

Priority of Access

Purpose

In accordance with the Priority of Access guidelines issued by the Commonwealth Government, priority will be given as follows:

When filling vacant places, our first priority is as follows:

- 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 Priority categories, priority should also be given to children at risk who are:

- 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

Wherever possible, ECMS will support and assist families by ensuring that cultural, social and religious practices are followed in the delivery of care, provision of food and mindfulness of cultural celebrations and events.

In both Childcare and Kindergarten services it may be necessary to ask a family who do not meet the criteria of Priority 1 or 2 to forfeit their place if it is needed for a child at risk or the child of a parent/parents who satisfy the work/training/ study test.

ECMS can only do so if:

- the person liable for the payment of the child care fees was notified when the child first entered care that the service followed this policy, and
- the service gives the person at least 14 days' notice of the requirement for the child to vacate the place

Policy Created Date	July 2014, Reviewed September 2016
Policy Review Date	September 2018
Sources and Further Reading	Priority of Access DET Priority of Access DET Instruction sheet 10
Related to NQS Q.A	1.1 & 1.2