

Adverse Weather Policy & Procedure

Policy Statement

Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature has a legal and ethical obligation to ensure its staff, people with disability and visitors are not harmed during the use of *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* 's services. This policy outlines how *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* prepares for and responds to risks as part of *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* 's ongoing commitment to providing safe, high-quality services.

This policy supports *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* to apply Standard 4.1 provide safe environment and Standard 2.2 Risk Management.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and volunteers and supports *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* 's risk management strategy and good governance of *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* al and individual risk. This policy works alongside individual safeguarding policy and the Code of Conduct

The Board supports the Director to identify, mitigate and manage risk with the *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature*. The Director is responsible for maintaining the risk register and ensuring Managers implement risk treatments as directed

Principles

- *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* services should be safe for people to use.
- While some risks cannot be eliminated, action is taken to identify risks and remove, minimise, or manage them.
- Risks and the plans to mitigate them are documented.
- People accessing *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* 's services will be informed about any risks.

- *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* is committed to continuous improvement and adapts its services to improve safety on an ongoing basis.

Definitions

Adverse Weather: does not include normal levels of heat, rain, or wind – provided participants are dressed appropriately for the forecasted weather. If, however there were any of the following: lightning, thunderstorms, hailstorms, strong winds, flooding, severe heat, severe cold, dust storms, smoke or bushfire danger then these would be considered unsafe conditions and the session should not proceed.

Actions

If the weather forecast is indicating that any adverse weather conditions are likely a *Flourish: Health and Wellbeing in Nature* staff member will endeavour to contact client/s before the session to discuss postponement as safety is our primary responsibility. If you have such concerns, then please contact us.

Related policy and procedures

- Risk Management Policy
- Home visit risk management Checklist.
- Emergency Management plan

Legislation and standards

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- National Standards for Disability Services
- NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Practice Standards 2018
- Disability Act 2006
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010
- National Disability Insurance Scheme 2013: Principles
National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguarding Framework

Approvals

Date of approval: **July 2022**

Date of review: **July 2023**

Signature of Director: **[insert signature]**