

A-3: SERVICE ACCESS

POLICY STATEMENT

We aim to provide places for school aged children needing care during their time out of school hours. We will not discriminate against any families needing care however; priority of access will be determined by the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and placement on our waiting list.

CONSIDERATIONS

National Standards Section 4.6 (Access)

Priority of Access under DEEWR

OSCHQA Area 8

PROCEDURE

PRIORITY OF ACCESS under DEEWR

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 main categories priority should also be given to the following children:

- Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Children in families which include a disabled person
- Children in families which include an individual whose adjusted taxable income does not exceed the lower income threshold of \$37,960 for 2009-2010, or who or whose partner are on income support
- Children in families with a non-English speaking background
- Children in socially isolated families
- Children of single parents

There are some circumstances in which a child who is already in a child care service may be required to leave the service.

When a service has no vacant places and is providing child care for a child who is a Priority 3 under the Priority of Access Guidelines, the service may require that child to leave the child care service in order for the service to provide a place for a higher priority child, but only if:

- The person who is liable to pay child care fees in respect of the child was notified when the child first occupied the child care place that the service followed this policy **and**
- The service gives that person at least 14 days notice of the requirement for the child to leave the child care service.

Date Endorsed: Oct 2009, May 2010

Date for Review and Evaluation: May 2011