

# OUTDOOR SCHN GARDENS - USE OF POLICY®

## DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The Network has many gardens and outdoor spaces that are designed for therapeutic use by patients and their families.
- The spaces have been designed for children with sickness and disabilities.
- Each site has specific areas with different purposes and restrictions.
- These outdoor spaces are to be free from painful or invasive procedures for children and their families. This doesn't exclude that in some clinical circumstances nursing staff may need to accompany a patient when visiting one of the gardens.
- Use of the gardens requires supervision, safety awareness and maintenance processes.
- Users of the garden are required to adhere to general safety precautions and contents of this document.
- Users are to adhere to any rules displayed at the outdoor garden spaces.
- Maintenance of the areas is the responsibility of both the Maintenance and Cleaning Services Departments.
- A Liability Statement is provided in this document.

## CHANGE SUMMARY

- N/A – new document

## READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Staff intending to access a SCHN garden should read and acknowledge they understand the contents of this policy.

<b>Approved by:</b>	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
<b>Date Effective:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2016	<b>Review Period:</b> 3 years
<b>Team Leader:</b>	Department Head	<b>Area/Dept:</b> Child Life Therapy

## Introduction

The garden spaces are designed to provide patients and their families with positive places to escape the health setting. They are often a place of tranquillity enabling positive, enjoyable and therapeutic interactions. They have been developed with the help of staff and families within the Network and are often custom-designed to provide entree to children with all levels of ability, including wheelchair access and children with their IV drips. In addition to internal therapy settings within the Hospital, the outdoor spaces and equipment are utilised by Child Life Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists as part of their care/therapy treatment.

The following document provides general instructions on safety and the appropriate use of the outdoor spaces.

## Purpose

- Ensure the safety of all users.
- Ensure the equipment and natural landscape is maintained.
- Promote understanding of the spaces and how they can meet patient and family needs.
- Inform users of the purpose of the spaces - providing an alternate setting free from procedures, which can motivate rehabilitation, enhance relaxation and stimulate the senses.

## Location, Access and Bookings

- Will vary depending on the specific area– please see attached links for specific space policies.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead	Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick
<a href="#">George Gregan Playground – CHW</a>	George Gregan Garden - SCH
<a href="#">Multisensory Garden (Percy's Place)</a>	Fairy Garden
Clubbe Ward Outdoor play area	Happy Garden
Child Protection Outdoor play area	OT Garden
Emergency Department's Outdoor play area (Smurf garden)	Emergency Department play space

## Safety rules

- Patients must be supervised by a parent /adult or staff member at all times when in the gardens.
- Patients must wear shoes and in the summer months must wear sunscreen and a hat. Under therapy direction, the patient may remove shoes for specific activities.
- Smoking and alcohol consumption are not permitted as per [SCHN policy](#).
- Eating and drinking in the garden is permitted, however thorough removal of rubbish and scraps is required.
- All breakages or damages are to be reported immediately to the maintenance department on site.
- Beds are to remain on the hard surfaced paths/areas at all times.
- Patients are permitted to touch and explore the plants (once medical clearance has been granted) however removal and breaking of plants, leaves and flowers is prohibited. This excludes any herb gardens.
- Do not remove any items including features and ornaments.
- Do not drink the water within any water features as they have been chemically treated to avoid bacteria build up in the water.
- Use all equipment in an appropriate manner only.
- No climbing of trees.
- Be considerate of others and avoid making excessive noise.
- Ensure the outdoor spaces are left clean and tidy after use. Clean up any rubbish or soil spills before exiting the area.

## Ongoing maintenance

- The Maintenance Department will provide garden maintenance including mowing of the lawn areas and trimming of trees as required.
- The Maintenance Department will monitor irrigation needs depending on site requirements.
- Safety and preventative maintenance is the responsibility of all who develop or use outdoor areas.
- Volunteer maintenance schedules maybe used to support the various sites.
- When maintenance issues arise a BEIMS need to be completed, to enable the logging of maintenance requests and to monitor the request from “request to completion”.

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