CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Approval Date:	25 May 2017
Review Date:	25 May 2019
Responsible Officer:	Director Community Services

1. Objective

To ensure that Council provides a safe, caring and nurturing environment for children and young people using Council's services and to comply with the requirements of the legislative framework covering the protection of children and young people.

2. Principles

The Coonamble Shire community has a right to expect that when using any of the services of Coonamble Council, Council will ensure a safe, caring and nurturing environment for their children. They expect that while using Council's services, their children and young people will be protected from all forms of abuse, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect. It also expects that Council will take all possible precautions to ensure that persons employed in any capacity associated with the care of children have undergone appropriate probity checks, are suitable to work with children and are not Prohibited Persons as described in the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998.

3. Policy Statement

Council will:

- Ensure that staff working with children are not "Prohibited Persons" within the meaning of the relevant legislation.
- Ensure that staff recruited to work with children are suitable for that work.
- Ensure that Council's recruitment processes meet with the requirements of the relevant legislation.
- Put in place systems for investigating any allegations of child abuse or neglect against staff in the course of their employment.

4. Legislation Requirements

- Ombudsman Amendment (Child Protection & Community Services) Act 1998
- Commission For Children And Young People Act 1998
- Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Procedure Review History

Date	Changes Made	Approved By
December 2011	Policy development	General Manager
8th February 2012		Adopted by Council Minute No. 9693
25 May 2017	Review – no changes	General Manager