

# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Aranda Afters Association [Aranda Afters] has a very strong commitment to the environment and education for sustainability. The aim of education- for-sustainability is to promote a sense of responsibility, respect, appreciation, empowerment, active involvement, enquiry, investigation and social change to make a positive difference, not just now but also for future generations.

Early childhood is a great time to involve children in education for sustainability and develop lifelong practices to ensure the respect and protection of Country. We believe that a sense of belonging and love of Country, the natural environment, and all living things is critical for children and young people to develop lifelong respectful, positive and proactive attitude towards protecting our environment.

At Aranda Afters, we aim to involve children in sustainable practices. Within our curriculum, education for sustainability focuses on our shared Aboriginal history of connections with the land and reconciliation; biodiversity - nature connections, gardens and animals; environmental health - eliminating chemicals; slow food – growing our own food, respecting the natural rhythms of seasons and food traditions; resources -responsible use of water and energy, waste minimization, fair trade and the sharing of resources; and living in peace with each other and nature. We aim to incorporate sustainable practices into all aspects of our Service operations, decision making and values to minimise our impact on the environment.

Aranda Afters is committed to adopt practices and procedures that work towards providing an environment that is cleaner and healthier for all stakeholders whilst supporting sustainability and increase our awareness of its importance.

We aim to engage children in opportunities to participate in environmentally sustainable practices, encourage decision making and problem solving and increase their awareness and sense of responsibility for caring for the environment.

Our policies and procedures will assist to support our commitment to move towards a sustainable future and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Through our *Sustainability Commitment Statement*, we will aim to:

- communicate, educate, and support all major stakeholders in environmental sustainability, including children, families, educators, visitors, and the wider community of our Service.

- provide educators with professional development opportunities and resources required to integrate environmentally sustainable education into all areas of their program.
- comply with all relevant legislation, regulations and codes of practices relating to environmental standards where possible.
- promote sustainability through reducing waste, minimising consumption, and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.
- incorporate our commitment to sustainable practices and actions into our Service Philosophy.
- demonstrate exceeding themes of the National Quality Standards in relation to element 3.2.2.
- assess the impact of our existing practices and actions during a process of evaluation and critical reflection to identify new opportunities to develop sustainable goals to support our commitment to sustainability.

*Aranda Afters Association Incorporated – 2023*

Emily Hargreaves – Nominated Supervisor



Shavaun Andreou - Nominated Supervisor



Emmy Kudo – Educational Leader

