

Priority of Access (PoA) Criteria

Last updated Feb 2019

Commonwealth and State Government - Priority of Access Criteria	Long Day Care (LDC)	4 year old Kindergarten	3 year old Program
Vulnerability – the child is referred and the vulnerability identified by Child Protection, Child and Family Services (family services and support team, Child FIRST/Integrated family services/Services Connect case worker), Maternal and Child Health nurse, or Out-of-Home Care provider.	✓	✓	✓
Children in Out of Home Care - placement of children away from their parents (i.e. foster care, permanent care or kinship care)	✓	✓	✓
Children with High Support Needs	✓	✓	✓
Single parent who satisfies or parents who both satisfy the work/training/study test under Section 14 of the 'A New Tax System (Family Assistance)	✓	N/A	N/A
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – the child is identified by a parent, carer or legal guardian as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.	✓	✓	✓
Disability in Family	✓	✓	✓
Subsidy Card Holders – the child individually holds or has a parent who holds a valid Commonwealth Health Care Card, Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card or Veteran's Affairs Gold or White Card and multiple birth children (triplets or more as identified on their birth certificate)	✓	✓	✓
Refugee or Asylum Seeker Families – an appropriate visa that identifies the child and/or parents as a refugee or asylum seeker.	✓	✓	✓
Single Parent	✓	✓	✓
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background (CALD)	✓	✓	✓
Approved 2nd year Kindergarten	N/A	✓	✓
Local Area Criteria			
Maribyrnong residents – child's primary residence	✓	✓	✓
Non-resident with municipal link – parents or guardians working, studying and/or use informal child care for three or more days a week in the City of Maribyrnong.	✓	✓	✓
Sibling of a child currently enrolled and attending a LDC service. This is to promote continuity of work related needs within families. All siblings must be registered in CRS.	✓	N/A	N/A
A child currently enrolled and attending a long day care service with integrated or sessional kindergarten program, is given priority at the same service and must be registered for kindergarten.	N/A	✓	N/A
A child registered for a 3 year old program in the same year as a sibling placed in 4 year old kindergarten, is given priority at the same service.	N/A	✓	✓
A child placed and attending a 3 year old program with the same service as first preference for 4 year old kindergarten, is given priority into the 4 year old kindergarten program (must be residents).	N/A	✓ (only if placed and attending 3 year old program)	N/A

Notes

Vulnerability – children are vulnerable if the capacity of parents and family to effectively care, protect and provide for their long term development and wellbeing is limited*.

Some factors, which may contribute to a child being vulnerable, include:

- Living in a family with low income or one which is experiencing problems with housing, domestic violence, substance abuse or mental health; history of family violence or parental history of abuse and neglect
- Having a young or single parent
- A parent with a disability
- Child experiencing period of vulnerability at different stages of their life depending on changing family circumstances

*Victorian Government, *Victoria's Vulnerable Children – Our Shared Responsibility Strategy 2013-2022, May 2013*

High Support/Additional Needs refers to children that:

- Require additional assistance in order to fully participate in an early childhood program
- Require a combination of services which are individually planned
- Have a complex medical condition, an identified specific disability or developmental delay

The child:

- Is assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second funded year in kindergarten
- Holds a Child Disability Health Care Card
- Has previously been approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Package or referred by the National Disability Insurance Scheme, an Early Childhood intervention Service, the Preschool Field Officer or the Maternal and Child Health nurse

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander - Parents, carers or legal guardians who identify a child as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander do not need to provide verification of this.

Disability in Family

Priority is provided to children of families that include a person with disability. That means there is:

- Significant risk of serious injury to self or others
- Extremely restricted capacity for movement
- Exceptional support needs that require immediate medical intervention for life threatening situations

Refugee or Asylum Seeker Families - The child individually holds or has a parent or guardian who holds one of the following visas:

- Refugee visa (subclass 200)
- In-country Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 201)
- Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202)
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa (subclass 786)
- Protection visa (subclass 866)
- Emergency Rescue visa (subclass 203)
- Woman at risk visa (subclass 204)
- Bridging visas A-E

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background (CALD) - Children of families with demonstrated support needs, without extended family to assist with settlement, require support to understand the Education and Care service system (access to cultural outreach sessions), language barrier (interpreter service).