

# **PRIORITY OF ACCESS**

## **Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities**

### **AIM**

Beacon Hill Community Kindergarten (BHCK) aims to provide fair and equitable entry to children from the local community. This priority of access document reflects the access guidelines for state funded preschools as defined by the NSW State Government Funding Agreement that provides funds to our service.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

As set out in the Start Strong Guidelines for Community Preschools: Priority of Access document, BHCK will ensure priority is given to children and families that meet the following criteria:

- Children in their year before school (being at least 4 years old on or before 31 July in the year of pre-school enrolment) in order of their registration on the wait list
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children (being at least 3 years old on or before 31 July in the year of preschool enrolment)
- Children from Low Income families (being at least 3 years old on or before 31 July in the year of preschool enrolment)
- Children with a diagnosed additional need (being at least 3 years old on or before 31 July in the year of preschool enrolment)
- Children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- Children with additional needs
- Children who are at risk

There is no order of priority assigned to the list above. Priority must be given to these groups before any other groups including non-equity three year olds (Children who are not of preschool age but whose parents wish to access 2 years of preschool attendance and they turn 4 after 31 July).

### **EXPLANATIONS**

Places for non-equity 3 year olds are only offered if the wait list is exhausted of all children who meet the Priority of Access Guidelines under Start Strong, with priority given to children in the year before school and children in greatest need.

Fees for children in this category will be higher than those of eligible children. To support the ongoing prioritisation of this category, under the 2020 funding arrangement subsidies for children who are not of preschool age but whose parents wish to access 2 years of preschool and they turn 4 after 31 July will be set at a proportion of the equivalent year before school base rate. This funding will be escalated until 2022.

A Low Income Health Care/Concession Card is provided by the Commonwealth Government to those with incomes below a certain level. If needed other proof of income (such as a tax return) can be assessed for eligibility. Not all Health Care Cards are evidence of low income.

## **LINKS TO POLICIES**

Enrolment and Orientation  
Fee Policy

## **SOURCES**

Start Strong Guide lines for Community Preschools-

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/grants-and-funded-programs/start-strong/start-strong-guidelines>