
MP 5.4 – CHILD CARE CENTRES

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Purpose

The purpose of this part is to facilitate achieving a suitable physical environment and facilities in *child care centres* that –

- (a) safeguard children from harm by ensuring safe and hygienic conditions; and
- (b) foster optimal development of children by providing a suitable environment.

Commencement

This version of MP 5.4 commences on 6 August 2012 and replaces the version published on 21 November 2011.

Application

This part applies to *Child Care Centres* licensed under the Queensland *Child Care Act 2002*.

Division A - applies to *Limited Hours Care Centres*

Division B - applies to all other services licensed under the *Child Care Act 2002*

Note 1: This part does not apply to new Education and Care Services approved under the National Quality Framework (the framework). The framework consists of the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*, the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* and the *Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011*.

From 1 July 2012 the majority of long day care, family day care, outside school hours care, pre-Prep and kindergarten services are covered by the framework.

For existing services transitioning to the framework, building requirements continue based on the requirements in place when the building approval application for the construction or renovation of the service was lodged. New education and care services will be subject to the building requirements in the National Construction Code (NCC) and the Framework.

Versions of this part:-

Version 1 – Commenced 1 September 2003, expired 31 October 2004

Version 2 – Commenced 1 November 2004, expired 15 December 2005

Version 3 – Commenced 16 December 2005 expired 31 December 2007

Version 4 – Commenced 1 January 2008 expired 31 December 2011

Version 5 – Commenced 1 January 2012 expired 6 August 2012

Note 2 The applicable version is the version in effect when the application for building approval was made. Previous versions can be found at the Department of Housing and Public Works website – www.publicworks.qld.gov.au

Referral Agency

Under the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009, Schedule 7, the chief executive administering the *Child Care Act 2002* is a referral (concurrence) agency for alternative solutions under part MP 5.4

Compliance with the Queensland Development Code (QDC)

Under section 14 of the *Building Act 1975*, compliance with this part can be achieved only by:

- (a) complying with the relevant *acceptable solution* for the *performance criterion*; or
- (b) formulating an *alternative solution* that complies with the *performance criteria* or is shown to be at least equal to the relevant criteria; or
- (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

Associated Requirements

- *Child Care Act 2002.*
- *Child Care Regulation 2003.*
- *Building Regulation 2006.*
- NCC incorporating the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

Referenced Standards

Standard No	Date	Title
AS 1926.1	2007	Swimming pool safety - Fencing for swimming pools
AS 1926.2	2007	Swimming pool safety – Location of fencing for swimming pools
AS 2155	1982	Playgrounds – Guide to setting and installation and maintenance of equipment.
AS/NZS 3000	2000	Electrical Installations
AS/NZS 3000.4	1997	National Plumbing and Drainage – Hot water supply systems – Performance requirements.
AS/NZS 4422	1996	Playground surfaces- Specifications, requirements and testing methods.
AS 4685.1	2004	Playground equipment – General safety requirements and test methods.
AS 4685.2	2004	Playground equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for swings.
AS 4685.3	2004	Playground equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for slides.
AS 4685.4	2004	Playground equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for runways.
AS 4685.5	2004	Playground equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for carousels.
AS 4685.6	2004	Playground equipment – Particular safety requirements and test methods for rocking equipment.

Definitions

Note 3: Italicised words within the body of the text are defined.

Centre based service is a service for regularly providing child care in *premises* that are not a home.

Child care centre means the *premises* in which child care is provided under licence issued in accordance with the *Child Care Act 2002* for a *centre based service*.

Functional area means either a part of or an adjunct to an *indoor play area*, which is used for ancillary purposes such as program preparation, bottle preparation, nappy changing, toilets, washing facilities, food preparation or the like.

Group or **age group** means children of like nominated ages accommodated together in a *child care centre*.

See **Note 4** for information on maximum group sizes

Indoor play area means an enclosed area located within the *premises*.

Licensed capacity for a *child care centre* means the maximum number of children to whom child care may be provided at any one time under the licence issued under the *Child Care Act 2002*. The *licensed capacity* of a service may not be set at more than 75 for any time other than for the stated periods on the licence totalling not more than 2 hours each day. For these stated periods, the requirements of this part shall be based on the service's usual *licensed capacity* rather than the increased capacity during the 2 hour period.

Limited hours care centre means *premises* licensed pursuant to the *Child Care Act 2002* from which a child care service operates. A licensee may provide care to children at a *limited hours care centre* under its licence conditions and operate –

- (a) with a *licensed capacity* of not more than 30 children; and
- (b) for a maximum of 20 hours a week.

Outdoor play area means an area within the *premises* that is not enclosed and is located outside the external walls of the building.

Outdoor play facilities means facilities that provide an environment suitable for a range of play activities, including gross motor activities, located in an area separated from and in addition to an area where indoor play facilities are located.

See **Note 5** for more guidance on outdoor play facilities.

Premises means the building and the associated *outdoor play areas* from which a *child care centre* may operate.

School child means a child, other than a preschool child, who regularly attends a school at which the child is enrolled.

Unimpeded access will allow children to enter an adjoining toilet facility and *outdoor play area* but should not prevent a gate or similar used to contain children safely within an *indoor or outdoor play area*.

Notes for this part of the QDC

The following guidance notes are provided for this part of the QDC:

Note 4: - *Maximum group sizes*

For *child care centres* the maximum number of children in each *group* is as follows:

Ages of children in group	Maximum group size	Other limits
Birth to 2 years	8	
Birth to 3 years, including at least 1 child aged 3 years	10	The <i>group</i> may not include more than 2 children aged birth to 1 year for each qualified carer.
15 months to 3 years	10	
2 to 3 years	12	
2 ½ to 3 years	16	
3 to 6 years	24	
4 to 6 years	25	
4 to 12 years, including at least 1 child of more than 6 years	no maximum	The <i>group</i> may not include more than 13 children aged 4 or 5 years

Ages for which no other entry applies	21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <i>group</i> may not include more than 4 children aged birth to 1 year. 2. The <i>group</i> may not include more than 2 children aged birth to 1 year for each qualified carer. 3. If the <i>group</i> is in a centre based service with a <i>licensed capacity</i> of more than 30, the <i>group</i> may not include more than 10 children aged birth to 2 years.
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Note 5: - *Outdoor play facilities*

While it is preferable that *outdoor play facilities* are located in outdoor areas, in cases where suitable *outdoor play areas* are not available or where severe climatic conditions or noise and air pollution are detrimental to children, *outdoor play facilities* may be located indoors.

Note 6: - *Licensing process*

The Department of Education, Training and Employment in its role of administering the *Child Care Act 2002* is responsible for monitoring compliance with this standard set out in the QDC MP 5.4 at licensed *child care centres*.

Section 28 of the *Child Care Act 2002* requires premises used or proposed to be used as *child care centres* to comply with the *Building Act 1975* requirements. Section 143 of the *Child Care Act 2002* outlines the steps that an authorised officer may take if they reasonably believe that a *child care centre* does not comply with a *Building Act 1975* requirement.

Co-located or adjoining licensed services must operate from *premises* that separately comply with the QDC MP5.4, except facilities such as administration, laundry, cleaning and food preparation facilities. Such facilities must be accessible to the carers from the licensed premise it serves, without passing through another functional area.

Prior to issuing a licence for a child care service, the Department of Education, Training and Employment, in its role as Regulatory Authority for the *Child Care Act 2002*, must be satisfied that premises are safe and suitable (section 28 of the *Child Care Act 2002*).

Under the *Child Care Act 2002*, certification by an accredited building certifier stating that the *premises* conform with this part will be a pre-requisite for the issuing of a new licence for a *child care centre* and may be a pre-requisite for the renewal or amendment of a licence. Written advice from an appropriately qualified person (a building certifier, a registered architect, a designer who is a member of the Building Designers Association of Queensland) may also be required during the term of the licence if any of these standards are not being complied with.¹

¹ A development application for building work approval for a child care centre must be assessed for compliance against the criteria of this part.

Divison A - Limited Hours Care Centres

Performance Criteria	Acceptable Solutions
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Accessibility

<p>P1 Accessibility within the <i>premises</i> must –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) inhibit unauthorised access and egress; (b) provide ease of access for children between indoor and outdoor areas; (c) provide safe passage within the <i>premises</i>; (d) minimise the risk of accidents from falling; (e) enable persons with disabilities to move between the building and any outdoor area; (f) inhibit young children from gaining access to dangerous areas; (g) facilitate the safe evacuation of children in an emergency; (h) minimise disturbance to other <i>groups</i>; and (i) minimise the need for equipment and materials to be carried through an indoor area occupied by children, to minimise the risk of accidents. 	<p>A1 The <i>premises</i> are provided with access and barriers in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Access to and within the <i>premises</i> must be consistent with the requirements under the National Construction Code. (b) An <i>indoor play area</i> has at least one door leading to its associated <i>outdoor play area</i>. (c) Each <i>group</i> has access between the <i>group's indoor play area</i> and an <i>outdoor play area</i> without passing through another <i>group's indoor play area</i> or a <i>functional area</i>. (d) Fencing not less than 1200mm high complying with AS 1926.1–2007, is provided around those parts of a centre where children are cared for, including all buildings and grounds accessible to children. (e) Other than at any gate that is required for service vehicles, any person entering the <i>premises</i> from a car park or street is required to pass through a safety zone provided with a self-closing and self-latching gate or door complying with AS 1926.1–2007 between the entrance and the safety zone and another self-closing and self-latching gate or door complying with AS 1926.1–2007 between the safety zone and the perimeter of the <i>premises</i>. (f) Any pedestrian access openings in the fencing are protected with a self-closing and self-latching gate or door complying with AS 1926.1–2007. (g) Any swimming pool, as defined in the <i>Building Act 1975</i>, on the <i>premises</i> is provided with a fence complying with AS 1926.1–2007 and AS1927.2–2007, except that direct access is not provided between any building and the pool..
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- (h) The centre is fenced to inhibit unauthorised access by children to any serious hazards such as water bodies and roads that are adjacent to the site, to a standard no less than that required for a swimming pool under clause (g).
- (i) Any gate in the perimeter fence which is required for service vehicles is key-locked closed at all times when children are outdoors.
- (j) Clear access ways are provided and maintained for the evacuation of children in an emergency.

Indoor play facilities

P2 The *premises* must be provided with an *indoor play area* for each *group*, which –

- (a) facilitates the creation of a safe environment free from overcrowding so as to minimise the risk of injury, conflict between children, illness due to infection and loss of amenity;
- (b) permits the ready supervision of all parts from any other part, including all *functional areas* for that *group*;
- (c) provides *unimpeded access* to children's toilets and washing facilities;
- (d) provides *unimpeded access* to *outdoor play areas*;
- (e) provides *unimpeded access* for staff between *functional areas* for that *group*;
- (f) minimises noise nuisance from the reflection and transmission of excessive sound;
- (g) enables the temperature to be maintained at a comfortable level relative to the prevailing climatic conditions; and
- (h) provides suitable separation between each *group's* area to minimise disruption.

A2

Indoor play facilities are provided in accordance with the following:

- (a) The indoor play space has an area of not less than 3.25m² for each child within the *group* it serves, exclusive of any passageway, thoroughfare, storage areas (including areas required for bedding), children's lockers, built-in furniture, cots, separate sleeping areas, toilets, bathrooms, washrooms, kitchens, offices, laundries, entrances and staff rooms.
- (b) All parts of the indoor play space, nappy change facilities and toilet facilities for a *group* are able to be readily viewed by staff.
- (c) The indoor play space is located so as to avoid the need for people who are not part of the *group* to pass through it.
- (d) The required toilets and washbasins for a *group* adjoin the indoor play space for that *group*.
- (e) A *group* has *unimpeded access* to toilets, washbasins and *outdoor play areas* without the need to pass through another *group's indoor play area*
- (f) Indoor play spaces for each *group* are separated by walls that by construction have a sound insulation rating equivalent to that provided by a 70mm framed wall sheeted both sides with 10mm plasterboard or glazed areas or doors, all of which

extend down to the floor and have a height of not less than 1200mm.

- (g) Any indoor playground equipment must –
- (i) Comply with AS 4685.1, AS 4685.2, AS 4685.3, AS 4685.4, AS 4685.5, AS 4685.6 and AS 2155.
 - (ii) have soft-fall areas complying with AS 4422 provided to play ground equipment with a fall height exceeding 500mm.

Outdoor play facilities

P3 The *premises* must be provided with outdoor play facilities for each *group*, which –

- (a) facilitates the creation of a safe environment free from overcrowding so as to minimise the risk of injury, conflict between children, illness and loss of amenity; and
- (b) permit visual supervision by staff of all children within a *group*, at all times; and
- (c) provide plants so that children have the opportunity to experience, interact with and be stimulated by both the natural and the surrounding built environment; and
- (d) provide an environment suitable for a variety of play activities; and
- (e) provide *unimpeded access* for staff and children to children's toilets, nappy change areas and personal washing facilities; and
- (f) are readily accessible from *indoor play areas*; and
- (g) are shaded to avoid excessive ground surface temperatures, and reduce exposure to UV radiation.

In addition, *premises* that have outdoor play facilities located indoors must provide for each

A3 *Outdoor play facilities* are provided in accordance with the following:

- (a) *Outdoor play facilities* are located in *outdoor play areas*.
- (b) *Outdoor play areas*, including access doors to toilet facilities and indoor areas, are able to be readily viewed by staff from other parts of that *outdoor play area*.
- (c) Toilet facilities adjoin and provide *unimpeded access* for children from the *outdoor play area* they serve.
- (d) A *group* has *unimpeded access* to the *outdoor play area* without passing through another *group's* indoor play space.
- (e) The surface is sloped to prevent the ponding of water.
- (f) A variety of surfaces is provided, including hard, soft, level and undulating.
- (g) Playground equipment structures comply with AS 4685.1, AS 4685.2, AS 4685.3, AS 4685.4, AS 4685.5, AS 4685.6 and AS 2155.
- (h) Soft-fall areas complying with AS 4422 are provided to play ground equipment with a fall height exceeding 500mm.
- (i) A total *outdoor play area* of not less than 5 m² for each child of the *licensed capacity*.
- (j) A shaded area which is not less than 1m² for each child of the *licensed capacity*.
- (k) The required shaded area in (j) is

group, facilities which –

- (h) have raised ceilings to provide a feeling of openness;
- (i) allows noise to be managed so that children using indoor play facilities are not significantly impacted by those using the outdoor play facilities;
- (j) allow children to see outdoors to a natural environment;
- (k) have windows or openings that provide lighting from a natural light source to simulate a natural environment;
- (l) have windows or openings that provide opportunities for natural airflow to simulate a natural environment;
- (m) have a significant definition between the indoor play facilities from the outdoor play facilities;
- (n) have outdoor play facilities that can be cleaned;
- (o) provides adequate unencumbered space for the *licensed capacity*; and
- (p) provides children with access to natural materials.

calculated exclusive of the shade provided by trees.

- (l) At least 50% of the required shaded area in (j) is roofed with a material impervious to water and UV radiation;
- (m) Areas in (i) and (j) are calculated exclusive of:
 - (i) garden beds used only as landscaping that is inaccessible to children;
 - (ii) land that is -
 - (A) rough
 - (B) steeper than 1 in 6;
 - (C) less than 2m in width;
 - (iii) permanent storage areas;
 - (iv) sheds; and
 - (v) any fenced body of water and its surrounds within the fencing.

Toilet Facilities

- P4** The *premises* must be provided with suitable toilet facilities which -
- (a) safeguard the health of children from injury and infection;
 - (b) minimise delays for children requiring to use a toilet;
 - (c) are readily accessible to children;
 - (d) facilitate independent use;
 - (e) enable staff to provide assistance;
 - (f) permits adequate supervision by staff, appropriate to the age of the children; and
 - (g) are screened so as to respect the dignity of children, and are appropriate having regard to

- A4** Toilet facilities in the *premises* have at least 2 water closet suites and are provided in accordance with the following:
- (a) A junior toilet seat and a stable platform for a child to step on where adult water closet suites are used.
 - (b) Children's toilets adjoining the area they serve that provide *unimpeded access* to that *group*.
 - (c) Wall and floor surfaces impervious without cracks and crevices.
 - (d) Slip resistant floor surfaces.
 - (e) Screened from the view of children in the indoor play space by a wall, which, except for doorways, is opaque for a height of at least 900mm but no more than 1200mm above floor level. The section above

the ages of the children.

may be open or clear glazed to permit supervision.

Nappy change facilities

- P5** Suitable and separate nappy change facilities must be provided for each nominated *age group* which –
- (a) safeguard the health of children from infection;
 - (b) safeguard children and carers from injury;
 - (c) minimise delays for children requiring a nappy change;
 - (d) create an environment conducive to interaction between children and carer; and
 - (e) permit visual supervision of other parts of the play area for that *group*.

- A5** Nappy change facilities are provided in the *premises* in accordance with the following:
- (a) A nappy change mat facility for each designated *group*, other than school children, which -
 - (i) is built-in or otherwise securely fixed to prevent accidental dislodgment;
 - (ii) is wide enough for a change mat, measuring not less than 0.81m² in area and at least 850mm but no more than 900mm high; and
 - (iii) has an impervious surface without cracks and crevices so as to be easily cleanable.
 - (b) A washbasin for carer use, supplied with hot and cold water limited to a maximum temperature in accordance with AS 3500.4 and situated within 500mm of each change mat facility.
 - (c) *Premises* that cater for children under the age of 15 months have the following additional nappy change facilities –
 - (i) bench space of not less than 0.81m² for a portable bath for each *group* of 8 children; and
 - (ii) for each required bath, a built-in area at least 0.81m² for drying and dressing children, at a height of at least 850mm but no more than 900mm that is situated within 500 mm of the bath. (This area may double as the nappy change mat facility required above).

Personal washing facilities

- P6** The *premises* must be provided with separate personal washing facilities for each nominated *age group* which –
- (a) minimise delays for children requiring to use a washbasin;
 - (b) encourage hand washing;

- A6** *Premises* have at least one washbasin situated in the toilet area provided which -
- (a) has a height of at least 450mm but no more than 500mm from the floor; or
 - (b) has a stable, portable platform so that the effective height is at least

- (c) are easily accessible to children;
- (d) facilitate the personal washing of young children by carers; and
- (e) safeguard the health of children.

450mm but not more than 500mm from the floor.

Food preparation facilities

- P7** The *premises* must be provided with suitable food preparation and storage facilities which –
- (a) safeguard the health of children from infection;
 - (b) safeguard children from injury;
 - (c) enable perishable food to be stored at a safe temperature;
 - (d) enable food to be prepared in hygienic conditions; and
 - (e) enable staff to be able to readily wash their hands for the purpose of handling food.

- A7** Food preparation facilities in the *premises* are located in food preparation areas that are provided in accordance with the following:
- (a) A space and power outlet for a refrigerator having a capacity of not less than 150 litres (excluding freezer).
 - (b) A single bowl sink with cold water.
 - (c) A power outlet suitable for heating water.
 - (d) Is separate from the indoor areas, and the toilet and nappy change facilities.

Laundry facilities

- P8** The *premises* must be provided with suitable laundry facilities to enable clothing and linen to be washed and to prevent the spread of infection.

- A8** The *premises* have an area at least 0.81m² at a height of at least 850mm but no more than 900mm, provided for the purpose of storing or sterilising soiled articles prior to laundering off the premise, in a room that is inaccessible to children.

Outdoor storage facilities

- P9** The *premises* must provide adequate facilities for the storage of children's play equipment.

- A9** The *premises* are provided with storage facilities that –
- (a) are not less than 4m²; and
 - (b) are accessible from the outdoor area.

Sluicing facilities

- P10** The *premises* must be provided with sluicing facilities which –
- (b) enable carers to adequately rinse nappies and children's clothing;
 - (c) provide for the safe cleaning of soiled nappies and clothes;
 - (d) are easily accessible to carers;

- A10** Sluicing facilities are provided in the *premises* are in accordance with the following:
- (a) A sluice is located so that it may be accessed by carers within the licensed *premises*.
 - (b) Floor surfaces are slip resistant.

- (e) safeguard the health of children and carers; and is not a toilet.

Play pits

- P11** The *premises* have a play pit that must provide a safe environment in which children can play.
- A11** A play pit is provided in the *premises* that has –
- (a) a depth capable of containing 300 mm of play-medium;
 - (b) all exposed edges rounded to prevent injury to children;
 - (c) at least 50% of the required area is shaded with a roof, being part of the total shade requirement of the *premises*, that is impervious to water and UV radiation;
 - (d) drainage to prevent the retention of water, discharged to a point where it will not stagnate or cause a nuisance;
 - (e) a ventilated cover to prevent contamination but still allow air to circulate, when not in use; and
 - (f) a play-medium to a depth of not less than 300mm, which is clean and free from toxic and other deleterious materials, and any particles that could pose a choking hazard.

Electrical safety precautions

- P12** All electrical installations in the *premises* must be suitably protected to prevent electric shock.
- A12** Electrical installations in the *premises* are to be provided in accordance with the following:
- (a) The installations comply with AS 3000.
 - (b) The installations are protected with a residual current device (RCD) complying with AS 3000.
 - (c) Electric power outlets are either –
 - (i) located at a minimum height of 1500mm from the floor in areas accessible to children; or
 - (ii) fitted with safety plugs when not in use.

Equipment and chemical safety

- P13** The *premises* must safeguard children and staff from injury by inhibiting access by children to all operational equipment and chemical products.
- A13** The *premises* have –
- (a) any moving parts, controls, or parts which may be at a temperature below 10° C or above 40° C, of machinery, plant, equipment, incinerators,

- service installations, hot water pipes, storage tanks and the like, fitted with securely fixed solid guards to prevent contact by children, or a barrier complying with AS 1926.1–2007;
- (b) hot water supplied to taps in areas accessible to children limited to a maximum temperature in accordance with the AS 3500.4;
 - (c) Water troughs must not be accessible to children under two years
 - (d) a fan may not be located any lower than 2100mm above the floor;
 - (e) any fan located between 2100mm and 2400mm above the floor is fitted with a guard in which any opening does not permit a 50mm sphere to pass through it;
 - (f) storage cupboards for chemical substances and for other dangerous items in areas accessible to children fitted with child-resistant latches; and
 - (g) storage cupboards for bulk chemical products and substances in an area inaccessible to children.

Division B - Child Care Centres (other than Limited Hours Care Centres)

Performance Criteria

Accessibility

- P14** Accessibility to and within the *premises* must -
- (a) inhibit unauthorised access and egress;
 - (b) provide ease of access for children between indoor and outdoor areas;
 - (c) provide safe passage within the *premises*;
 - (d) minimise the risk of accidents from falling;
 - (e) enable persons with disabilities to move between the building and any outdoor area;
 - (f) inhibit young children from gaining access to dangerous areas;
 - (g) facilitate the safe evacuation of children in an emergency;
 - (h) minimise disturbance to other *groups*; and
 - (i) minimise the need for equipment and materials to be carried through an indoor area occupied by children, to reduce the risk of accidents.

Acceptable Solutions

- A14** The *premises* are provided with access and barriers in accordance with the following:
- (a) Access to and within the *premises* must be consistent with the requirements under the National Construction Code.
 - (b) An *indoor play area* has at least one door opening to its associated *outdoor play area*, without passing through a *functional area* or another indoor area.
 - (c) Each *group* has access between the *group's indoor play area* and an *outdoor play area* without passing through another *group's indoor play area* or a *functional area*.
 - (d) Fencing not less than 1200mm high complying with AS 1926.1–2007, is provided around those parts of a centre where children are cared for, including all buildings and grounds accessible to children.
 - (e) Other than at any gate that is required for service vehicles, any person entering the *premises* from a car park or street is required to pass through a safety zone provided with a self-closing and self-latching gate or door complying with AS 1926.1–2007 between the entrance and the safety zone and another self-closing and self-latching gate or door complying with AS 1926.1–2007 between the safety zone and the perimeter of the *premises*.
 - (f) Any pedestrian access openings in the fencing are protected with a self-closing and self-latching gate or door complying with AS 1926.1–2007.
 - (g) Any swimming pool, as defined in the *Building Act 1975*, on the *premises* is provided with a fence complying with

AS 1926.1–2007 and AS1927.2–2007 except that direct access is not provided between any building and the pool..

- (h) The centre is fenced to inhibit unauthorised access by children to any serious hazards such as water bodies and roads, that are adjacent to the site, to a standard no less than that required for a swimming pool under clause (g).
- (i) Any gate in the perimeter fence which is required for service vehicles is key-locked closed at all times when children are outdoors.
- (j) Clear access ways are provided and maintained for the evacuation of children in an emergency.

Indoor play facilities

P15 The *premises* must be provided with an *indoor play area* for each *group*, which –

- (a) facilitates the creation of a safe environment free from overcrowding so as to minimise the risk of injury, conflict between children, illness due to infection and loss of amenity;
- (b) permits the ready supervision of all parts from any other part, including all *functional areas* for that *group*;
- (c) provides *unimpeded access* to children’s toilets and washing facilities;
- (d) provides *unimpeded access* to *outdoor play areas*;
- (e) provides *unimpeded access* for staff between *functional areas* for that *group*;
- (f) minimises noise nuisance from the reflection and transmission of excessive sound;
- (g) enables the temperature to be maintained at a comfortable level; and
- (h) provides suitable separation between each *group’s* area to minimise disruption.

A15 Indoor play facilities are provided in accordance with the following:

- (a) The indoor play space has an area of not less than 3.25m² for each child within the *group* it serves, exclusive of any passageway, thoroughfare, storage areas (including areas required for bedding), children’s lockers, built-in furniture, cots, separate sleeping areas, toilets, bathrooms, washrooms, kitchens, offices, laundries, entrances and staff rooms.
- (b) All parts of the indoor play space, nappy change facilities and toilet facilities for a *group* are able to be readily viewed by staff.
- (c) The indoor play space is located so as to avoid the need for people who are not part of the *group* to pass through it.
- (d) The required toilets and washbasins for a *group* adjoin the indoor play space for that *group*.
- (e) A *group* has *unimpeded access* to toilets, washbasins and *outdoor play areas* without the need to pass through another *group’s indoor play area*
- (f) Indoor play spaces for each *group* are separated by walls that by construction have a sound insulation

rating equivalent to that provided by a 70mm framed wall sheeted both sides with 10mm plasterboard or glazed areas or doors, all of which extend down to the floor and have a height of not less than 1200mm.

- (g) Any indoor playground equipment must –
- (iii) Comply with AS 4685.1, AS 4685.2, AS 4685.3, AS 4685.4, AS 4685.5, AS 4685.6 and AS 2155.
 - (iv) have soft-fall areas complying with AS 4422 provided to playground equipment with a fall height exceeding 500mm.

Outdoor play facilities

- P16** Premises must be provided with outdoor play facilities for each group, which –
- (a) facilitates the creation of a safe environment free from overcrowding so as to minimise the risk of injury, conflict between children, illness and loss of amenity;
 - (b) permit visual supervision by staff of all children within a group, at all times;
 - (c) provide trees and vegetation so that children have the opportunity to experience, interact with and be stimulated by both the natural and the surrounding built environment;
 - (d) provide an environment suitable for a variety of play activities;
 - (e) provide *unimpeded access* for staff and children to children's toilets, nappy change areas and personal washing facilities;
 - (f) are readily accessible from *indoor play areas*; and
 - (g) are shaded to avoid excessive ground surface temperatures, and reduce exposure to UV radiation.

- A16** (1) *Outdoor play facilities* are provided in accordance with the following:
- (a) *Outdoor play facilities* are located in *outdoor play areas*.
 - (b) *Outdoor play areas*, including access doors to, toilet facilities and indoor areas, are able to be readily viewed by staff from other parts of that *outdoor play area*.
 - (c) Toilet facilities adjoin and provide *unimpeded access* for children from the *outdoor play area* they serve.
 - (d) A group has *unimpeded access* to the *outdoor play area* without passing through another group's *indoor play area*.
 - (e) The surface is sloped to prevent the ponding of water.
 - (f) A variety of surfaces are provided, including hard, soft, level and undulating.
 - (g) Playground equipment structures comply with AS 4685.1, AS 4685.2, AS 4685.3, AS 4685.4, AS 4685.5, AS 4685.6 and AS 2155.
 - (h) Soft-fall areas complying with AS 4422 are provided to playground equipment with a fall height exceeding 500mm.
 - (i) A total *outdoor play area* of not

In addition, *premises* that have outdoor play facilities located indoors must provide for each *group*, facilities which –

- (h) have raised ceilings to provide a feeling of openness;
- (i) allows noise to be managed so that children using indoor play facilities are not significantly impacted by those using the outdoor play facilities;
- (j) allow children to see outdoors to a natural environment;
- (k) have windows or openings that provide lighting from a natural light source to simulate a natural environment;
- (l) have windows or openings that provide opportunities for natural airflow to simulate a natural environment;
- (m) have a significant definition between the indoor play facilities from the outdoor play facilities;
- (n) have outdoor play facilities that can be cleaned;
- (o) provides adequate unencumbered space for the *licensed capacity*; and
- (p) provides children with access to natural materials.

less than 7m² for each child of the *licensed capacity*.

- (j) A shaded area which, at 10am and 3pm provides, as part of the total area not less than 2m² for each child of the *licensed capacity*.
- (k) The required shaded area in (j) is calculated exclusive of the shade provided by trees.
- (l) At least 50% of the required shaded area in (j) is roofed with a material impervious to water and UV radiation.
- (m) Areas in (i) and (j) are calculated exclusive of:
 - (i) garden beds used only as landscaping that is inaccessible to children;
 - (ii) land that is -
 - (A) rough
 - (B) steeper than 1 in 6;
 - (C) less than 4m in width;
 - (iii) permanent storage areas;
 - (iv) sheds; and
 - (v) any fenced body of water and its surrounds within the fencing.
- (2) *Outdoor play facilities* include areas of landscaping that includes trees and/or natural vegetation within the required outdoor area. The landscaped areas must be equivalent to at least 4% of the total minimum required *outdoor play area* in (a)(i).

Toilet Facilities

- P17** *Premises* must be provided with suitable toilet facilities which –
- (a) safeguard the health of children from injury and infection;
 - (b) minimise delays for children requiring to use a toilet;
 - (c) are readily accessible to children;
 - (d) facilitate independent use;
 - (e) provide for different needs and developmental abilities of

- A17** Toilet facilities in the *premises* are provided in accordance with the following:
- (a) At least one child size water closet suite for every 10 children or part thereof over the age of 15 months within the *licensed capacity*.
 - (b) At least 2 child size water closet suites in each location.
 - (c) Children's toilets adjoin the area they serve and provide *unimpeded access* to that *group*.
 - (d) Wall and floor surfaces impervious

- children;
- (f) enable staff to provide assistance;
- (g) permits adequate supervision by staff, appropriate to the age of the children; and
- (h) are screened so as to respect the dignity of children, having regard to the ages of the children.

- without cracks and crevices.
- (e) Slip resistant floor surfaces.
- (f) Screening from the view of children in the *indoor play area* by a wall, which, except for doorways, is opaque for a height of at least 900mm but no more than 1200mm high above floor level. The section above may be open or clear glazed to permit supervision.
- (g) Nappy change facilities are provided to each *group*, unless the toilet facilities are only used by school children.
- (h) Where care is provided to school age children –
 - (i) there is either –
 - (A) at least one adult water closet, that is not a staff facility, for every 15 children or part thereof located in a separate room adjacent to the area where care is provided; or
 - (B) for every 15 children or part thereof, one of the required toilets at (a) is separated from the other required toilets by walls or partitions not less than 1800mm high and includes a lockable door to provide privacy; and
 - (ii) a facility for the disposal of sanitary items.

Nappy change facilities

- P18** Suitable and separate nappy change facilities must be provided for each nominated *age group* which –
- (a) safeguard the health of children from infection;
 - (b) safeguard children and carers from injury;
 - (c) minimise delays for children requiring a nappy change;
 - (d) create an environment conducive to interaction between children and carer;

- A18** Nappy change facilities are provided in the *premises* to each *group*, other than school children, in accordance with the following:
- (a) They are situated adjacent to the area accommodating each *group* they serve; and –
 - (i) are built-in or otherwise securely fixed to prevent accidental dislodgment;
 - (ii) are wide enough for a change mat, measuring not less than 0.81m² in area and at a height of at least 850mm but no more than

- and
- (e) permit visual supervision of other parts of the play area for that *group*.

- 900mm; and
- (iii) have an impervious surface without cracks and crevices so as to be easily cleanable.
- (b) Carers have access to a washbasin that is –
- (i) supplied with hot and cold water limited to a maximum temperature in accordance with AS 3500.4;
- (ii) located at a height between 850mm and 900mm situated within 500mm of each change mat facility; and
- (iii) shared by no more than two *groups*,
- (c) The wall and floor surfaces are impervious and without cracks and crevices.
- (d) Floor surfaces are slip resistant.
- (e) *Premises* that cater for children under the age of 15 months have the following additional nappy change facilities:
- (i) One built-in infant size bath that is available to no more than two *groups*, with an integral hand held shower, supplied with hot and cold water limited to a maximum temperature in accordance with the AS 3500.4, at a height of 850mm to 900mm.
- (ii) For each required bath, an area of at least 0.81m² for drying and dressing children is provided, at a height of at least 850mm but no more than 900mm, situated within 500mm of the bath. (This area may double as a nappy change facility required above).

Personal washing facilities

- P19** The *premises* must be provided with separate personal washing facilities for each nominated *age group* which –
- (a) minimise delays for children requiring to use a washbasin;
- (b) encourage hand washing;
- (c) are easily accessible to children;

- A19** (1) *Premises* have a washbasin provided for each 10 children or part thereof within the *group* that it serves, for children aged older than 15 months, which –
- (a) has a height of at least 450mm but no more than 500mm from the floor; and
- (b) is situated in the toilet area.

- (d) facilitate the personal washing of young children by carers; and
- (e) safeguard the health of children.

- (2) *Premises* are provided with a built-in bath or shower with a hand held shower rose, located within the area accommodating the youngest *age group* above 15 months. This facility is in addition to the bath in A18(e)(i) above.
- (3) *Premises* have –
 - (a) every required built-in bath,
 - (b) shower and adult washbasin connected with hot and cold water; and
 - (c) hot water connected to a washbasin, shower or bath which is situated in an area accessible to children, limited to a maximum temperature in accordance with AS 3500.4.

Food preparation facilities

P20 The *premises* must be provided with suitable food preparation and storage facilities which –

- (a) safeguard the health of children from infection;
- (b) safeguard children from injury;
- (c) enable perishable food to be stored at a safe temperature;
- (d) enable food to be prepared in hygienic conditions; and
- (e) enable staff to be able to readily wash their hands for the purpose of handling food.

A20

Food preparation facilities are provided in a separate room in accordance with the following:

- (a) Barriers, and doors with controls that are unable to be operated by children, are installed to prevent unauthorised access by children into the food preparation area.
- (b) Cupboards are installed for the storage of food, crockery, tableware and kitchen utensils, which provide protection from dust, insects, vermin or other contamination.
- (c) Impervious floor surfaces, washable wall surfaces, impervious bench tops/splash backs and table tops, without cracks and crevices, so as to be easily cleanable.
- (d) They are separate from the indoor play facilities, toilet facilities, and nappy change facilities.
- (e) Space and power outlets for refrigerators having a total capacity, excluding freezer, equal to 10 litres for each child of the *licensed capacity*, situated so as to accommodate -
 - (i) at least one refrigerator within each bottle preparation area; and
 - (ii) other refrigerators either within

the food preparation area or the *indoor play areas*.

- (f) A double bowl sink, or a single bowl sink and a dishwasher, with hot and cold water.
- (g) A washbasin for staff with hot and cold water.

Laundry facilities

P21 The *premises* must be provided with suitable laundry facilities to enable clothing and linen to be washed and to prevent the spread of infection.

A21

- (1) *Premises*, other than those that cater for only 3-5 year olds, have laundry facilities located in a separate room that is provided with—
 - (a) a laundry tub and cold water supply;
 - (b) plumbing connections and a space for a washing machine where centres launder bed linen, children's clothes, towels or other items;
 - (c) at least 0.81m² of built in bench space for the purpose of storing or sterilising soiled articles prior to laundering; and
 - (d) a barrier and doors with controls that are unable to be operated by children, that prevent access into the laundry area by children.
- (2) *Premises* that only cater for children aged 3 to 5 years have a minimum 0.81m² of bench space provided at a height of at least 850mm but no more than 900mm for the purpose of storing or sterilising soiled articles prior to laundering off the *premises*, in a room that is inaccessible to children.

Outdoor storage facilities

P22 The *premises* must provide adequate facilities for the storage of children's outdoor play equipment.

A22

The *premises* are provided with storage facilities that –

- (a) are not less than 6m²; and
- (b) are accessible from the outdoor area.

Sleeping facilities for a child care centre catering for children aged less than 15 months

P23 A *child care centre* that caters for children under the age of 15 months, must be provided with suitable sleeping facilities which –

- (a) provide a safe and healthy environment to minimise the risk of accidents and illness;
- (b) permit visual supervision from the *indoor play area*, including *functional areas* for that *group*;
- (c) permit easy access to all parts of the sleeping area;
- (d) permit easy evacuation of children, including cots containing children, in the event of an emergency; and
- (e) provide a quiet environment.

A23 Sleeping facilities are in accordance with the following:

- (a) For each *group*, a sleeping room is provided that is separate from the *group's indoor play area* which –
 - (i) has an area of not less than 2.5m² for each child under the age of 15 months;
 - (ii) is provided with one or more glazed panels having a total area of not less than 1m², located such that all children in the sleeping area may be observed from the associated *indoor play area*; and
 - (iii) has any external openings fitted with insect screens.
- (b) A door leading to the associated indoor area.
- (c) A path of travel from each sleeping area to outdoors, which may be via other rooms, having a width of not less than 1m, with any doorway therein having a clear opening width of not less than 950mm.

Bottle preparation areas for a child care centre catering for children aged less than 15 months

P24 A *child care centre* that accommodates children under 15 months must be provided with suitable facilities for the preparation of feeding bottles which –

- (a) safeguard the health of children from infection; and
- (b) enable bottles to be prepared in hygienic conditions.

A24 Bottle preparation areas are provided in accordance with the following:

- (a) Adjoins the indoor area and provides *unimpeded access* for each *group* it serves.
- (b) Shared by no more than two *groups*.
- (c) Located so as to enable all parts of the *indoor play area* to be viewed by carers from that location.
- (d) Physically separated from any nappy change facilities to prevent cross infection, by a distance of not less than 2m, or by a fixed solid screen extending the full depth of the bench and not less than 1m above the bench top.
- (e) Provided with a barrier and doors with controls which are unable to be

operated by children, to prevent unauthorised access into the area by children.

- (f) Has a double bowl sink or a single bowl sink and an adult washbasin which –
 - (i) is at a height of at least 850mm but no more than 900mm; and
 - (ii) is supplied with hot and cold water limited to a maximum temperature in accordance with the AS 3500.4.
- (g) At least 0.81m² area of bench space is provided, with an impervious top and a splash back not less than 300mm high, without cracks or crevices, so as to be easily cleanable.
- (h) A power outlet is provided for a heating appliance for bottles.

Administration facilities

- P25** The *premises* must be provided with suitable facilities for administration purposes, which enable –
- (a) administration functions to be carried out independent of the caring for children; and
 - (b) consultation with parents to be conducted in private.

- A25** Administration facilities are provided in accordance with the following:
- (a) Located in an area not less than 4m².
 - (b) Located in a room that is separate from and in addition to the *indoor play area* and any staff room.
 - (c) Privacy is afforded from other areas for consultation.

Note: The administration area may double as the consultation area providing privacy from other areas can be achieved.