

CHILD CARE CODE

1 Purpose of the Code

The purpose of the Child Care Code is to ensure that child care centres:

- have a design and location that promotes and provides a safe and healthy environment for their clientele; and
- do not have a detrimental impact on the amenity or character of the local area; and
- are located in conveniently accessible locations and in the vicinity of defined commercial centres or other community service uses such as churches, schools, and the like.

2 Application of the Code

This section is applicable to Code Assessable Child Care Centre development, made Code Assessable by a Level of Assessment Table. For code assessable development, the code for assessment consists of the secondary code(s) listed below:

- Airport Code; and
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Code; and
- Demolition Code – where on a site where the code applies; and
- External Works and Servicing Code; and
- Filling or Excavation Code; and
- Flood Prone Land Code – where any part of the proposal is within the Q100 flood line shown on the Area maps; and
- Heritage Code - where on a Heritage Place or on a site adjoining a Heritage Place; and
- Landscape Code; and
- Norman Road Residential Area Code - where located in the Norman Road Residential Area; and
- Parking and Access Code; and
- Railway Noise Code – where located within the Railway Noise Affected Corridor; and
- Signage Code; and
- Steep or Unstable Land Code – to the extent relevant as outlined at the beginning of the Steep or Unstable Land Code; and
- Water Quality and Water Quantity Code – where any part of the proposal is located within a waterway corridor.

3 Definitions

There are no specific definitions to this Code.

4 Explanation

This code is used to assess applications for child care centres.

It is recognised that the need to provide child care services within the community has become increasingly important as a result of the current social and employment trends that exist. The factors that contribute to the identification of a need for a child care centre include:



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- a) The population of 0 – 5 year olds (or 5 – 12 year olds for out of school hours care) in an area and the current supply of child care places;
- b) Groups in the community with traditionally limited access to child care services;
- c) Potential catchment for the facility in terms of access to transportation systems, journey to work patterns, proximity to large resident populations or centres of employment; and
- d) Levels of workforce participation

This code and this planning scheme will facilitate in the in the establishment of a child care centre where they are required, directing them to locations where their impacts can be minimised or contained while at the same time having their convenience and accessibility maximised. However detailed operational requirements on the design of a child care centre is not controlled by this code or planning scheme but instead by the Child Care Act and more specifically schedule 1 of the Child Care (Child Care Centres) Regulation.

5 Performance Criteria and Acceptable Solutions

Performance Criteria		Acceptable Solutions	
Location			
P1 Child care centres are : (a) conveniently located for parents and guardians by being close to commercial uses, community facilities, educational establishments; and (b) very accessible via pedestrian paths or public transport services.	A1.1	Child care centres are located within 100 metres (measured according to the shortest route a person may reasonably and lawfully take, by vehicle or on foot) of a Commercial Centre or Precinct boundary.	
	A1.2	OR Child care centres are located adjacent to or within 100 metres (measured according to the shortest route a person may reasonably and lawfully take, by vehicle or on foot) of another community use such as park, schools, churches or community halls.	
P2 Child care centres are located; (a) where they will not be affected by rail noise or aircraft noise; and (b) where they will not affect the navigation or safe operation of the Rockhampton airport or aircraft.	A2.1	The development complies with the Railway Noise Code .	
	A2.2	AND The development complies with the Airport Code .	
Amenity of surrounding area			
P3 The site design ensures that impacts on the amenity of adjoining sites are avoided or	A3.1	The premises are not located on a site that adjoins land used for a residential use.	
		OR	



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Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solutions
adequately mitigated.	<p>A3.2.1 All buildings, structures and outdoor play areas are setback at least 3m from all site boundaries adjoining land used or likely to be used in the future for a residential use.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A3.2.2 A solid screen fence 1.8m high is erected along the full length of site boundaries adjoining land used or likely to be used for a residential use.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A3.2.3 Play areas are located on the site as far away as possible from the habitable rooms within an existing building used on an adjoining site for a residential use.</p>
P4 Buildings and other structures are of a scale and design that blend in, and are consistent with, the predominant character of the existing streetscape.	A4 No Acceptable Solution provided.
Health and safety of children	
<p>P5 The site is able to accommodate the activities of the child care centre.</p> <p><i>Note: A smaller site area than specified in the Acceptable Solutions may be approved only if the centre is located where parking is convenient and plentiful. Eg at educational establishments, work sites and shopping centres.</i></p>	<p>A5.1 The site has a minimum site area of 1,500m² for up to 49 children and 2,000m² for more than 50 children.</p>
<p>P6 Location and site design ensures that children and staff are not exposed to any environmental harm or nuisance.</p>	<p>A6.1 The development is located on a site where noise levels from external sources do not exceed;</p> <p>(i) for noise in steady state, indoors, 45dB(A) L_{eq} (1 hour); or</p> <p>(ii) outdoors, a range of 55-60dB(A) L_{10} (1 hour) when measured at 1.5m above the ground in the centre of any outdoor play area.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A6.2 Maximum concentrations of air pollutants at the site are less than those recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council.</p> <p>A6.3</p>



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Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solutions
	AND The site is not located on flood prone land.
P7 Landscaping and fencing: (a) is provided along all street frontages to improve the streetscape; and (b) is provided within and around the site and includes shading and safety for outdoor activity areas.	A7.1 Landscaping is provided in accordance with the Landscape Code . AND A7.2 Childproof fencing ¹ is provided between play areas and roads, carparks, driveways and neighbouring properties.
P8 Child Care Centres are located next to power lines having regard to the prudent avoidance principle associated with Electro Magnetic Fields.	A8 The child care centre has a separation distance between child activity areas, habitable rooms and the like and the most proximate boundary of an Electricity Transmission Line Easement as shown on Planning Scheme Map 7 in accordance with the following: (i) a 20 metre separation distance for transmission lines up to and equalling 132kV; (ii) a 30 metre separation distance for transmission lines of 133 kV up to and equalling 275kV; (iii) a 40 metres separation distance for transmission lines of 276kV or more.
Parking and Traffic	
P9 Traffic generated by a child care centre: (a) does not detract from or adversely impact on the residential amenity of any Area or street; or (b) does not compromise the operating efficiency or function of any street; or (c) is not subjected to immediate conflict with heavy vehicle traffic; or (d) is able to gain access to and from the child care centre in a safe	A9.1 The proposal is located on a site that has vehicular access, to and from the site, not via an Urban Access Street, Urban Access Place, Highway, Main Road, Rural Arterial, Major Urban Arterial or Urban Arterial Road as identified in Planning Scheme Policy 6.13 - Road Hierarchy . A9.2 AND The child care centre is not located on any B-Double transport route or defined heavy vehicle haulage route. A9.3 AND The child care centre complies with the performance criteria contained within the Parking and Access Code .

¹ Childproof fencing is fencing that meets the requirements of AS 1926.1 – 1993/Amdt-1 2000 Swimming Pool Safety - Fencing of swimming pools and AS 1926.2 – 1993 Swimming Pool Safety – Location of fencing for private swimming pools.



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Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solutions
manner and location.	
<p>P10 Parking and traffic conflicts are minimised for on-site and off-site vehicle and pedestrian movements by ensuring buildings and activities are located and designed so that potentially hazardous vehicular or pedestrian movements are prevented and there is no conflict on-site between children's activities and carparking.</p>	<p><i>In partial satisfaction of P10</i></p> <p>A10.1 Carparking areas for set down and pick up are located so as to be visible from the road.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>A10.2 The development complies with the External Works and Servicing Code.</p>

