

## Environmental Sustainability Policy

Narnia Christian Preschool and Early Childhood Centre is committed to providing its children and their families with a learning environment which fosters an appreciation of sustainable use of resources and the delicate balance between people and nature.

At Narnia we believe that learning by doing and leading by example are key to achieving environmentally responsible behaviour in individuals and in wider society. We will strive to make environmentally sound decisions with regard to our everyday operations as a Centre and through our learning program.

### Strategies:

Narnia will continue to lessen the environmental footprint associated with its day to day operations and, through delivery of the teaching program, encourage children to recognise ways in which they can also lessen their environmental footprint in their daily lives. Narnia will achieve these environmentally sustainable actions in the following ways:

- **Education**

Information about waste and its effect on our environment locally and globally will be embedded in our daily practice in the form of carefully selected resources and taught explicitly through discussion, language used by staff and resource kits.

- **Minimising resource consumption**

- Food – encouraging children to eat fresh and to reduce packaging. Food scraps will be added to worm farms, compost bins or chickens to recycle food scraps. (Each Service has a different process)
- Water – push taps, water bottles, and inclusion of environmental measures for new buildings as directed by council. Water from the water play trough and rainfall will be used where possible for the gardens.
- Energy – in all new buildings ensure energy passive design including and not limited to-
  - Water efficient taps
  - Rainwater harvesting for toilets
  - Energy efficient lights
  - Sensor controls to lights
  - Fully insulated roof & ceilings
  - Natural ventilation to reduce reliance on air conditioning
  - Maximise north facing glazing where possible
  - Consideration of energy efficiency in procurement/replacement of technologies such as computers.

- **Minimising waste generation**  
Recycling of paper, re-use of useful materials such as cloth scraps, wrapping paper, old cards etc for craft and art activities. Encouraging lunchboxes to be package free. Use of email/Storypark as primary communication medium to families.
- **Increasing awareness of sustainable food production** – Where possible a vegie patch, special guests to talk about how food is grown in subsistence cultures or carbon footprint, ethical food practices, organics etc are included in the program.
- **Increasing awareness of the natural world** – Where possible incorporate visits and talks from relevant people - chickens, reptile man, Blackbutt, natural museum etc. Learning elements – water cycle, plant growth, soil, insects etc
- **Increasing awareness of the role of technology in achieving environmental sustainability** – understanding how things work – wind power, tidal power, hydro-power, etc, small scale science experiments which help children to understand how the natural and ‘engineered’ world works