

## **CONSENT FORM TO CONDUCT HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Emma McLean Kindergarten and Daycare is aware that head lice infestation can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining children's confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation at all times. However, management of head lice infestation is most effective when all children and their parents/guardians actively support our policy and participate in our screening program. All inspections will be conducted in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner, and information about why the inspections are conducted and the benefits of preventing infestations will be explained to children prior to conducting the inspections.

Only the nominated supervisor/person in day-to-day charge or an external person approved by the service, such as a nurse employed by the local council, will be permitted to carry out inspections on children at the service. Where there is concern about a potential infection, a child's hair will be inspected for the presence of head lice or lice eggs.

Where live head lice are found, Emma McLean Kindergarten and Daycare will notify the parents/guardians and will provide them with relevant information about the treatment of head lice. Other parents/guardians will be provided with a notice to inform them that head lice have been detected in the group and to encourage them to be vigilant and carry out regular inspections of their own child.

Please note that while head lice do not spread disease, they are included in the *Minimum Period of Exclusion from Primary Schools and Children's Services for Infectious Diseases Cases and Contacts* published by the Department of Health (DH) which defines the minimum period of exclusion from a children's service for children with infectious diseases. According to this table, where a child has head lice, that child must be excluded until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.

Please select "Yes" in XAP to acknowledge that you have read and agree to this policy.

