

# HERITAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

**COMMITTEE HANDBOOK 2024** 





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## **Management Committee Handbook**



## **Contents**

| Introduction                                     | 3   |
|--|-----|
| Role of the Management Committee                 | 3   |
| Heritage Policy and Procedure Writing Process    | 4   |
| Management Committee Meetings                    | 4   |
| Responsibilities of Management Committee Members | 5   |
| Duties of Management Committee Office Holders    | 6   |
| The Management Committee Handover Process        | 8   |
| Critical Dates                                   | 9   |
| Other Opportunities for Family Involvement       | 9   |
| Committee Guides                                 | 9   |
| Relevant Legislation                             | 9   |
| Contacts and References                          | .10 |

- Appendix 1: Insurance Currency Certificates
- Appendix 2: Management Committee Email List Procedures
- Appendix 3: Table of Nominated Supervisors and Responsible Persons in Charge
- Appendix 4: The Heritage Privacy Statement
- Appendix 5: The Heritage Complaints and Grievance Management Procedure Summary



## Introduction

Heritage Early Childhood Centre (Heritage) is a community-based, not-for-profit early childhood centre which caters for 57 children between 6 weeks and primary school age. Heritage takes pride in making families feel welcome and encourages parent involvement in its programs and management. A key way in which parental involvement is embedded in the management structure is through the Management Committee, a voluntary organisation consisting of parent volunteers, the Director and staff representatives. The purpose of this Handbook is to outline the roles, responsibilities and contributions of the Heritage Management Committee for current Office Holders and Ordinary Members, parents interested in becoming members and for the Heritage community more broadly. More detailed information is given in the Governance and Management Policy and The Heritage Constitution (Rules of Incorporation). **Refer to:** The Members section on the Heritage website to access these documents.

## **Role of the Management Committee**

The Director is responsible for the day to day running of Heritage in line with the decisions of the Management Committee. The Management Committee is responsible for the management of Heritage in accordance with the Heritage Constitution (Rules of Incorporation) and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* and must ensure there are appropriate systems and processes in place to enable:

- Overseeing of good governance and management of the Heritage service.
- Accountability of Heritage to its stakeholders.
- Overseeing of compliance with all regulatory and legislative requirements placed on the service.
- The service to remain solvent and comply with all its financial obligations.

A comprehensive list of responsibilities is outlined in the Heritage Constitution (Rules of Incorporation). **Refer to:** Members section on the Heritage website. There are 4 key areas in which the Management Committee has a role to play:

### **Financial Management**

- Setting fees
- Developing and approving the Annual Budget
- Monitoring monthly Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet Reports
- Working with the Director and Bookkeeper
- Appointing an Auditor
- Fundraising
- Approving major expenses

## Liaison and Lobbying

- Applying for grants
- Assisting the Director in lobbying for other funding
- Assisting the Director in liaising with the ANU, Government bodies and other early childhood services

## Communication

• Keeping members of the Heritage community informed as required of Management Committee decisions, new and updated policies and upcoming events etc.

## **Policy and Procedures**

Supporting the Director and Policy Officer to:

- Formulate new policies and procedures as required in consultation with staff and families
- Review our current policies and procedures.
- Review the Heritage Mission, Vision, Philosophy and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Statements

January 2024 Page 3 of 12



## The Heritage Policy and Procedures Writing Process

### **Required Policies and Procedures**

- Heritage is required to develop policies and procedures that meet or exceed the <u>National Quality</u> Framework.
- As a minimum, education and care services are required to have policies and procedures as listed in <u>Regulation 168</u> of the <u>Education and Care National Regulations</u>.

### **Summary of Our Policy and Procedures Writing Process**

Heritage follows the <u>Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority's (ACECQA) policy and procedure writing guidelines</u> (what to include and how to set them out). Example: <u>ACECQA</u>
 Emergency and Evacuation Policy and Procedures Guidelines

#### The Heritage Policy Officer will:

- Read the ACECQA guidelines above and the references in the guidelines, e.g., ACT Health, NHMRC.
- Locate the latest sample policies from early learning organisations such as <u>CELA</u> (of which our Policy Officer is a member).
- Locate the latest policies from respected services such as the University of Melbourne ELC.
- Collate the best practice information from these sources and compare it to what we currently do.
- Consult with the Director to adapt to our service needs and specific ACT legislation.
- Ask educators and families for feedback.

To assist families and educators with readability, our policy and procedures documents include a:

- Summary of Key Responsibilities.
- Contents Page for educators or families looking for information on a specific scenario or procedure.

Refer to: Policy and Procedures Development and Review Policy and Procedures

## **Management Committee Meetings**

- Management Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month, from 5.00pm to 5.45pm in the Staff Room (through the Toddler Room, at the rear of the deck). Staff are always available to care for children for the duration of the meetings.
- All parents are welcome to come to Management Committee meetings and to take part in discussions and raise issues for consideration, however only Management Committee members (Office Holders and Ordinary Members) are able to vote on issues.
- Oral or written notice of upcoming Committee meetings is given to each member of the Committee at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.
- A quorum at any Committee meeting is at least 4 members (not including staff representatives). If a quorum has not formed within 30 minutes of the time appointed, the person presiding must close the meeting.
- Parents can become Office Holders or Ordinary Members by standing for election at the Annual General Meeting that is held in March every year. All parents/guardians (as indicated on their child's Enrolment Form) attending the AGM vote for Office Holders and Ordinary Members.
- Management Committee meetings are always catered, with a range of delicious snacks on offer.
   Generally, the Social and Cultural Officer is responsible for the catering for meetings, however this can be shared between members if preferred.

January 2024 Page 4 of 12



## **Responsibilities of Management Committee Members**

There are some general responsibilities that apply to all members of the Management Committee. These include that all members must:

- Act honestly, in good faith, with reasonable care and diligence.
- Complete a Declaration of Fitness and Propriety Form (PA02) and hold a current Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Card as soon as possible after being elected. Refer to: Members Section on Website for links to forms.
- Familiarise themselves with the Heritage Constitution (Rules of Incorporation). **Refer to:** Members Section on Website.
- Ensure that Heritage carries out its' activities in accordance with its intended purpose and in the best interests of enrolled children.
- Exercise powers for their proper use.
- Respect the role of employees in both the planning and delivery of a high-quality early childhood education program.
- Respect privacy and confidentiality of information obtained in the course of the Management Committee's considerations.
- Not use information acquired through their position for personal advantage, the advantage of others or to the detriment of Heritage.
- Disclose and manage conflicts of interest.
- Ensure the principles of natural justice are followed for any internal disputes.
- Provide support and encouragement to other Management Committee members.
- Return all documents that belong to Heritage within 28 days of ceasing to be a Committee member.

## **Insurance Cover**

Heritage has management liability coverage through its' Early Learning Business Insurance (currently valid to 30 June 2024) including Director's and Officer's Liability. **Refer to:** Appendix 1.

## **Duties of Management Committee Office Holders**

Please refer to the table over-page.

January 2024 Page 5 of 12

## **Duties of Heritage Management Committee Office Holders**

| OFFICE HOLDER  | DUTIES  | TIME PER MONTH  |
|--|---|---|
| Chair (and Deputy Chair)                                     | Provide strategic advice and support to the Director in the running of Heritage. Assist the Director and Policy Officer with reviewing service policies and procedures. Notify the ACT Regulatory Authority in writing if there is a change in Director and check records of Responsible Persons in Charge annually. Refer to: Appendix 3 | About 15-30 minutes a week to catch up with the Director (could be longer if issues arise), plus Director's annual review meeting and compliance/document checks, prior to AGM.  30-60 minutes a month to coordinate monthly Agenda and organise any paperwork for meeting.  60-90 minutes a month to proofread 1-2 policies as updated by the Director and Policy Officer - All Committee members are asked to do this and to suggest amendments if they wish. |
| Secretary (and Deputy Secretary)                             | Attend meetings, take minutes, write up for distribution.   | About 1 hour to write up minutes after the meeting.   |
| Treasurer (and Deputy Treasurer)                             | Oversee the general financial management of Heritage. Make recommendations for improved practices where required.   | About 15-30 minutes a fortnight to catch up with Director (longer if there are any issues).  15 minutes once a month to review financial statements before management committee meeting.  5-6 hours a year to prepare annual budget.  1-2 hours a year to prepare report required for AGM.  (While this may seem substantial, the Heritage bookkeeper provides assistance to the Treasurer)   |
| HR Officer   | Liaise with staff and the Director regarding HR issues as they arise, providing advice and support.   | About 5-10 minutes to catch up with the Director every week (longer if there are specific issues).  |
| Fundraising Coordinator<br>(and Fundraising<br>Subcommittee) | Coordinate Heritage fundraising set calendar of events; advertise to parents; collect/count money; order, check and distribute items; assist with spending funds raised.  | About 2 hours per week or more - up to 20 hours per month. This workload can be shared with the Subcommittee.   |
| Social and Cultural Officer                                  | Arrange social and cultural events such as guest speakers, movie nights, Christmas Party with the aim of encouraging parents to get to know one another.  | About 1 hour per month, depending on the event.  May be merged with Fundraising Coordinator position above.   |

January 2024 Page 5 of 12

| Public Officer        | Complete reporting obligations via Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA) Portals with the Director and ensure all requirements are submitted and up to date.  The Public Officer, who must reside in the ACT, is the person who will be notified of reporting obligations and their address must be up to date. | About 1-2 hours per month for a few months after the AGM, then minimal work for the rest of the year.                     |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Newsletter and        | Collect articles from the Director, Room Leaders and  | About 2-3 hours per month. Currently undertaken by Heritage   |
| Committee Group Email | Chair. Organise layout and distribution of newsletter. (The newsletter is produced every 3 months).   | Reducators and admin staff.  Note: A Committee member, who is also a staff member at                                      |
|                       | Add and delete members from the Committee group email list as required (Procedures in Appendix 2).  | the ANU, must be listed as an administrator of the Committee Email List. Refer to: Committee Email Procedures, Appendix 2 |
| Grants Officer        | Search for suitable grants to assist in the running of  | Varies depending on the number of grants submitted.   |
|                       | Heritage. Prepare grant applications with the Director.   | A grant can take around 5-6 hours to complete.  |
| Ordinary Committee    | Parents can be part of the Committee without holding any  | Attendance at meetings, though not compulsory.  |
| Member                | of the above positions. They must nominate themselves at  |   |
|                       | the AGM and be voted in as an Ordinary Member and are   |   |
|                       | entitled to vote on motions.  |   |

January 2024 Page 5 of 12



## The Management Committee Handover Process

Handover to the next Committee following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March requires the transfer of considerable information and the completion of several forms. To ensure continuity of governance, Heritage has developed a handover process from the outgoing Management Committee to the incoming Management Committee that occurs as soon as possible following the AGM.

#### **Procedures**

- Prior to the AGM, Director and Chairperson to meet to complete Responsible Persons in Charge compliance checks (Appendix 3) and undertake the Director's annual review.
- The Secretary must document decisions made at Committee meetings and file these in a timely manner, along with Committee papers, meeting minutes and other relevant information. This information is essential for the handover and copies must be kept in the office.
- This Committee Handbook is given to or made easily accessible (such as in the Members Section on the website) to each new Office Holder on the Management Committee and reviewed regularly to ensure it is up to date, well organised and provides all relevant information including:
  - o General information regarding the roles and responsibilities of Committee members.
  - o Specific information regarding each position such as Chairperson, Treasurer etc.
  - Information on where to access important documents including the Heritage Constitution (Rules
    of Incorporation) and the Governance and Management Policy, such as the Members section on
    the Heritage website.
  - o Contacts, lists and other operational information including PA02 form and link to the WWVP card.
- Required forms must be signed by outgoing and incoming members of the Committee and submitted to relevant authorities promptly to ensure the Committee can fulfil their legal obligations and management responsibilities without interruption. Authorities to be contacted include:
  - Tax Office. The ATO must be notified when office bearers or other details change as soon as
    possible after the AGM. The required form is on ATO website (under Not-for-Profits) and must
    be completed by the person currently registered with the ATO as the authorised person.
  - o **Bank.** This involves the change of Authorised Signatories for bank accounts and removal of signatures no longer relevant).
  - Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC). Information on the newly elected Committee and outgoing Committee should be updated as soon as possible.
  - ACT Regulatory Authority the <u>Children's Education and Care Authority (CECA)</u>. CECA must be informed when Committee members change, and each new position holder must demonstrate they are a fit and proper person and granted Provider Approval by returning a **Declaration of**
  - Fitness and Propriety Form (PA02) to CECA. This includes the requirement to provide a current Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Card.
- Members of the outgoing Committee may offer to meet with and continue working alongside the new Committee for a short period as mentors. All responsibility rests with the incoming Committee.
- A handover meeting may be held to exchange information and to:
  - Role model the usual meeting procedures such as having an agenda for the meeting and demonstrating their roles, meeting etiquette and decision-making processes.
  - o Discuss obligations such as the Quality Improvement Plan and:
    - Policy development, implementation and review
    - Responsible Persons in Charge check including history compliance checks (Appendix 3).
    - Service planning and delivery, financial management, budget and strategic planning.
    - Roles and responsibilities of each office holder and any sub-Committees (may be done by separate individual meetings).
    - National Regulations and Quality Standards.
    - Staffing awards, conditions, rosters, pay processes, reviews and current staffing issues.
    - Confidentiality and conflict of interest.

January 2024 Page 7 of 12



## First Meeting of the New Committee

At the first meeting of the new Committee, it is important to:

- Follow up outstanding business from previous meeting.
- Ensure all legal requirements have been met and changes notified to relevant authorities.
- Ensure all required transfers have been made from the old Committee to newcommittee.
- Recruit new members if positions are still vacant.

## **Critical Dates**

There are a number of key dates and deadlines throughout the year.

1 January Start of the Financial Year

31 March Last day on which the AGM can be held (must be within 5 months of the end of the

previous Financial Year)

**September** Approve dates for the Christmas shut down (in accordance with the Enterprise

Agreement, staff must be given 3 months' notice)

October Develop Budget for the upcoming year

**December** Budget presented to Committee meeting for approval and once approved, accounts to

be forwarded to the Auditor.

## Other Opportunities for Parental Involvement

The Management Committee is not the only way in which parents can be involved in the running of Heritage. Parents are welcome to participate in the Heritage program at any time – please discuss with the Director or staff if you have any ideas for ways you would like to contribute. **Refer to:** Communication and Family Involvement Policy.

### **Committee Guides**

- CELA Committee Members Guide
- ACECQA Preparing and Reviewing Policies and Procedures

## **Relevant Legislation**

## **National Quality Framework**

- <u>Education and Care National Law 2010</u> and <u>Education and Care Services National</u> <u>Regulations 2011</u>
  - Amendments under NQF Review 2019 most changes commence mid 2023
- National Quality Standard
- Early Years Learning Framework for Australia Version 2, 2022
- Guide to the National Quality Framework

### Other

- Children and Young People Act 2008
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Human Rights Act 2004
- Information Privacy Act 2014
- Freedom of Information Act 1989

January 2024 Page 9 of 12



## **Contacts and References**

### **Access Canberra**

- Incorporated Associations
- Forms and Fees
- Model Rules
- Associations Constitution and Rules Checklist
- Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Information and Application Form

## ACT Regulatory Authority (Children's Education and Care Assurance (CECA), Education Directorate)

• Information for Current Service Providers

## **Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission**

Website Homepage

## Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

- Website Homepage
- Provider Approvals Related Forms
- National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) Provider Portal
- PA02 Form: Declaration of Fitness and Propriety

## The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support

- Website Homepage
- <u>Keeping Children & Young People Safe</u>: a shared community responsibility. A guide to reporting child abuse and neglect in the ACT.

January 2024 Page 10 of 12



# Certificate of Currency

Date of Issue: 25 May 2023



This Certificate of Currency confirms that as at the date of issue the policy specified is current or will be in effect for the Period of Cover shown below, subject to the policy terms, conditions and exclusions.

The insured may cancel the policy at any time, or under certain circumstances, we may cancel the policy in accordance with our rights under the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 (Cth).

| YOUR POLICY SUMMARY |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Policy Number       | P00058238                                    |
| Policy Type         | Early Learning Business Insurance            |
| Period of Insurance | 24/05/2023 to 24/05/2024 at 4:00 pm          |
| Insured             | Heritage Early Childhood Centre Incorporated |
| Trading Name        | Heritage Early Childhood Centre              |
| ABN/ACN             | 15-692-350-773                               |

| Professional Indemnity   |              |
|--|--------------|
| Professional Indemnity Limit of Liability any one Claim                            | \$20,000,000 |
| Professional Indemnity Limit of Liability in the aggregate any one Period of Cover | \$60,000,000 |
| Type of Cover  | Claims Made  |
| Retroactive Date   | 30/08/1988   |
| Public and Products Liability  |              |
| Public Liability Limit of Liability any one Claim                                  | \$20,000,000 |
| Public Liability Limit of Liability in the aggregate any one Period of Cover       | \$80,000,000 |
| Type of Cover  | Claims Made  |
| Retroactive Date   | 30/08/1988   |
| Products Liability Limit of Liability any one Claim                                | \$20,000,000 |
| Products Liability Limit of Liability in the aggregate any one Period of Cover     | \$20,000,000 |
| Type of Cover  | Claims Made  |
| Retroactive Date   | 30/08/1988   |
| Management Liability   |              |
| Employment Practices Liability sub-limit   | \$1,000,000  |
| Employment Practices Liability Retroactive Date                                    | 30/08/1988   |
| Tax Audit  |              |
| Limit of Liability any one Audit and in the aggregate                              | \$10,000     |
| Business Location  |              |
| 75 Lennox Crossing Australian National University, ACTON ACT 2601                  |              |

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January 2024 Page 11 of 12







## CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY

#### 1. STATEMENT OF COVERAGE

The following policy covers the employer's liability under the Workers Compensation Act 1951.

This certificate is valid from: 30/06/2023 - 30/06/2024

The information provided in this certificate is correct as at: 07/07/2023

#### 2. EMPLOYER INFORMATION

| YOUR POLICY SUMMARY               |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Policy number                     | P00109093                            |
| Policy type                       | Employers' Indemnity Insurance - ACT |
| Legal name                        | HERITAGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE .    |
| ABN                               | 15-692-350-773                       |
| ACN/ARBN                          | Unknown                              |
| Premium (Industry) classification | 871000 Child Care Services           |

## 3. INSURER DETAILS

| Insurer            | Guild Insurance Limited  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Authorised officer | Matthew Cashman  |  |
| Contact details    | Locked Bag 32010 Collins Street East VIC 8003<br>E: gilbso@guildinsurance.com.au<br>F: +61 3 9810 9810 |  |

### 4. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This Certificate confirms that as at the date of issue the policy specified is current or will be in effect for the Period of Cover shown, subject to the policy terms, conditions and exclusions.

The insured may cancel the policy at any time, or under certain circumstances, we may cancel the policy in accordance with our rights under the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 (Cth).

This certificate confers no rights to the certificate holder and is current only at the date of issue. Changes to, or cancellation of, the policy may take place after this certificate has been issued. Unless specifically stated, this certificate does not amend, extend or alter the coverag; eunder the policy listed. It is provided as a summary only of the cover issued. For full particulars, reference must be made to the current Policy wording and Schedule.

This policy finishes at 4.00pm on the date specified above.

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Page 3

January 2024 Page 12 of 12



## **Appendix 2: Management Committee Email List Procedures**

- The Management Committee email list must be updated whenever members join or leave by the Director/office staff/Policy and Website Officer.
- A Committee member, who is also a staff member at the ANU, must be listed as an administrator on the list.

## Procedures to add and delete members/administrators

- Go to website: http://mailman.anu.edu.au/mailman/admin/heritage.committee
- Enter Heritage password: \*\*\*\*\*\* (available from Director)
- To delete members, select Membership Management tab and deselect recipients.
- To add members, select Membership Management tab, go to Mass Subscription and add addresses in the relevant box.
- Add a description to each email address as required, e.g., full name of Committee Member, their position on the Committee and the name of their child/ren enrolled at Heritage.
- To add an administrator, go to General Options and add to list of administrator email addresses.
- Click Submit Changes.

Refer to: Communication and Family Involvement Policy and Procedures

January 2024 Page 13 of 12



## **Appendix 3: Table of Nominated Supervisors and Responsible Persons in Charge**

| Nominated Supervisor/<br>Responsible Person in<br>Charge | Date<br>Appointed/<br>Approved | Qualifications, Training and Experience   | WWVP Check<br>Expiry Date | Annual History Compliance Check Y/N* |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Vicki McDonald<br>(Director/Nominated<br>Supervisor)     | 10/05/2012                     | Diploma of Community Services (CHC50399) May 2003 Advanced Diploma of Children Services (CHC60202)2008 Continued management courses and conferences | 25/10/2024                | Yes                                  |
| Katie Pickering<br>(Responsible Person in<br>Charge)     | 12/05/2012                     | Diploma of Community Services (CHC50399) May 2008 Continued training courses and conferences  | 04/11/2024                | Yes                                  |
| Kirsty Smith<br>(Responsible Person in<br>Charge)        | 12/05/2012                     | Diploma of Early Childhood and Care (CHC30113) November 2019 Continued training courses and conferences   | 18/05/2027                | Yes                                  |
| Dragana Reljic<br>(Responsible Person in<br>Charge)      | 5/09/2019                      | Diploma of Early Childhood and Care (CHC30113) December 2016 Continued training courses and conferences   | 25/02/2027                | Yes                                  |
| Eranga Kandamullage<br>(Responsible Person in<br>Charge) | 04/09/2020                     | Diploma of Early Childhood and Care (CHC30113) March 2017 Continued training courses and conferences  | 10/08/2027                | Yes                                  |

<sup>\*</sup> https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/sample-forms-and-templates

**Refer to:** Responsible Person in Charge Policy and Procedures

## **Appendix 4: The Heritage Privacy Statement**

Heritage recognises its responsibility to uphold the <u>Australian Privacy Principles</u> and <u>Education and Care National Law and Regulations 2011</u>, including <u>Regulation 181</u>: Confidentiality of Records, and takes the privacy of its staff, families and enrolled children seriously. Our <u>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy</u>, details how we collect, hold, use, disclose and provide access to personal information, including health information. We take all practicable steps to ensure that the details we retain about our families and educators are accurate, up to date and held securely. If we collect health information, our procedures are subject to the <u>Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997.</u>

## The reasons for which we collect personal information:

- Meet our legal obligations.
- Allow us to carry out our duty of care including health and safety considerations.
- Provide the best possible education and care for each enrolled child.
- Ensure the welfare of educators and all other staff and supervised students.
- Manage the service and meet its' obligations under the service Constitution.
- Meet insurance requirements.
- Facilitate day-to-day administration and delivery of the service.
- Correspond with parents/guardians relating to their child's day to day activities.
- For use in emergencies.
- Gain payments from Government agencies such as Child Care Subsidy.
- Enable communication between the Committee, employees and enrolled families.
- Assess job applicants, contractors, employees, volunteers or students and administer their employment, contracts or placements.
- Continuously monitor the quality of the service.
- Create newsletters, displays in rooms and promotional material including on our website.

#### Some personal/health information held about an individual may be disclosed to:

- Government departments or agencies, as part of our legal and funding obligations.
- Local government authorities, for planning purposes.
- Organisations providing services related to employee entitlements and employment.
- Insurance providers, in relation to specific claims or for obtaining cover.
- Law enforcement agencies.
- Health organisations and/or families in circumstances where the person requires urgent medical assistance and is incapable of giving permission.
- Anyone to whom the individual authorises us to disclose information.

## Laws that require us to collect specific information

The Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and employment-related laws and agreements require us to collect specific information about individuals. Failure to provide the required information could affect a child's enrolment at the service, a person's employment with the service or the ability to function as an Incorporated Association.

#### Access to information

- Individuals about whom we hold personal information, including health information, are able to access this
  information promptly in accordance with applicable legislation.
- Any member of the Heritage community may seek access to view or update their own or their child's
  personal or health information at any time contacting the Director (or the Secretary of the Management
  Committee).

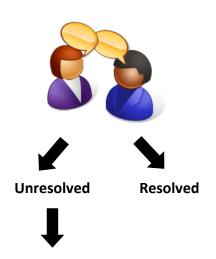
#### **Complaints Procedure**

- Individuals may make a complaint to the Director if they believe there has been a breach of their privacy. The breach will be assessed within 14 days. Where the information collected is incorrect, the information will be corrected. Where a serious breach of privacy is found, appropriate actions will be negotiated with the individual to resolve the situation, in line with the Complaints and Grievance Management Policy.
- If you are not satisfied with the response, you are able to <u>lodge a complaint with the Office of the Australian</u> Information Commissioner.

January 2024 Page **15** of **16** 

## **Appendix 5: Summary of Complaints Management Procedure**

Step 1: Dealing with General Complaints: Informal Discussion with Parties Involved and/or Room Leader/Director



#### Managing Conflict Guidelines

- People often feel strong emotions during the process of raising and responding to complaints and it is important to empathise with the other's perspective.
- Conflict isn't good or bad and that it is important to get things done.
- Try to diffuse emotions by acknowledging feelings and stating positively a wish to find a solution.
- Actively listen and ask questions to help clarify
- Avoid responding immediately and defensively to the issues raised.
- Allow each person to speak and be heard equally.
- Balance meeting individual needs with the requirements to provide quality education and care for all children.

## **Step 2: Formal Grievance Procedure:**

- Write to Director/Chair of Management Committee/Human Resources Officer.
- Mediator appointed to investigate, meet with parties involved and make recommendations to Committee. If, after due process, it is deemed that a member of the Heritage community has not complied with Heritage policies or procedures, the Staff Underperformance and Misconduct or Non-Compliance Policy will apply.







Resolved



### Formal Grievance Meeting Guidelines

- Every attempt will be taken by all parties to resolve the conflict.
- The meeting must be approached with a positive and productive attitude by all parties who must:
  - Deal only with the parties involved
  - Remove blame and empathise with others' perspectives
  - Avoid reacting defensively
  - Allow each person to be heard equally
  - Listen carefully and not interrupt each other.

The Mediator must guide all parties at the meeting to:

- Define and agree on the problem what is currently happening?
- Set a goal what do the parties want to happen?
- Create strategies and solutions to meet the goal what are the options for resolution?
- Define what actions the parties will each commit to.
- Balance meeting individual needs with the requirements to provide quality education and care for all children.

## **Step 3: Contact Outside Agency**

For example, call Children's Education and Care Assurance (CECA) on Ph: 6207 1114 or Fair Work Australia

January 2024 Page **16** of **16**