

Adjunct Child Care Policy

Introduction

As per the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*, under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010*, the child care service provided by PANDSI is excluded from the definition of education and care service as it is;

“A service providing education and care to a child on an ad hoc basis at premises where the parent of, or other person responsible for, the child is—

- (i) a guest, visitor or patron; and*
- (ii) readily available at all times that the child is being educated and cared for ”*

Adjunct Care Definition:

Adjunct care is child care provided to a child:

- in conjunction with a meeting, function or other activity involving a relative or guardian of the child other than the paid employment of the relative or guardian, and
- on the premises in which the meeting, function or other activity is taking place, and
- for not more than 3 hours on each occasion the child care or education and care is provided.

Child care provided by PANDSI is designed to provide free adjunct care for children while their mother is engaged in one of PANDSI’s support services. Mothers are required to stay on site and be available to resume care of their child as required.

PANDSI aims to provide adjunct child care that:

- protects the child from harm; and
- respects the child’s dignity and privacy; and
- promotes the child’s wellbeing

Although not prescribed by regulation, PANDSI aims to provide minimum standards for adjunct child care that include;

- At least one child care staff member will hold child care qualifications
- At least one child care staff member will hold first aid qualifications
- All child care staff will have completed a 'Working with Vulnerable People' check
- Staff to child ratio of 1:5
- A designated child care service 'leader/carer in charge' for each session

Limits to PANDSI adjunct child care:

- PANDSI adjunct childcare can cater for up to 15 children at one time. Should demand for child care places exceed availability mothers may be asked to keep their child with them while they participate or make alternative arrangements for child care. Priority for places in adjunct care will be for children under the age of 2 years.
- PANDSI adjunct child care can NOT cater for children who have challenging behaviour. If the child care staff believe that a child's behaviour towards other children or staff is unmanageable, the child will be returned to the mother. If necessary, the parents may be asked to make alternative care arrangements for the child.
- PANDSI adjunct child care is not designed to provide educational/developmental feedback or guidance to parents.