

CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY OF ACCESS

The kindergarten has a 22 seater bus which collects children from the surrounding districts. Aboriginal families want their children to be enrolled at a site which will support their cultural identity through the employment of Aboriginal staff and a program which is inclusive of their needs. Some families and children are isolated and disengaged and this needs to be acknowledged.

Where the demand for preschool/kindergarten places exceeds our capacity (number of places) available then our **Priority of Access** will be implemented.

Access of Priority will be given to children turning 4 years of age before May 1st. They will start preschool on the first week of Term 1 in that year. All 4 year olds will have access to an average of 30 hour fortnights, 40 weeks of the year, prior to school. Preschool children are unable to receive more than the government funded hours service (15 hours a week) by accessing other services. In cases of extreme high demand (*i.e over 60 eligible kindergarten children enrolled*) a waiting list may be established.

Access of Priority will also take into consideration aspects of the State / Commonwealth's Guidelines, namely:-

- A child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Children in families with a non-English speaking background
- Children in socially isolated families
- Children of single parents
- Children under the Guardianship of the Minister
- Children with specific and identified special needs
- Transfer of eligible kindergarten child(ren) into the Christie Downs and surrounding areas

Additionally **Access of Priority** consideration will be given to children living in the immediate local area and/or at-attending a local long day Child Care Centre, Family Day Care, sibling(s) attending local public and/or private school (s).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children under the Guardianship of the Minister are able to access funded kindergarten from the age of 3.

WHO	ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES	PRE-ENTRY PRIORITY OF ACCESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon Kindergarten vacancies being identified Pre-entry to kindergarten may be offered in Term 3 and 4 <i>prior</i> to the child's eligible year. • Children may have access to 3 hours of pre-entry a week. Mornings or afternoons will be available and are determined in discussions with the parent (s) & Preschool Director. • Children turning 4 in the term offered of pre-entry will have priority. If starting in Term 3, the pre-entry will continue for the remainder of the year. • This is a Kindergarten Funded program.
PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR	All families, at point of enrolment, are informed of our Pre-school Priority of Access Policy	
	Staff members are aware and understand the preschool policy	
	Liaises with other neighbouring sites to establish geographic boundaries, where appropriate using post codes and/or street boundaries	
	Notifies designated DECD personnel and neighbouring sites when Christie Downs Kindergarten is nearing capacity.	
	Advises parents /guardians of alternative kindergarten sites if place(s) become unavailable.	
GOVERNING COUNCIL	Ratify Preschool Priority of Access Policy minimum every two years and/or when numbers dictate.	
	Ratifies priority catchment area-when determined due to reaching capacity.	
OTHER FACTORS	Relevant Federal and State Legislation – i.e SITE CAPACITY: 33 CHILDREN PER SESSION	
	STAFFING RATIO: 1:11 (under National Quality Standards ratio is 1:13 until 2016)	

In some circumstances, children with identified special needs can also access kindergarten earlier, under Early Entry Guidelines. See Kindergarten Director for further information.

Roles, Responsibilities and Other Factors associated with the implementation of **Priority of Access**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH ENROLMENT WILL ALSO BE VIEWED ACCORDING TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

Source: http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrensservices/files/links/5_Guidelines_Dev_Imp_May_2.pdf guidelines for develop-

ing and implementing a priority of access policy for preschools.

Reviewed: May 2016 Next Review: May 2016

