Renmark Partnership Preschool Priority of Access Policy

Scope
This policy relates to preschool services at Renmark Children’s Centre, Renmark West Preschool and Renmark North Preschool.

Objective
Preschools within the Renmark Partnership operate a Priority of Access Policy to support equitable access to preschool services and to manage enrolments where the demand for preschool places exceeds the site’s capacity.

The objectives of this policy are to ensure:
- Children are offered a place within their local or preferred preschool centre where available places exist
- Where a child is not able to be placed within their local or preferred preschool, that the family is supported to access an alternative nearby DECD preschool
- Preschool enrolments align as closely as possible to child/educators ratios

Policy Detail
Families are able to register their interest in attending their local preschool and/or preferred preschool(s) by lodging a Preschool Enrolment Registration form at the preschool centre. Where a family register an interest in attending a preschool other than their local preschool, they will be encouraged by the site leader to also lodge a Preschool Enrolment Registration form at their local preschool, as an offer of enrolment at their first choice of preschool cannot be guaranteed.

Site leader’s of the Renmark Partnership preschools will meet in August, prior to the enrolment year, and consider enrolments across the three sites in the following order of priority.

PRIORITY ONE – FIRST ROUND OFFERS

Children meeting the following criteria will be considered in Priority One.

The circumstances of the child and family;
- Children at risk of serious abuse and neglect
- Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Children under the Guardianship of the Minister
- Children in families which include a person with a disability
- Children with a disability
- Children in families with non-English speaking backgrounds
- Children in socially isolated families

and

The use of geographic boundaries using either postcodes or street boundaries. Please refer to the Renmark Partnership Preschool Priority of Access Geographic Boundary Map.

Children who meet the criteria for Priority One will receive a written offer of placement from the beginning of August in the year prior to starting preschool. Families will be required to confirm their acceptance by the date specified in the offer letter.
PRIORITY TWO – SECOND ROUND OFFERS

Children who do not meet the criteria for Priority One, will be considered for enrolment in the second round offers. Site leader’s will meet prior to the end of term three and begin offering places for unplaced children and children residing outside of a preschool’s designated local geographic catchment area. This includes families whose choice of preferred preschool is outside their local geographic catchment area.

Children who meet the criteria for Priority Two will receive a written offer of placement by the end of September in the year prior to starting preschool. Families will be required to confirm their acceptance by the date specified in the offer letter.

Special consideration will be given for:

- Children who are in full time child care (including in the care of family or grandparents) where the care is located within the designated geographic priority catchment area of the preschool.
- Children who siblings are currently attending the adjoining primary school.

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For further information and associated forms, please contact your local preschool.

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