

## **PRIORITY OF ACCESS Version 1.14**

### **PRESCHOOL**

In South Australia, the majority of children enrolled in a preschool will reside within the preschool local catchment area. Acceptance into a particular preschool is subject to the preschool's capacity and available resources. Priority consideration will be given to children residing within the preschool's local catchment area.

A Child in Care is able to access and enrol at any government preschool in accordance with the Placement procedure.

#### **Applications from local families**

If more registrations of interest for a preschool are received from families living in the preschool local catchment area than available places, places will be offered based on whether one or more of the following criteria applies:

- the child has siblings currently enrolled in the school or service
- the child has previously been in care
- the child identifies as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander
- special consideration placement ( [refer to children granted a special consideration placement](#) )
- the family attends programs at the service
- the length of time the child has lived in the preschool local catchment area
- distance of the child's residence from the preschool (km's by road)

#### **Applications from non-local families**

Early childhood leaders in consultation with site leaders will identify available preschool options within the partnership to accommodate all children unplaced after the first round of enrolment offers.

A child who has been unable to be offered a place within their local catchment preschool and is directed by the partnership to a nearby preschool must be prioritised for placement over the other non-local families. In circumstances where the preschool has reserved places, a reserved place is to be offered.

If the preschool has places available after enrolling local children, children in care and families referred by the partnership, places may be offered to children living outside of the preschool local catchment area.

When more registrations of interest for preschool are received from families living outside of the preschool local catchment area than available places, places will be offered based on whether one or more of the following criteria applies:

- the child identifies as Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander
- the child has siblings enrolled in a local school
- the distance of the child's residence from the preschool
- the family currently attends programs at the service
- transportation needs

Children who turn 4 before 1 May are eligible to start preschool at the beginning of the year before they start school. Children are able to access a government – funded preschool for 1 year.

Families may submit a 'preschool registration of interest' form - please refer to previous criteria.

#### **Timeframe of offers**

At the beginning of August, there will be a first round of offers via a letter to families of preschool – aged children who live in the preschool local catchment area. To accept the offer and secure a place, families must reply within the timeframe requested and complete the 'preschool enrolment form'. Families are obliged to provide evidence of the child's date of birth, residence and immunisation status.

A second round of enrolment offers will commence at the beginning of September to families not living in the local catchment area, if vacancies are available.

### **LONG DAY CARE**

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre Childcare Inc., will develop a Waiting List for Long Day Care and this will include essential information, eg. Family name, child/ren's date of birth, the date of contact, the date care is required and

reason for needing care. Families will be advised that they are required to contact the Children's Centre at least every 2 months to confirm their ongoing interest or risk the deletion of their application. In consultation with the Governing Council, the Waiting List may be temporarily closed until existing families can be accommodated at the Centre and then re-opened at a later time. Children from a Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal background or Children In Care will continue to have first priority even when the Waiting List is closed.

For Long Day Care, as stated in the Commonwealth Guidelines, the Children's Centre supports first priority of access to parents whose children are at greatest risk, who are in the workforce / returning to or seeking employment and the studying parent.

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- TO BE REVIEWED:** September 2022
- SOURCED:** Children's Services Act 1985  
 Children's Services (Child Care) Regulations 1998  
 Dept. of Family and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
 Commonwealth Guidelines Child Care Benefit  
 CCMS Childcare Service Handbook 2007/2008  
 DECS Preschool Enrolment Policy 2006  
 DECD Preschool Enrolment Policy 2012  
 DECD Same First Day Fact Sheet 2012  
 Preschool Priority of Access Guidelines – Northern Adelaide Region 2012  
 DECD Enrolment Policy 2014  
 Early Childhood Australia - Belonging: At the heart of relating to others 2015  
 Department for Education Starting preschool 2019  
 Department for Education Placement Procedure 2020