

RUTHERGLEN KINDERGARTEN PRIORITY OF ACCESS POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 6

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PRIORITY OF ACCESS CRITERIA

If more eligible children are seeking a place at a Kindergarten service than there are places available, children are required to be prioritised based on the following:

<i>High Priority Children</i>	<i>Process that could be used to verify need(s)</i>
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care.	The child is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending a 3 year old Kindergarten Program through Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) or Access to Early Learning, or • Referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection - Child and family services (Family services referral and support team, Child FIRST) - Maternal and Child Health nurse, or - Out-of-Home Care provider
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children	Family identifies the child as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Asylum seeker and refugee children	Appropriate visa that identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	Children or parents who hold a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran’s Affairs Card and multiple birth children
Children with additional needs, defined as children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the Kindergarten program. • Require a combination of services which are individually planned. • Have an identified specific disability or developmental delay. 	The child is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed as having delays in 2 or more areas and is declared eligible for a second year of 4 year old Kindergarten. • Approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS) Package, or • Referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) - Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) - Preschool Field Officer (PSFO), or - Maternal child Health (MCH) nurse • Holds a Child Disability Health Care Card
Children requiring a funded year of Kinder prior to attending school.	

Please note: As recommended by the Protecting Victoria’s Vulnerable Children Inquiry (2012) and endorsed by the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, children with identified vulnerabilities will be prioritised when allocating kindergarten places. *See above table.*

Two Kindergarten places will be held until a date later in the year of enrolment for high priority children. If the places have not been filled by the date chosen then the next two children on the application list will be offered places.

Rutherglen Kindergarten will further prioritise access as listed below:

- Current 3 year olds who will attend 4 year old Kinder the following year providing the Expression of Interest form is fully complete with the designated fee paid prior to the advertised completion date.
- Children who turn four years of age by 30th April in the year they will attend kindergarten; or
- Children who turn three years of age by 30th April in the year they will attend kindergarten
- Indigo shire residents
- Date of return of fully completed Expression of Interest form with the designated application fee paid

PROCESS FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR

- Rutherglen Kindergarten will advertise when Expression of Interest packs are available mid-year.
- Families will contact Rutherglen Kindergarten to obtain Expression of Interest forms. This is not a guarantee of a place.