

# PRIORITY OF ACCESS

## ATTACHMENT 2



### CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT SCHEME AND PRIORITY OF ACCESS GUIDELINE

## Child, Youth & Family

### Introduction

The Priority of Access (PoA) criteria are developed by the Department of Education and support kindergarten services to prioritise enrolment for children where there are more applications than places available.

### 2026 Priority of Access

Below are the Department of Education's PoA eligibility and evidence requirements for 2026 enrolment.

High priority children	Verification
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care	<p>Eligible for Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) or Access to Early Learning (AEL), known to Child Protection or in out-of-home care (currently or in the past), referred by one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection.</li> <li>• Child and Family Services provider (family service referral and support team, Child FIRST/Integrated family services/Services Connect case worker).</li> <li>• The Orange Door.</li> <li>• Maternal and Child Health Nurse.</li> <li>• Out-of-home Care provider.</li> </ul>
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children	Children who have been identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
Asylum seeker and refugee children or family	<p>Child or family holding or have held a visa as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee visa (subclass 200).</li> <li>• In-country Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 201).</li> <li>• Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202).</li> <li>• Emergency Rescue visa (subclass 203).</li> <li>• A Woman at Risk visa (subclass 204).</li> <li>• Humanitarian Stay visa (subclass 449).</li> <li>• Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785).</li> <li>• Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa (subclass 786).</li> <li>• Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790).</li> <li>• Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851).</li> <li>• Protection visa (subclass 866).</li> <li>• A Bridging visa (and is in the process of applying for one of the above Refugee or Humanitarian visas).</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current or expired ImmiCard; or</li> <li>• An approved exemption from the Department.</li> </ul>
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	<p>A child or parent holds one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Commonwealth Health Care Card.</li> <li>• A Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card.</li> <li>• A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card; or</li> <li>• Has multiple birth children (triplets, quadruplets).</li> </ul>
<p>Children with additional needs defined as those 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>• Holds a Child Disability Health Care Card.</li> <li>• Has previously been approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS) program.</li> <li>• Has been referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).</li> <li>• Early Childhood Intervention Services.</li> <li>• Preschool Field Officer.</li> <li>• Maternal and Child Health nurse.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is assessed as having delays in 2 or more areas and is declared eligible for a second year of funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.</li> </ul>

Below are the City of Casey's Local Criteria for 2026 registration.

City of Casey Local Criteria	Verification
Children who are in receipt of a second year of three or four-year-old kindergarten funding.	KEP team have received an Additional Year of Funding declaration from the Kindergarten Educator.
Children of City of Casey residents or ratepayers.	Future residents need to provide the address to which they are moving to.
Attending one of the funded three-year-old kindergartens listed under the City of Casey Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme (CRES).	CRES database.

### 2027 Priority of Access

The Department of Education's [new PoA](#) eligibility and evidence requirements will impact 2027 enrolments. In 2027 a tiered approach has been introduced, where Tier 1 will benefit children who need improved access and participation in a kindergarten program, and Tier 2 is for children currently attending the service. Tier 2 criteria is applied after all Tier 1 children are placed.

High priority children	Criteria and processes for verifying needs
<b>TIER 1</b>	
Children accessing an additional year of Three- and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten or Pre-Prep.	Children assessed with delays in two or more areas and are identified as eligible for an additional year of funded Three-Year-Old kindergarten, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten or Pre-Prep.

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<p>Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The child is eligible for Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) or Access to Early Learning (AEL), and/or,</li> <li>• The family, carer or legal guardian identifies the child as known to or having had contact (current or in the past) with Child Protection or in Out-of-Home Care and/or,</li> <li>• The parent or carer or child is experiencing family violence and/or has had contact with The Orange Door and/or,</li> <li>• The child or family has previously accessed Flexible Support Packages and/or,</li> </ul> <p>The child or family is referred by one of the following dueto being at risk of abuse or neglect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child and family services organisations.</li> <li>• Child Protection</li> <li>• Maternal and Child Health nurse (MCH).</li> <li>• Out of Home Care provider.</li> </ul>
<p>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children.</p>	<p>Children who have been identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.</p>
<p>Asylum seeker and refugee children or family.</p>	<p>Child or family holding or held a visa as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee visa (subclass 200).</li> <li>• In-country Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 201).</li> <li>• Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202).</li> <li>• Emergency Rescue visa (subclass 203).</li> <li>• A Woman at Risk visa (subclass 204).</li> <li>• Humanitarian Stay visa (subclass 449).</li> <li>• Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785).</li> <li>• Temporary Humanitarian Concern via (subclass 786).</li> <li>• Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790).</li> <li>• Resolution of Status visa (subclass 851).</li> <li>• Protection visa (subclass 866).</li> <li>• A Bridging visa (and is in the process of applying for one of the above Refugee or Humanitarian visas).</li> <li>• Current or expired ImmiCard; or</li> <li>• An approved exemption from the Department.</li> </ul>
<p>Children and/or families holding concession cards.</p>	<p>A child or parent holds one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Commonwealth Health Care Card.</li> <li>• A Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card.</li> <li>• A Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card.</li> </ul>
<p>Children from families with multiple births.</p>	<p>Multiple birth children (i.e. triplets or quadruplets).</p>
<p>Children and/or families with additional needs who require additional assistance to fully participate in the kindergarten program.</p>	<p>Families will need to provide one of the following supporting documents:</p> <p><b>The child:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan or support letter from a medical practitioner or specialist confirming the child is undergoing a continuing assessment of a disability under the NDIS.</li> <li>• Diagnosed with a disability or developmental delay, or undergoing diagnosis (supported by a letter from a specialist or medical practitioner).</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presents with developmental concerns that present barriers to accessing a kindergarten program (supported by a letter or other evidence from a MCH nurse, Pre-School Field Officer, or allied health practitioner).</li> <li>• Referred for an Early Childhood Intervention Service Continuity of Support Program (ECIS COC).</li> <li>• Previously accessed KIS (Kindergarten Inclusion Support), or CIS (Commonwealth Inclusion Support) program.</li> <li>• Disability Health Care Card.</li> </ul> <p>For children with significant health, disability-related or a complex medical condition that requires multiple supports and additional assistance to fully participate in the kindergarten program (including ongoing care, treatment or support). <b>Families will need to provide a referral letter from one of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical practitioner</li> <li>• Allied health professional</li> </ul> <p><b>For Parents/Carers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan or support letter from a specialist or medical practitioner showing that you are undergoing a continuing assessment of a disability under the NDIS</li> <li>• Disability Health Care Card</li> </ul> <p>For parents, foster carers, or kinship carers who have significant health, disability-related or a complex medical condition that requires multiple supports and additional assistance for the child to fully participate in the kindergarten program (including ongoing care, treatment or support) <b>Families will need to provide a referral letter from one of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialist</li> <li>• Psychologist</li> <li>• Psychiatrist</li> <li>• Medical practitioner</li> <li>• Allied health professional</li> </ul>
<p><b>TIER 2</b></p>	
<p>Children currently attending the Service.</p>	<p>Children attending the service in the three-year-old Kindergarten program and seeking to access four-year-old Kindergarten or Pre-Prep at the same service for continuity of learning.</p> <p>Priority should be given to these children to remain at the same service for their Four-Year-Old Kindergarten or Pre-Prep year to ensure continuity of learning.</p>

Below are the City of Casey's Local Criteria for 2027 registration.

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City of Casey Local Criteria 2027	Verification
Children who have the closest kindergarten to the family residence listed as their first preference.	The CRES database will calculate the closest service by checking the the child’s address and comparing this to the addresses of all the services, this is then compared to the 1 <sup>st</sup> preference of the child.
Children who previously attended or are currently attending a City of Casey CRES 3-year old kindergarten program and looking to access a different service for their 4-year-old kindergarten	Attendance at a three-year-old program confirmed via the CRES database.
Children of City of Casey residents or ratepayers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of City of Casey rates notice, or</li> <li>• Rental agreement, or</li> <li>• Utilities bill (within 3 months) such as gas, water, or electricity, or</li> <li>• Current Driver’s License, or</li> <li>• Current Concession Card.</li> </ul>

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