This policy outlines procedures to be followed when refusing a written authorisation from a parent/guardian or person authorised and named in the enrolment record. As an example, the National Law does not specify the minimum age of a person who is authorised to collect a child from the service premises. After consulting with parents/guardians and families, Glen Education may adopt a policy position accepting authorisations for persons over the age of 16 to collect a child from the service. This decision will then be outlined in the service's Delivery and Collection of Children Policy. In the event that the service receives written authorisation for a person under the age specified in its Delivery and Collection of Children Policy, to collect a child from the service, the procedures outlined below for refusing this written authorisation would be enacted.

Scope

This policy applies to Glen Education and the organisation's employees and volunteers, including students on placement. The Policy also applies to parents/guardians, children and others attending Glen Education's programs and activities.

Definitions

Attendance record: Kept by the service to record details of each child attending the service including name, time of arrival and departure, signature of person delivering and collecting the child or of the Nominated Supervisor or educator (Regulation 158(1)).

Authorised nominee: (In relation to this Policy) a person who has been given written authority by the parents/guardians of a child to collect that child from the Education and care service. These details will be on the child's enrolment form. *Glen Education has specified a minimum age limit for an authorised nominee. Authorised nominees must be aged 18 years of age or older.*

Duty of care: A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of organisations to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonably foreseeable risk of injury.

Glen Education Leader: A person who is nominated by Glen Education Management to provide leadership and mentoring (operational and Educational) across the organisation, that aligns with the National Early Years Framework and who actively promotes and ensures adherence to all Glen Education practices, policies and procedures

Inappropriate person: A person who may pose a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of any child attending the education and care service, or whose behaviour or state of mind make it inappropriate for him/her to be on the premises e.g. a person under the influence of drugs or alcohol (Act 171(3)).

Medication record: Contains details for each child to whom medication is to be administered by the service. This includes the child's name, signed authorisation to administer medication and a record of the medication administered, including time, date, dosage, manner of administration, name and signature of person administering the medication and of the person checking the medication, if required (Regulation 92). A sample medication record is available on the ACECQA website.

Nominated Supervisor: A person who has been nominated by Glen Education under Part 3 of the Act and who has consented to that nomination in writing can be the Nominated Supervisor. All services must have a Nominated Supervisor(s) with responsibility for the service in accordance with the National Regulations (Section 5 and 161).

Policy

Glen Education is responsible for:

- ensuring that parents/guardians are provided with a copy of all service policies
- ensuring that the Nominated Supervisor/GLEN Education Leader and all staff follow the policies and procedures of the service
- ensuring that all parents/guardians have completed the authorised nominee section of their child's enrolment form (refer to Enrolment and Orientation Policy), and that the form is signed and dated prior to the child being enrolled at the service
- ensuring that permission forms for formal excursions (those outside of the agreed local boundary) are provided to the parent/guardian or authorised nominee prior to the

- excursion (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)
- ensuring that an attendance record (refer to Definitions) is maintained to account for all children attending the service
- keeping a written record of all visitors to the service, including time of arrival and departure
- ensuring that where children require medication to be administered by educators/staff, this is authorised in writing, signed and dated by a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, included with the child's medication record (refer to Definitions) (refer to Administration of Medication Policy and Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy), and handed to an educator.
- ensuring educators/staff do not administer medication without the authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency (refer to Administration of Medication Policy, Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy, Emergency and Evacuation Policy, Asthma Policy and Anaphylaxis Policy)
- ensuring educators/staff allow a child to participate in an excursion only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)
- ensuring educators/staff allow a child to depart from the service only with a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or with the written authorisation of one of these, except in the case of a medical emergency or an excursion (refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Child Safe Environment Policy)
- ensuring that there are procedures in place if an inappropriate person (refer to Definitions) attempts to collect a child from the service (refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Child Safe Environment Policy)
- developing and enacting procedures for dealing with a written authorisation that does not meet the requirements outlined in service policies.

The Nominated Supervisor/Glen Education Leader is responsible for:

- following the policy and procedures of the service
- ensuring that medication is not administered to a child without the authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency (refer to Administration of Medication Policy, Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy, Emergency and Evacuation Policy, Asthma Policy and Anaphylaxis Policy)
- ensuring a child only departs from the service with a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or with the written authorisation of one of these, except in the case of a medical emergency or an excursion (refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Child Safe Environment Policy)
- ensuring a child is not taken outside the service premises on an excursion except with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)
- informing GLEN Education when a written authorisation does not meet the requirements outlined in service policies.

All educators are responsible for:

- following the policies and procedures of the service
- checking that parents/guardians sign and date permission forms for excursions
- checking that parents/guardians or authorised nominees sign the attendance record (refer to Definitions) as their child arrives at and departs from the service

- administering medication only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee, except in the case of an emergency, including an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency (refer to Administration of Medication Policy, Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy and Emergency and Evacuation Policy)
- allowing a child to participate in both formal and informal excursion only with the written authorisation of a parent/guardian or authorised nominee (refer to Excursions and Service Events Policy)
- allowing a child to depart from the service only with a person who is the parent/guardian or authorised nominee, or with the written authorisation of one of these, except in the case of a medical emergency or an excursion (refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Child Safe Environment Policy)
- following procedures if an inappropriate person (refer to Definitions) attempts to collect a child from the service (refer to Delivery and Collection of Children Policy and Child Safe Environment Policy)
- informing Glen Education when a written authorisation does not meet the requirements outlined in service policies.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- reading and complying with the policies and procedures of the service
- completing and signing the authorised nominee section (refer to Definitions) of their child's enrolment form (refer to Enrolment and Orientation Policy) before their child commences at the service
- signing and dating permission forms for excursions
- signing the attendance record (refer to Definitions) as their child arrives at and departs from the service
- providing written authorisation where children require medication to be administered by educators/staff, and signing and dating it for inclusion in the child's medication record (refer to Definitions).

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

Approvals and Revision

Date	Version	Responsibility	Revision Description
Q3 2012	1.00	Glen Education Management	New Policy
Q2 2022	4.00	Glen Education Management	Policy amended as per rebranding May 2022