

Caveat Brief

To: Minister for Early Childhood Development
Subject: CECA — Non-Compliance at Guardian Childcare & Education Forrest
Date: 11 July 2024

Noted / Please Discuss

Yvette Berry MLA /...../.....

Background

On 11 July 2024, Authorised Officers from Children’s Education and Care Assurance (CECA) conducted a scheduled unannounced audit at Guardian Childcare & Education Forrest.

The service is located at 25 National Cct Forrest and is operated by Guardian Community Early Learning Centre Pty Ltd.

The Authorised Officers arrived at the Service at approximately 8:10am and observed a series of practices that are a breach of hygiene and infection control, such as:

- 1) Educators were handling gloves with unwashed hands before putting the gloves on to then handle children’s food.
- 2) Educators were not consistently wearing gloves for wiping children’s noses as per the service’s policy.
- 3) Educators did not wash or sanitise nappy change mats after use.
- 4) Educators were not washing or sanitising hands after changing nappies.
- 5) Children were not prompted to wash hands before eating.
- 6) Children were not prompted to wash hands after having their nappy change.
- 7) Food was left on a trolley for at least 20 minutes.
- 8) Older children were given the leftover food from the younger children.
- 9) Bathrooms were not stocked appropriately with soap, toilet paper and paper towel for children to access independently.
- 10) Bathrooms had not been thoroughly cleaned from the previous day and some bins had were emptied.
- 11) Some handbasins were not in good order.

Issues

CECA was satisfied that the service was operating in a manner that poses, or is likely to pose, an immediate risk to the safety, health or wellbeing children at the service. CECA issued an Emergency Action Notice to address the practices.


This incident may attract media attention.

Next steps

The Emergency Action Notice requires the Provider to respond to CECA by close of business 12 July 2024, or further compliance action may be taken.

The Emergency Action Notice sets out a range of steps that the must be taken by the provider to satisfy CECA that the risks are mitigated.

CECA will continue to work closely with the approved provider and the service to rectify the immediate risk.

Signatory Name: Sean Moysey, 
Title Executive Branch Manager, ECRS, Education Directorate
Date 11 July 2024