

## YANKALILLA COMMUNITY CHILDRENS CENTRE

### PRIORITY of ACCESS

Yankalilla Community Children's Centre (YCCC) is a Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) rural integrated site. It operates a Long Day Care program, a DECD preschool program and a community playgroup.

YCCC is licensed for a maximum of 65 children at any given time.

As a DECD rural integrated site – Eligible DECD Preschool Children have first priority to “centre places” – (Up to our DECD staffing allocation and enrolment cap).

Childcare children have second priority and playgroup children have third priority.

### Overarching Priority of Access Guidelines for our Preschool and Childcare programs

The circumstances of the family will always be considered and priority will be given to the following children:

- Children at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Children under the Guardianship of the Minister
- Children in families which includes a person with a disability
- Children with a disability
- Children in families with non-English speaking backgrounds
- Children in socially isolated families

### DECD Preschool Program – Priority of Access

Priority of access to our DECD preschool program will be in accordance with the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Preschool Enrolment Policy.

### PROCESS

Families will be encouraged to register their interest to enrol their child(ren) at Yankalilla Community Children's Centre (YCCC) preschool by the end of July in the year prior to the child being eligible to commence preschool. From the beginning of August, enrolment offers will be made to families residing in our preschool's designated geographic catchment area in accordance with our overarching priority of access guidelines, and up to our staffing allocation and enrolment cap.

The Director is required to notify their early childhood leader of the status of their preschool's enrolments by the end of week 5, term 3. After consultation with the early childhood leader, the Director (if approved) may commence offering second round enrolment offers for any unplaced children and children residing outside of our designated geographic catchment area from the beginning of September.

When the demand for places exceeds our staffing allocation and enrolment cap the following will apply:

#### **Preschool Priority of access guidelines**

**Priority 1:** eligible children whose primary residence is within the catchment area of the preschool.

**Priority 2:** eligible children who have regularly attended our childcare program

**Priority 3:** eligible children whose siblings have attended our preschool program

**Priority 4:** eligible children who will be attending Yankalilla Area School

**Priority 5:** eligible children whose parents/guardians work within our catchment area

Note: To accommodate all eligible preschool children, DECD may amend our preschool staffing and enrolment cap and/or some children who reside outside of our catchment area may be directed to enrol at a preschool with-in the catchment area of their primary residence.

## **YCCC Childcare Program - Priority of Access**

When demand for childcare places exceeds supply, the Yankalilla Community Children's Centre is required to adhere to the Australian Government's Priority of Access Guidelines for allocating childcare places.

**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

When the demand for childcare places exceeds supply and the centre is required to implement the priority of access guidelines written above, the centre will give 7 days notice of cancellation in writing to the most recently enrolled priority 3 child, according to the date on the child's enrolment form.

Priority of Access guidelines and its implications will be explained to all parents at enrolment and enrolments will be recorded as priority 1, 2 or 3. As with all information provided at enrolment, it is the responsibility of parents to notify the centre if their priority rating changes.

### **WAITING LISTS FOR CHILDCARE**

Waiting lists will be established for parents who are unable to obtain their childcare sessions of choice due to demand exceeding supply and implementation of the childcare priority of access guidelines.

#### **Childcare Waiting List Ranking:**

Priority 1 children – a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect

Priority 2 children - 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 children - who have lost their permanent booking due to implementation of priority of access guidelines. These children will be ranked according to the date of their request.

If a parent chooses not to accept a vacancy offer, the vacancy will be offered to the next parent on the list. If a parent declines the vacancy their position on the waiting list will be maintained.

Source:

Department of Education; *Child Care Service Handbook 2013 – 14*

Department for Education and Child Development. *Guidelines for developing and implementing a Priority of Access Policy in preschools*. April 2015

Department for education and Child Development. *Preschool enrolment policy*. March 2017

Department for Education and Child Development. *Preschool enrolment procedure*. May 2017

Yankalilla Community Children's Centre 2017 Governing Council

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