

Dangerous Items Policy

Essential Summary

Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) recognises that all items within a centre, that a young person can access, can be classified as a 'dangerous item'. However, this policy deals primarily with items that are not readily available to young people, but are provided for example during meal times, programs, activities and recreational sport. These items may pose a high risk to safety and security, if they are not accounted for prior to distributing to and returned from young people.

To ensure the safety and security of young people, employees and the centre, all items provided to young people may be considered a 'dangerous item' and must be accounted for.

This policy contains content covering dangerous items regarding:

- item categories
- · storing and recording
- missing and broken items
- item audits

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Please check in the Operations Manual (TOM) to ensure you have the latest version before using this document.

Date of effect: 24 May 2021 Page 1 of 13

Table of Contents

1	Scop	oe e	3
2	Purp	ose	3
3	Defir	nitions	3
4	Item	Categories	4
5	Dang	gerous items	4
	5.1	Cutlery and food serving utensils	4
	5.2	Cutlery distribution and collection	5
6	Stori	ng dangerous items	6
7	Reco	ording use of dangerous items	6
	7.1	Counting and recording items	6
	7.2	Cutlery and Dining /Kitchen Utensil Register	6
	7.3	Other Area Dangerous Item Registers	7
	7.4	Register templates	7
8	Ever	yday use items - readily available to young people	7
	8.1	Approved personal items	8
9	Items	s accessible to and used by YJNSW employees only	9
10	Items	s accessed through other government departments	9
11	Items	s used by non-YJNSW employees	9
12	Audi	t of items	10
	12.1	Yearly audit of all items	10
	12.2	Six-monthly audit	10
	12.3	Monthly audit of all safe items	10
13	Supe	ervision of dangerous items	10
14	Supe	ervision of razors	11
15	Miss	ing and broken items	11
16	Refe	rences	12
17	Docu	ument information	12
18	Docu	ıment history	13

Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021
Page 2 of 13

1 Scope

This policy applies to all YJNSW employees who are responsible for the supervision of young people within a Youth Justice Centre.

Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JHFMHN) and the Department of Education are responsible for ensuring processes for identifying and recording items provided to young people and within employee only areas, are in line with the YJNSW processes outlined in this policy relevant to their role and responsibilities within a Youth Justice Centre.

2 Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to:

- assist in providing a safe and secure workplace for all visitors, employees and young people in a centre
- provide a framework for accounting for all items provided to young people at specific times and / or used by employees and other persons within the secure area of a centre
- clarify employee responsibilities for accounting for these items
- set out how officers of YJNSW are to carry out their work in order to assist the Secretary to discharge their functions under the *Children (Detention Centres) Act 1987* and *Children (Detention Centres) Regulations 2015 (NSW)*.

3 Definitions

In interpreting this policy, the following definitions are to be applied:

Centre Manager means the person for the time being in charge of the centre.

Dangerous item means any item provided to young people at specific times which is considered a risk including during programs, meal times and recreational activities. These are restricted access items distributed for specific reasons due to the high risks they present to young people, employees, and/or security of the centre if used inappropriately.

Employee only area means all areas that are accessed by YJNSW, Dept. of Education and JHFMHN employees only. Young people should not be given access to these areas.

Unit Supervisor means the person in charge of the Unit at the time, which includes a Unit Manager, or Shift Supervisor

Date of effect: 24 May 2021 Page 3 of 13

4 Item Categories

All items within a centre can be categorised into five groups for clarity in this policy:

- Dangerous Items restricted access and use by young people
- Everyday Use Items readily available to young people
- Items accessible and used only by YJNSW Employees in the secure area of a centre
- Items accessed by young people through other government departments Education (centre schools) and the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JHFMHN)
- Items used by external non-YJNSW Employees including but not limited to contractors, program providers, sporting groups, community groups, legal representatives, visitors and hairdressers.

5 Dangerous items

Dangerous items are items used in the secure area of a centre by young people or employees or both, but access and use is restricted due to the high risks they present to young people, employees, and/or security of the centre.

5.1	Cutlery and food serving utensils	

Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021

Page 4 of 13

5.2 Cutlery distribution and collection

<u>Distribution</u>	
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Collection	
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Eating in rooms	
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Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021 Page 5 of 13

6	Storing dangerous items
7	Recording use of dangerous items Counting and recording items
7.2	Cutlery and Dining /Kitchen Utensil Register

Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021 Page 6 of 13

7.3 Other Area Dangerous Item Registers
7.4 Register templates
The following registers must be developed at all centres for recording the use of all dangerous items:
Register of Visiting Daily Service Providers Dangerous items Departure Register
Dangerous Items RegisterAccommodation Rooms Dangerous Items Weekly Inventory Register
8 Everyday use items - readily available to
young people
Everyday use items are items that young people are allowed to have in their rooms, and o
the unit, and have access to at all times.

Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021
Page 7 of 13



8.1 Approved personal items

A list of items approved for each individual young person to have in their rooms, based on risk assessment, must be accounted for on each shift by visually checking that approved items only, are in their room,

9	Items accessible to and used by YJNSW employees only
10	Items accessed through other government departments
11	Items used by non-YJNSW employees

This category includes items used by chaplains, contactors, program providers, sporting groups, community groups and hairdressers.

Groups visiting the centre must have all items pre-approved with the Centre Manager prior conducting a visit.
12 Audit of items
12.1 Yearly audit of all items
12.2 Six-monthly audit
12.3 Monthly audit of all safe items
13 Supervision of dangerous items

14 Supervision of razors 15 Missing and broken items

16 References

Policies

- Incident Management: Reporting, Debrief and Review.
- Searching Young People
- Misbehaviour

Procedures

- Incident Reporting
- Searching Young People
- Searching Accommodation rooms, Units and other areas
- Misbehaviour

Forms

- Search Register (Book)
- · Sample Unit Cutlery and Dining Utensil Register

To be developed by Centre management:

- Dangerous Items Register
- Cutlery and Dining Serving Utensil Register
- Items Inventory
- Monthly Unit Checklist

17 Document information

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Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021

Page 12 of 13

18 Document history

Version	Date	Reason for Amendment
0.1	24 May	New policy- information transferred from the current 2011
	2021	procedure to the policy template

Dangerous Items Policy

Date of effect: 24 May 2021

Page 13 of 13