



Outside School Care NT

OSC-NT.22 – Priority of Access Policy

Policy Description	This policy outlines the Australian Government “ Priority of access’ guidelines that as a child care benefit approved provider we must comply with.
1.0 What is “Priority of Access”?	<p>Sometimes, there may be a waiting list for child care services and to ensure the system is fair, the Australian Government has “Priority of Access Guidelines” for allocating places in these circumstances. The guidelines only apply to Child Care Benefit approved child care. They are used when there is a waiting list for a child care service’ or when a number of parents are applying for a limited number of vacant places.</p> <p>Every Child Care Benefit approved child care service has to abide by the guidelines and inform families about them when enrolling children into care.</p>
1.1 Priority one (1)	First Priority: a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect and of aboriginal status
1.2 Priority two (2)	Second Priority: 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'
1.3 Priority three (3)	Third Priority: any other child
1.4 Other priority	<p>Within these main categories priority should also be given to the following children:</p> <p>Children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families</p> <p>Children in families which include a disabled person</p> <p>Children in families which include an individual whose adjusted taxable income does not exceed the lower income threshold of \$41,902 for 2013-2014, or who or whose partner are on income support</p> <p>Children in families from a non-English speaking background</p> <p>Children in socially isolated families</p> <p>Children of single parents.</p>
2.0 What may happen with priority of access	<p>If an OSC NT service reaches maximum capacity operating limits in terms of children attending on a daily basis – priority may be given to families with children that rank higher in terms of the priority of access.</p> <p>This may mean that:</p> <p>A child care service may require a Priority three (3) child to vacate a place to make room for a child with a higher priority.</p> <p>We can only do so if :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The parent/guardians is notified when the child first entered care that the service follows this policy AND - The parent/guardian is given at least fourteen (14) days notice of the need for the child to vacate.

Related Policy and Procedures, Forms and Checklists:	Enrolement form
Specific Information for Parents:	Enrolement form
Sources/References:	1. http://education.gov.au/priority-allocating-places
Version Control/Updates:	<p>Version: 2.0 December 2013</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: June 2014</p> <p>Version: 3.0 June 2014</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: June 2015</p> <p>Version: 4.0 June 2015</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: June 2016</p> <p>Version: 5.0 July 2016</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: July 2017</p> <p>Version: 6.0 November 2017</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: November 2018</p>

