
ENROLMENT AND ORIENTATION POLICY

*QUALITY AREA 6.1: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES*

PURPOSE

This policy outlines:

- The criteria for enrolment at the Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care.
- The process to be followed when enrolling a child at the Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care.
- The basis on which places within the programs will be allocated.
- Procedures for the orientation of new families and children into the Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care.
- Processes to ensure compliance with legislative and DET funding requirements in relation to the enrolment of children in early childhood education and care services.

POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

The Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care is committed to:

- Equal access for all eligible children.
- Meeting the needs of the local community.
- Supporting families to meet the requirements for enrolment through the provision of information.
- Maintaining confidentiality in relation to all information provided for enrolment.
- Ensuring all families are welcomed and receive an effective orientation into the service.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, early childhood teachers, educators, staff and parents/guardians who wish to enrol or have already enrolled their child at the Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

The Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 require approved services to have a policy and procedures in place in relation to enrolment and orientation (Regulation 168(2)(k)). It is intended that all eligible children (refer to Definitions) will have access Out of School Hours Care as required. Where demand is higher than availability, a priority system for access must be determined by the Approved Provider in order to allocate the available places. The criteria used to determine the allocation of places is based on a service's philosophy, values and beliefs, and the provisions of the Equal Opportunity Act 2012.

Services providing approved care (refer to Definitions) must abide by the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Rebate) Act 2011 (refer to Legislation and standards) and the Commonwealth Government's Priority for allocating places in child care services (refer to Sources).

Immunisations are an effective means of reducing the risk of vaccine preventable diseases. Early childhood education and care services which are regulated under the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 have legislative responsibilities under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to only offer a confirmed place in their programs to children with acceptable immunisation documentation (refer to Definitions). Legislation and standards Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 • Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 160, 161, 162, 168, 177, 183
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Rebate) Act 2011
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities
 - Standard 6.1: Respectful and supportive relationships with families are developed and maintained
 - Element 6.1.1: There is an effective enrolment and orientation process for families
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (No Jab, No Play) Regulations 2015 (Vic)
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)

DEFINITIONS

Acceptable immunisation documentation: Documentation as defined by the Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for early childhood education and care services as acceptable evidence that a child is fully vaccinated for their age, or is on a recognised catch-up schedule if their child has fallen behind their vaccinations; or has a medical reason not to be vaccinated; or has been assessed as being eligible for a 16-week grace period.

Approved care: Care given by a service provider that has been approved by the Family Assistance Office to receive Child Care Subsidy payments on behalf of eligible families. Most long day care, family day care, before-and-after school care, vacation care, some occasional care and some in-home care childcare services are approved providers. Details are available at:
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy>

Authorised nominee: Is a person who has been given written authority by the parents/guardians of a child to collect that child from the education and care service. These details will be on the child's enrolment form. The Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care will not allow your child to leave the Centre with anyone under the age of 18 years, nor with someone who is unknown to us, or does not have acknowledged written authorisation to collect the child.

Child Care Subsidy (CCS): A Commonwealth Government payment to help families who use either approved or registered childcare services. All eligible families can receive some Child Care Subsidy. Details are available at:
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-care-subsidy>

Children with additional needs: Children whose development or physical condition requires specialist support or children who may need additional support due to language, cultural or economic circumstances (refer to Inclusion and Equity Policy).

Enrolment form: A form that collects contact details, and personal and medical information from parents/guardians about their child. The information on this form is placed on the child's enrolment record (see below) and is kept confidential by the service.

Enrolment record: The collection of documents which contains information on each child as required under the National Regulations (Regulations 160, 161, 162) including the enrolment form; details of any court orders; and immunisation documentation as specified in the Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for early childhood education and care services. This information is kept confidential by the service.

Fee: A charge for a place within a program at the service.

SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register:
www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register

- Child Care Subsidy
<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/child-caresubsidy>
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: www.acecqa.gov.au/
- Guide to the National Quality Standard: www.acecqa.gov.au/
- Priority for allocating places in child care services:
<http://education.gov.au/priority-allocating-places>
- Immunisation enrolment toolkit for early childhood education and care services 2015:
www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/immunisation-enrolment-toolkit • Victorian Department of Health:
www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Service policies

- Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy
- Complaints and Grievances Policy
- Dealing with Infectious Disease Policy
- Fees Policy
- Inclusion and Equity Policy
- Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- Determining the criteria for priority of access to programs at the Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care, based on funding requirements and the service's philosophy.
- Considering any barriers to access that may exist, developing procedures that ensure all eligible families are aware of, and are able to access, an OSHC program.
- Complying with the Inclusion and Equity Policy.
- Appointing a person to be responsible for the enrolment process and the day-to-day implementation of this policy.
- Providing opportunities (in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor and educators) for interested families to attend the service during operational hours to observe the program and become familiar with the service prior to their child commencing in the program.
- Providing parents/guardians with information about the requirements of the law for enrolment, locating and accessing immunisation services and obtaining acceptable immunisation documentation required for enrolment.
- Ensuring parents/guardians are only offered a tentative place until the child's immunisation documentation is assessed as being acceptable.
- Assessing the child's immunisation documentation prior to enrolment to determine if the child's vaccination status complies with requirements or whether the child is eligible for the 16-week grace period.

- Ensuring that only children who have acceptable immunisation documentation have a confirmed place in the program.
- Advising parents/guardians who do not have acceptable immunisation documentation that their children are not able to attend the service and referring them to immunisation services.
- Taking reasonable steps to obtain acceptable immunisation documentation from a parent/guardian of a child enrolled under a grace period within the 16 weeks from when the child begins attending (Note: the child can continue to attend the service if acceptable immunisation documentation is not obtained).
- Ensuring that the enrolment form (refer to Definitions) complies with the requirements of Regulations 160, 161, 162 and that it effectively meets the management requirements of the service.
- Ensuring that enrolment records (refer to Definitions) are stored in a safe and secure place, and kept for three years after the last date on which the child was educated and cared for by the service (Regulation 183).
- Ensuring that the orientation program and plans meet the individual needs of children and families, and comply with DET funding criteria.
- Reviewing the orientation processes for new families and children to ensure the objectives of this policy are met.
- Ensuring that parents/guardians of a child attending the service can enter the service premises at any time that the child is being educated and cared for, except where this may pose a risk to the safety of children or staff, or conflict with any duty of the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor or educators under the Law (Regulation 157).

If a place is not immediately available at the service a family may be put on a waiting list.

Once entered onto the waiting list a family will be contacted when a place becomes available by the coordinator who will confirm their registration and enrolment may proceed.

Management and committee members children will not be given special consideration above their own priority of access.

Management committee members children can be cared for by the service with no fee payable if the management committee member is engaged on management committee business for the duration of that business only.

Exclusion of children from the service due to behaviour issues will only occur after other avenues of communication and support have been exhausted and the child puts the majority of children at risk through inappropriate behaviour (refer Behaviour Management Policy)

For exclusion due to non immunisation refer to Infectious diseases Policy.

Subject to any state/territory federal equal opportunity legislation the service reserves the right to exclude a child from the education and care service for any

reason connected to the welfare of the child and the welfare of educators/staff and other children or families who use the service.

The Nominated Supervisor and early childhood teachers are responsible for:

- Reviewing enrolment applications to identify children with additional needs.
- Responding to parent/guardian enquiries regarding their child's readiness for the program that they are considering enrolling their child in.
- Discussing the individual child's needs with parents/guardians and developing an orientation program to assist them to settle into the program.
- Assisting parents/guardians to develop and maintain a routine for saying goodbye to their child.
- Sharing information with parents/guardians regarding their child's progress with regard to settling in to the service.
- Discussing support services for children with parents/guardians, where required.

All educators are responsible for:

- Responding to enrolment enquiries on a day-to-day basis and referring people to the person responsible for the enrolment process, as required.
- Providing parents/guardians with information about the requirements of the law for enrolment, locating and accessing immunisation services and obtaining acceptable immunisation documentation required for enrolment.
- Developing strategies to assist new families to:
 - feel welcomed into the service
 - become familiar with service policies and procedures
 - share information about their family beliefs, values and culture
 - share their understanding of their child's strengths, interests, abilities and needs
 - discuss the values and expectations they hold in relation to their child's learning
- Providing comfort and reassurance to children who are showing signs of distress when separating from family members.
- Complying with the service's Privacy and Confidentiality Policy in relation to the collection and management of a child's enrolment information.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Reading and complying with this Enrolment and Orientation Policy.
- Completing the enrolment form prior to their child's commencement at the service and providing acceptable immunisation documentation of their child's immunisation status.
- Where a child is on an immunisation catch-up schedule, ensuring that the child's immunisations are updated in line with the schedule and providing acceptable immunisation documentation to the service.
- Ensuring that all other required information is provided to the service.

- Updating information by notifying the service of any changes as they occur.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- Regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness.
- Monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy.
- Keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice.
- Revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required.
- Notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Yarraman Oaks Primary School Out of School Hours Care Enrolment Form

AUTHORISATION

Review Date: August 2020

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