PRIORITY OF ACCESS

Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management

Links to national Quality Standard: 7.3.2, 6.1.1, 6.3.3

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed to ensure the education and care service complies with the *Priority of Access Guidelines* set by *Family Assistance Law* and defined by *NSW State Government Funding Agreements.* Failure to meet these Guidelines is a breach of the conditions of continued approval for receiving Child Care Benefit and State Government funding.

GOALS

The education and care service will follow the *Priority of Access Guideline* at all times when enrolling children. The waiting list application will reflect these guidelines to ensure that care is provided to families using these priorities.

STRATEGIES

The education and care service will use the *Priority of Access Guidelines* to prioritise the waiting list and to allocate available education and care places to families.

The *Priority of Access Guidelines* followed by Long Day Care and Outside School Hours Care Services are set by *Family Law Assistance.* These are:

* **Priority 1:** a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect
* **Priority 2:** a child of a single parent who satisfies, or of parents who both satisfy, the work/training/study test under section 14 of the “A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999’
* **Priority 3:**  any other child

Within these three priority categories, precedence should also be given to children in:

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
* Families which include a person with a disability
* Families on lower incomes
* Families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
* Socially isolated families
* Single parent families

The *Priority of Access Guidelines* followed by state funded preschools are defined by NSW State Government funding Agreements. In no particular order, these are:

* Children at risk of harm
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
* Children from low income families
* Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
* Children with disabilities
* Children in their year before school (with highest priority given to children closest to school entry)

The education and care service endeavours to meet the needs of children and families in our community while complying with the above guidelines.

EVALUATION:

All enrolments will strictly adhere to the *Priority of Access Guidelines* to ensure equity and consistency for the community.