Rationale

At Morgan Preschool we provide an environment for children, staff and families to participate safely. We implement the following appropriate measures to protect children, staff and families from the risk of heat stress.

Heat Stress

Heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels so Morgan Preschool applies the following strategies:

For Children:

- **Shade** - Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas.
- **Drinks** - Children are to be frequently offered water or fluids. Drinking water is to be accessible to children at all times.
- **Clothing** - Families are to be encouraged to dress their children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe.
- **Lunch** - Families are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. Morgan Preschool also provides a fridge to store food.
- **In extreme heat conditions** Activities will be confined within the centre in a comfortable environment

Staff:

- take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others (duty of care) in the workplace
- pay particular attention to all children to reduce the risk of heat illness
- follow the ‘Skin Protection Site Policy’

At Morgan Preschool

- Families delivering and collecting children are advised to stay comfortable within the building and park where possible in shaded areas
- Cooling systems will operate within our building to ensure a comfortable environment for children, staff and families during normal operating times

In extenuating circumstances
(such as no air conditioning/extreme weather conditions):

- Appropriate contingency plans will be activated (emergency, bushfire)
- Blackouts caused by extreme heat conditions /or events (eg bushfires) early dismissal will occur. Families will be contacted Staff will remain on duty and children who are unable to be collected will be kept as comfortable as possible.

Policy Updated and endorsed by staff and Governing Council – Nov. 2014
Review 2016

Sun Protection National Quality Standard 2.3 Regulation 168 (2) (a) (ii) Related Key Regulations: 114