

## Glenelg Shire Council Children's Services Priority of Access

Information extracted and sources from The Kindergarten Guide 2023 (Department of Education and Training)

### Managing access to kindergarten places

Multiple rounds of kindergarten enrolments will be offered by Glenelg Shire Council

- The first round is for existing families over a two-week period (Children who are eligible for a kindergarten program over a 2 year period will be allocated in round 2)
- The second round is for all families in the community.
- The third round remains open until the start of the Kindergarten year.

In instances where more eligible children apply for a place at a kindergarten service than there are places available, services must:

- prioritise children based on the criteria listed below
- In mixed-aged groups the Priority of Access guidelines equally prioritise three and four-year-old children considered vulnerable under the policy
- work with other local kindergarten services and the regional Department office to ensure all eligible children have access to a kindergarten place.

The allocation of kindergarten placements at Glenelg Shire Council will be offered to children based on the following priority:

| <b>High priority children</b>  | <b>Process that could be used to verify need(s)</b>  |
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| Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care | <p>The child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attending a three-year-old kindergarten program through Early Start Kindergarten or Access to Early Learning, or is</li> </ul> <p>referred by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection</li> <li>• Child and family services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST /integrated family services/Service Connect case worker,)</li> <li>• Maternal and Child Health nurse, or</li> <li>• Out-of-Home Care provider</li> </ul> |
| Aboriginal and/or Torres   | As part of the enrolment process, service providers must respectfully ask families "is your child  |

| <b>High priority children</b>  | <b>Process that could be used to verify need(s)</b>  |
|--|--|
| Strait Islander children   | Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?"   |
| Asylum seeker and refugee children   | An appropriate visa that identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker   |
| Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A child or parents holds a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran's Affairs Card or</li> <li>• multiple birth children (triplets, quadruplets)</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Children with additional needs, defined as children who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• require additional assistance in order to fully participate in the kindergarten program</li> <li>• require a combination of services which are individually planned</li> <li>• have an identified specific disability or developmental delay</li> </ul> | <p>The child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second funded year of kindergarten</li> <li>• holds a Child Disability Health Care Card</li> <li>• has previously been approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Package, or referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ the National Disability Insurance Scheme</li> <li>➤ Early Childhood Intervention Service</li> <li>➤ Preschool Field Officer, or</li> <li>➤ Maternal and Child Health nurse</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

After the priority of access guidelines have been assessed and there are more eligible children seeking a place at a kindergarten service than there are places available, children will be prioritised based on the following Glenelg Shire Council's additional criteria:

1. Children who are only eligible for the kindergarten program in the current year
2. Demonstrable link to the service
  - The child is currently attending the service
  - A sibling currently attends the service or has within the past five years
3. Working families
4. Residential proximity to the service (using Google maps)