



ENROLMENT AND ORIENTATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES – 2021 FREE KINDERGARTEN

Mandatory – Quality Area 6

PURPOSE

This policy outlines:

- the criteria for enrolment at Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.
- the process to be followed when enrolling a child at Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.
- requirements in relation to No Jab No Play
- the basis on which places within the programs will be allocated
- procedures for the orientation of new families and children into Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.
- processes to ensure compliance with legislative and 2021 Free Kindergarten initiative in relation to the enrolment of children in early childhood education and care services.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc. is committed to:

- equal access for all eligible children
- meeting the needs of the local community
- supporting families to meet the requirements for enrolment through the provision of information
- maintaining confidentiality in relation to all information provided for enrolment
- ensuring all families are welcomed and receive an effective orientation into the service.
- supporting the Victorian Government's 2021 Free Kindergarten initiative

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management and Control, Nominated Supervisor, early childhood teachers, Persons in Day to Day Charge, educators, staff and parents/guardians who wish to enrol or have already enrolled their child at Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

The *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* require approved services to have a policy and procedures in place in relation to enrolment and orientation (Regulation 168(2) (k)).

In response to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Victorian Government is investing up to \$169.6 million in early childhood education by providing free kindergarten to each enrolled child participating in a funded kindergarten program in 2021. This includes all children attending funded kindergarten programs in the year before school (four-year-old kindergarten) and services offering funded three-year-old kindergarten. The initiative also includes reduced fees for children enrolled in a

funded kindergarten program in a long day care centre and for children attending unfunded three-year-old programs in sessional kindergarten services.

Where demand is higher than availability, Approved Provider's must adhere to their eligibility and priority of access criteria (refer to *Definitions* and *Attachment 1*) in order to allocate the available places. The criteria used to determine the allocation of places takes account of the requirements set out in *The Kindergarten Funding Guide* (refer to *Sources*), the service's purpose/philosophy, values and beliefs, and the provisions of the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. The Victorian Government requires funded organisations to ensure that their policies and procedures promote equal opportunity for all children. Services participating in central enrolment schemes are required to comply with the enrolment procedures of that scheme.

Child care services providing approved childcare (refer to *Definitions*) must abide by the *Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for families childcare package) Act 2017* (refer to *Legislation and standards*) and the Commonwealth Government's *Priority for allocating places in child care services* (refer to *Sources*).

Immunisations are an effective means of reducing the risk of vaccine preventable diseases. Early childhood education and care services which are regulated under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* and *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011* have legislative responsibilities under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* to only offer a confirmed place in their programs to children with an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement (refer to *Definitions*). To meet the Child Care Subsidy immunisation requirements, children must be immunised according to the National Immunisation Program Schedule (refer to *Sources*) set out by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic)
- *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic)
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic)
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth)
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 160, 161, 162, 168, 170, 171, 177, 181, 183
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic)
- *Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Jobs for Families Child Care Package) Act 2017*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with Families and Communities*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic)
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019* (Vic)
- *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth)

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) Immunisation History Statement: is the only form of acceptable evidence of immunisation. The AIR is a national register administered by Medicare that records all vaccinations given in Australia, including to children. Parents/carers must provide a copy of

their most recent AIR Immunisation History Statement, which shows that the child is up to date with their immunisations upon enrolment and when a child has received or been due to receive a vaccination while attending the service. In the case of medical contraindication, an authorised medical practitioner completes and signs a Medical Exemption Form and supplies it to the AIR. In order to confirm enrolment, the Immunisation History Statement must show the child is up to date with the vaccines they can have, medical contraindication and indicate the due date for the next vaccinations the child is able to receive in the future if applicable.

Approved child care providers: providers that operate services that have Australian Government approval to receive Child Care Subsidy (refer to Definitions) on behalf of eligible parents. Approved child care providers include centre-based day care, including long day care and occasional care, family day care, outside school hours care and in-home care.

Authorised nominee: (In relation to this policy) is a person who has been given written authority by the parents/guardians of a child to collect that child from the education and care service. These details will be on the child's enrolment form.

The National Law and National Regulations do not specify a minimum age limit for an authorised nominee. Each service will need to consider a risk assessment on an individual basis to determine if a person under the age of 18 is able to be an authorised nominee and, if so, what constitutes the minimum acceptable age at that service.

Child Care Subsidy (CCS): A Commonwealth Government means tested subsidy to assist eligible families with the cost of childcare. Payments are paid directly to approved childcare providers (refer to *Definitions*). Further information can be found at: <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-0>

Children with additional needs: Children whose development or physical condition requires specialist support or children who may need additional support due to language, cultural or economic circumstances (refer to *Inclusion and Equity Policy*).

Deferral: When a child does not attend in the 2021 when they are eligible for a funded kindergarten place or is officially withdrawn from a service prior to the April data collection. DET considers that this child has not accessed a year of funded kindergarten and is therefore not eligible for Victorian Government Free Kindergarten initiative in 2022

Eligible child: as defined by the Kindergarten Funding Guide; a child that is at least four years old on April 30th in the year of enrolment; enrolled for at least 15 hours per week or 600 hours per year in a 4-year-old program; and not enrolled at a funded kindergarten program at another service. Or a child that is at least three years old on April 30th in the year of enrolment and is enrolled in a funded 3-year-old kindergarten program. Any child that is enrolled in an early childhood and education and care service must have an AIR Immunisation History Statement that indicate that the child is fully vaccinated for their age or who qualify for the 16-weeks grace period.

Enrolment application fee: A payment to cover administrative costs associated with the processing of a child's enrolment application for a place in a program at the service, which is not applicable in 2021. Any application fee made prior to the commencement of Term One will be reimbursed to families.

Enrolment application form: A form to apply for a place at the service (see *Attachment 3: Sample Enrolment Application Form*)

Enrolment record: The collection of documents which contains information on each child as required under the National Regulations (Regulations 160, 161, 162) including but not limited to parent details; emergency contacts; authorised nominee; details of any court orders; and health information including immunisation status. Enrolment records are stored securely in the service due to their confidential nature.

Fees: A charge for program hours over and above the 15 funded hours per week (600 per year) and/or wrap around care.

Free Kindergarten 2021: Kindergarten programs for four-year-old and eligible three-year-old children in Victorian Government funded services will be free in 2021 as part of a \$169.6 million investment in early childhood education in the 2020/21 Victorian State Budget. Free Kinder forms part of the economic recovery support for Victorians as we recover from the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The initiative is for 2021 only.

Grace period: allows specific categories of children of families experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage to enrol and attend the service without an AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to *Definitions*) or when the statement is assessed as not being up-to-date. Services complete the grace period eligibility form with families during enrolment, and keep a copy with the child's enrolment record. The 16-week grace period starts on the first day of the child's attendance at the service. During the grace period, the service is required to take reasonable steps to obtain the AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to *Definitions*) and to encourage families to access immunisation services.

Priority of access: in instances where more eligible children apply for a place at a service than there are places available, the service must allocate spaces using the criteria outlined in *The Kindergarten Funding Guide (see Attachment 1: Eligibility and priority of access criteria for a 3 and 4-year-old funder kindergarten program)*, or if in receipt of the CCS, comply with the Commonwealth Government's policy for allocating places (see *Source*).

Vulnerable Children/Families: 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: a child with a disability; living in a family with a low income, or one which is experiencing problems with housing, domestic violence, known to Child Protection, Out of Home Care, substance abuse, or mental health; Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, having a culturally and linguistically diverse background; having a young or sole parent, or a parent with a disability (adapted from the *Kindergarten Funding Guide*)

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- Australian Childhood Immunisation Register: www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/australian-childhood-immunisation-register
- Australian Government Department of Health, *National Immunisation Program Schedule*: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-throughout-life/national-immunisation-program-schedule>
- Department of Health and Human Services, *Immunisation enrolment toolkit for early childhood education and care service*: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-children/no-jab-no-play/immunisation-enrolment-toolkit>
- *Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: www.acecqa.gov.au/
- *Guide to the National Quality Standard*: www.acecqa.gov.au/
- *Free Kinder 2021 – refer to Frequently Asked Questions at the bottom of the web page*: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/freekinder2021.asp>
- Priority of Access Guidelines for child care service: <https://www.dese.gov.au/uncategorised/resources/priority-access-guidelines-child-care-services>
- The Family Assistance Law as the basis for Commonwealth child care fee assistance including the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS): <https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-legislation>
- *The Kindergarten Funding Guide (Department of Education and Training)*: www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/kinderfundingcriteria.aspx
- Victorian Department of Health: www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Service policies

- *Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy*
- *Complaints and Grievances Policy*
- *Dealing with Infectious Disease Policy*
- *Free Kindergarten Fees Policy*
- *Inclusion and Equity Policy*
- *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider or Persons with Management and Control is responsible for:

- determining the criteria for priority of access to programs at Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc, based on funding requirements and the service's philosophy (refer also to Attachment 1 – Eligibility and priority of access criteria for 3 and 4-year-old funded kindergarten program)
- considering any barriers to access that may exist, developing procedures that ensure all eligible families are aware of, and are able to access, an early childhood program
- complying with the Inclusion and Equity Policy
- appointing a person to be responsible for the enrolment process and the day-to-day implementation of this policy (refer also to Attachment 2 – General enrolment procedures and Attachment 3 – Sample enrolment application form)
- providing opportunities (in consultation with the Nominated Supervisor and educators) for interested families to attend the service during operational hours to observe the program and become familiar with the service prior to their child commencing in the program
- providing parents/guardians with information about the requirements of the law for enrolment, locating and accessing immunisation services and obtaining the AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to Definitions) required for enrolment and Free Kindergarten initiative information
- ensuring parents/guardians are only offered a tentative place until the AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to Definitions) has been assessed as being acceptable or the child has been assessed as eligible for the grace period
- assessing the child's immunisation documentation as defined by the Immunisation Enrolment Toolkit for early childhood education and care services prior to enrolment to determine if the child's vaccination status complies with requirements or whether the child is eligible for the 16-week grace period (refer to Definitions)
- ensuring that only children whose AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to Definitions) has been assessed as being acceptable or who are eligible for the grace period (refer to Definitions) have a confirmed place in the program
- advising parents/guardians who do not have an AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to Definitions) and who are not eligible for the grace period that their children are not able to attend the service and referring them to immunisation services (see Attachment 4 – Letter for parents/guardians without acceptable immunisation documentation)
- taking reasonable steps to obtain an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to Definitions) from a parent/guardian of a child enrolled under a grace period within 16 weeks from when the child begins attending (Note: the child can continue to attend the service if acceptable immunisation documentation is not obtained).
- taking reasonable steps to obtain an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to Definitions) from all parents/guardians after enrolment, twice per calendar year, timing reminders to comply with the maximum seven-month interval (Public Health and Wellbeing Regulation 107, Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 Section 143E)
- ensuring that the enrolment record (refer to Definitions) complies with the requirements of Regulations 160, 161, 162 and that it effectively meets the management requirements of the service

- ensuring that enrolment records (refer to Definitions) are stored in a safe and secure place, and kept for three years after the last date on which the child was educated and cared for by the service (Regulation 183 (1a) (2d))
- ensuring that the orientation program and plans meet the individual needs of children and families, and comply with DET funding criteria
- reviewing the orientation processes for new families and children to ensure the objectives of this policy are met
- ensuring that parents/guardians of a child attending the service can enter the service premises at any time whilst the child is being educated and cared for, except where this may pose a risk to the safety of children or staff, or conflict with any duty of the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor or educators under the Law (Regulation 157).
- taking reasonable steps to contact non-attending families prior to the cancellation of their enrolment (refer to Attachment 5)

The Nominated Supervisor, Persons in Day to Day Charge and early childhood teachers are responsible for:

- reviewing enrolment applications to identify children with additional needs (refer to *Definitions* and the *Inclusion and Equity Policy*)
- responding to parent/guardian enquiries regarding their child's readiness for the program that they are considering enrolling their child in
- discussing the individual child's needs with parents/guardians and developing an orientation program to assist them to settle into the program
- encouraging parents/guardians to:
 - stay with their child as long as required during the settling in period
 - make contact with educators at the service, when required
- assisting parents/guardians to develop and maintain a routine for saying goodbye to their child
- sharing information with parents/guardians concerning their child's progress with regard to settling in to the service
- discussing support services for children with parents/guardians, where required.
- taking reasonable steps to contact non-attending families prior to the cancellation of their enrolment (refer to Attachment 5)

All educators are responsible for:

- responding to enrolment enquiries on a day-to-day basis and referring people to the person responsible for the enrolment process, as required
- providing parents/guardians with information about the requirements of the law for enrolment, locating and accessing immunisation services and obtaining AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to *Definitions*) required for enrolment
- developing strategies to assist new families to:
 - feel welcomed into the service
 - become familiar with service policies and procedures
 - share information about their family beliefs, values and culture
 - share their understanding of their child's strengths, interests, abilities and needs
 - discuss the values and expectations they hold in relation to their child's learning
- providing comfort and reassurance to children who are showing signs of distress when separating from family members
- complying with the service's *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* in relation to the collection and management of a child's enrolment information.

- making reasonable attempts to contact non-attending families (refer to Attachment 5) and consult with Nominated Supervisor of outcomes.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- reading and complying with this *Enrolment and Orientation Policy*
- completing the enrolment application form and the enrolment record prior to their child's commencement at the service and providing AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to *Definitions*) of their child's immunisation status
- where a child is eligible for the 16 weeks grace period, ensuring that the child's immunisations are updated in line with the schedule and providing an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement (refer to *Definitions*) to the service
- ensuring that all other required information is provided to the service
- updating information by notifying the service of any changes as they occur.
- notify Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc. in writing if they wish to cancel their enrolment.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Attachment 1 – Eligibility and priority of access criteria for 3 and 4-year-old funded kindergarten program
- Attachment 2: General enrolment procedures
- Attachment 3: Sample Enrolment Application Form
- Attachment 4: Letter for parents/guardians without acceptable immunisation documentation
- Attachment 5: Cancellation of enrolment and non-attendance

AUTHORISATION



SIGNED

Name: Sigrid Hyett, CEO, Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.

DET Approved Provider appointed person with management and control NSEYC

DOCUMENT CONTROL TABLE	
ACTION	DATE
Adopted	1 August 2013
Reviewed	13 August 2019
Reviewed	October 2020
Reviewed	April 2021
Next Review Date	October 2022

ATTACHMENT 1

Eligibility and priority of access criteria for a funded kindergarten 3 and 4-year-old program

The Approved provider must notify all families of the priority of access policy that applies when they enrol their child.

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 DET criteria listed below
- work with other local kindergarten services and the regional Department office to ensure all eligible children have access to a kindergarten place.

These criteria must be used by the Approved Provider when prioritising enrolments. Funding guidance is available from the Department's regional offices if required.

Service providers should build flexibility into their enrolment processes that consider the circumstances of families from priority groups.

If participating in a central enrolment scheme, the priority of access for that scheme will be implemented.

Services must first apply the DET's Priority of Access criteria, and following this may apply locally developed criteria, as per examples below.

DET's Priority of Access criteria	Process that could be used to verify need(s)
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children in Out-of-Home Care	The child is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending a three-year-old kindergarten program through Early Start Kindergarten* or Access to Early Learning, or is referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Child Protection – Child and family services (family services referral and support team, Child FIRST/integrated family services/Services Connect case worker) – Maternal and Child Health nurse, or – Out-of-Home Care provider
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the enrolment process, service providers must respectfully ask families 'is your child Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?' and record this information in KIM.
Children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child or parent holds a Commonwealth Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran's Affairs Card, or • Multiple birth children (triplets, quadruplets). • Asylum seekers and refugee children <p>Note: Free Kindergarten subsidy will be replaced by the 2021 Free Kindergarten initiative, however in regards to priority of access, the above still applies. Service providers should still collect this information and recorded this on the KIM system.</p>
Children with additional needs, defined as children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require additional assistance in order to fully 	The child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is assessed as having delays in two or more areas and is declared eligible for a second funded year of kindergarten • holds a Child Disability Health Care Card

<p>participate in the kindergarten program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require a combination of services which are individually planned • have an identified specific disability or developmental delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has previously been approved for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Package, or referred by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the National Disability Insurance Scheme – Early Childhood Intervention Service – Preschool Field Officer, or – Maternal and Child Health nurse.
<p>Examples to consider for second priority</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children who turn four years of age by 30 April in the year they will attend kindergarten; or • children who turn three years of age* by 30 April in the year they will attend kindergarten • children turning six years of age at kindergarten who have been granted an exemption from school-entry age requirements by the regional office of DET • children who have a sibling that has previously attended the same kindergarten as their first preference 	
<p>Examples to consider for third priority</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • service for transient families e.g. RAAF, seasonal workers and tourism workers • date of application • local community zoning 	

Note: DET's Priority of Access (POA) guidelines are to ensure that kindergarten programs are available to those children who stand to benefit the most from attending early education. In mixed age groups, POA guideline will equally prioritise three and four-year-old children that are considered vulnerable. Where programs for three- and four-year old children are provided separately, the POA criteria will be applied separately for each age cohort.

<p>* Early Start Kindergarten and Three-Year-Old Kindergarten</p>
<p>During the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) will continue to provide 15 hours a week of funded kindergarten for all eligible children up until 2029, when three-year-old children across the state will have access to 15 hours</p> <p>It is important to continue to enrol eligible children in ESK as this ensures that service providers receive all funding entitlements and that these children have access to 15 funded hours of kindergarten across Victoria. ESK enrolments contribute to School Readiness Funding (SRF) calculations for service providers. It also allows the Department to continue to monitor efforts to engage the most vulnerable children in kindergarten across Victoria and provide additional targeted support where required through SRF or Early Childhood LOOKOUT</p>

ATTACHMENT 2

General enrolment procedures for funded kindergartens programs

1. Application for a place

- Enrolment applications will be accepted any time after the child has turned 3 years of age.
- Enrolment application forms are available from the NSEYC office or the kindergarten for Dallas Brooks Primary School Kindergarten only. Enrolment applications for Meadows, Broadmeadows, Bethal and Upfield Kindergarten are managed through Hume City Council, central enrolment system. Enrolment applications for Bell Vue Park Kindergarten, Glenroy Central Kindergarten, Lorne Street Kindergarten, Will Will Rook Kindergarten, York Street Kindergarten and Moreland Kindergarten are managed through Moreland City Council webpage central enrolment system.
- Parents/guardians will obtain the child's enrolment forms from the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster which must be completed with information about the requirements of the law for enrolment, locating and accessing immunisation services, obtaining acceptable immunisation documentation and a copy of the *Enrolment and Orientation Policy*.
- Northern Schools Early Years Cluster will determine the date(s) by which applications must be received for offer of places in the three-year-old program. The relevant council will determine the date for all other funded kindergarten programs.
- A separate application form must be completed for each child, and for each proposed year of attendance at the service.
- To facilitate the inclusion of all children into the program, the enrolment application form should clearly identify any additional or specific needs of the child (refer to *Inclusion and Equity Policy*).
- Parents/guardians of children applying for a second year of funded kindergarten or currently attending a three-year-old program must also submit an enrolment application form for the following year.
- A copy of the child's birth certificate and proof of address must be submitted with all applications.
- All enrolment application forms must be accompanied by an enrolment application fee in line with Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Fees Policy of \$25.00 (for three year old kindergarten and Dallas Brooks Kindergarten only). This fee is to cover administrative costs associated with the processing of a child's enrolment application and is not refundable. This does not apply for children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy or Early Start Kindergarten.
- Completed enrolment application forms are to be forwarded to the enrolment officer who is the person responsible for the enrolment process at Northern Schools Early Years Cluster, at 208A Hilton Street, Glenroy, or through the relevant Council enrolment process.
- Access to completed enrolment application forms will be restricted to the person responsible for the enrolment process, the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and educators at the service, unless otherwise specified by the Approved Provider.
- Applications will be entered on the waiting list using the eligibility and priority of access criteria.
- Applications received after the above dates set by Council and Northern Schools Early Years Cluster will be considered if there are available places, and after all other applicants have been offered a place, in line with the eligibility and priority of access criteria of Northern Schools Early Years Cluster.

2. Offer of places

- Tentative places will be offered in writing to applicants in accordance with the eligibility and priority of access criteria of the service making clear that confirmation of places is not final until an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement has been received, assessed and found acceptable.
- Northern Schools Early Years Cluster requires parents/guardians who have been offered a tentative place to provide an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement for assessment two months prior to the child first attending the service in order that a confirmed place can be offered.

- The documentation is assessed as outlined in the *Immunisation enrolment toolkit for early childhood education and care services* by the person responsible for the enrolment process on behalf of the Approved Provider. The “Key dates work form for immunisation and enrolment” in the *Immunisation enrolment toolkit for early childhood education and care services* is used to determine the date at which immunisations must be up to date. The toolkit also provides guidance on assessing immunisation documentation to determine if a child is up to date or qualifies for an exemption. The following documents and resources can be accessed from <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au>:
 - The Immunisation enrolment toolkit for early childhood education and care services (search ‘Immunisation enrolment toolkit’)
 - The Key dates work form for Immunisation and enrolment (search ‘Key Dates work form’)
 - Hard copies of the immunisation resources (search ‘immunisation resources order form’)

- The acceptable outcomes of the assessment for offering a confirmed place are:
 - That the next due vaccine for the child on the AIR Immunisation History Statement is within the acceptable timeframe for an enrolment, or;
 - That the child has been assessed by Northern Schools Early Years Cluster as being eligible for a 16-week grace period
- The person responsible for the enrolment process advises the parent/guardian in writing whether a confirmed place is offered, and the enrolment can proceed.
- Parents/guardians who **do not** have an up to date AIR Immunisation History Statement and whose child is **not** eligible for the grace period cannot be offered a place and are referred to Australian Childhood Immunisation Register or to an immunisation provider (refer to Appendix 4 – Letter for parents/guardians who do not have acceptable immunisation documentation).
- Offer of places in the three-year-old program/s and the funded kindergarten program will be made at the same time.
- Parents/guardians who do not wish to accept the offer of a tentative or confirmed place, or intend to withdraw their enrolment, are requested to notify the Approved Provider, or the person responsible for managing the enrolment process at the service, in writing as soon as possible.
- An enrolment record and other relevant information will be provided by Northern Schools Early Years Cluster to the parent/guardian after a confirmed place has been accepted.

ATTACHMENT 3

Sample Enrolment Application Form

Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.

Four Years Old Funded Kindergarten Program

Complete this enrolment application form and:

- enclose a copy of the child's birth certificate or suitable evidence of the child's birth date
- enclose proof of address (e.g. copy of drivers licence, rates notice or electricity, gas or water bill)
- enclose the \$25.00 enrolment application fee, which is not refundable and covers administrative costs(for Dallas Brooks Kindergarten and 3 year old kindergarten only)
- forward the completed enrolment application form with attachments to the Enrolment Officer, Northern Schools Early Years Cluster, P.O Box 121 Glenroy 3046 or email to the Enrolment Officer at office@nseyc.org.au
- notify the service of any changes to your address or other relevant information by contacting the Enrolment Officer on 9306 1662.

Enrolment and immunisations

The Government's No Jab No Play laws requires children to be age-appropriately immunised before enrolment can be confirmed.

Parents/guardians offered tentative places will be asked to provide the AIR Immunisation History Statement to Northern Schools Early Years Cluster prior to their child attending the kindergarten .

Confirmation of places is finalised after the documentation has been assessed that the child is up to date or that the child has been assessed as being eligible for a 16 week grace period and the eligibility assessment form has been completed.

Further information on immunisation requirements for enrolment in early childhood services is available on the State Government's [Better Health Channel](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/no-jab-no-play) at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/campaigns/no-jab-no-play

This application is for my child to attend [Service Name] in [insert year] .

This application is for a second year of funded kindergarten Yes No

If yes, please attach a copy of the relevant paperwork.

[Delete this question if the application is for a three-year-old program]

Child's family name: _____

Child's given names: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ Male Female

Parents'/guardians' names: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone number: (Home) _____ (Business) _____ (Mob) _____

Language/s spoken at home: _____

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (For data collection only)

Please indicate if you are eligible for one of the following concessions, or meet one of the following criteria:

Health Care Card

Pensioner Concession Card

DVA Gold Card

DVA White Card

Bridging Visas A–F

Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visas 447, 451, 785 or 786

Resolution of Status Visa (RoS) Visa Class CD, Subclass 851

Refugee and Special Humanitarian Visas 200–217

Triplets or Quadruplets

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Children with additional needs

Does your child have additional needs? Yes No

If yes, please specify: _____

You are encouraged to discuss your child's needs with the educator when your child's place is confirmed.

Is your child registered with a specific support service/agency? Yes No

Name of support service/agency: _____

Additional information

Does your child have a medical condition? Yes No

If yes, please specify: _____

Do you acknowledge that your child's acceptance to [Service Name] is determined by the requirements of priority of access outlined in [Service Name]'s enrolment policy: Yes No

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT 4

Letter for parents/guardians without acceptable immunisation documentation

NSEYC Letter head

[Insert date]

Dear [insert name]

Re: Enrolment at [Service Name] for [insert year]

I am contacting you regarding your tentative place for [insert child's name] at [Service Name] in the [insert 3 year old or 4 year old program] in [insert year].

Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* early childhood education and care services cannot enrol a child unless the parent/guardian has provided AIR Immunisation History Statement.

AIR Immunisation History Statement includes evidence that your child:

- is fully vaccinated for their age; or
- has been assessed by our service as being eligible for a 16-week grace period.

As we have not received acceptable immunisation documentation for [insert name of child] by the due date, and your child is not eligible for the 16 week grace period, we are unable to confirm a place at our service for [insert year] and your child's name has been removed from our list.

Immunisation programs are effective in reducing the risk of vaccine preventable diseases. Immunisation from an early age helps protect your child against serious childhood infections. Further information about immunisations for your child is available from:

- your doctor
- [insert details of local government immunisation service]
- National Immunisation Information Line Tel. 1800 671 811
- Australian Immunisation Register:
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>
- Better Health Channel website: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/no-jab-no-play>

Should you wish to re-apply for a place for [insert child's name], we are happy to accept a new enrolment application accompanied by AIR History Statement. The new application would be considered in line with Northern Schools Early Years Cluster's Enrolment and Orientation policy.

Yours sincerely

Kirti Crute

Enrolment Officer

Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc.

[Insert name]

[Insert title]

[Service Name]

ATTACHMENT 5

Cancellation of enrolment and Non-attendance

Cancellation of Enrolment

Families MUST notify the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc. and/or the Enrolment Officer in writing of their intention to cancel their child's enrolment. Fees, will continue to be generated for that place until the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc is notified.

Note: This process does not apply to vulnerable children (refer to *Definitions*). Children and families that are experiencing vulnerability are to be supported according to their individual needs. Where children/families are linked to Child Protection and not attending; Educators will need to inform their Case Officer.

Non-attendance

- Term One

Families that have accepted a placement and have not completed an enrolment form and not attend the service within the first 4 weeks of Term One will be contacted and informed their placement has been cancelled.

- Families Traveling Overseas

Families are required to notify the Northern Schools Early Years Cluster Inc., prior to extended periods of travel, and ensure any applicable fees have been paid if they wish to return to the service.

- Non-contactable Families

- After one week of a child not attending the service, Educator to call the family. If there is no response, Educator to log this attempt and place in the child's file.

- After second week of the child not attending and the family has made no attempts to contact the service, Educator to contact the family via phone/text and/or email. If there is no response, Educator to log this attempt and place in the child's file.

- After third week of non-attendance, Educators to inform Nominated Supervisor and cross check families contact details.

- Nominated Supervisor or Approved Provider to email family, ensuring a response date is documented in the email.

- If the family have made no attempt to communicate with the service before the response date, post a final attempt letter, ensuring a response date is documented in the letter.

- If the family has not responded to the final attempt letter before the response date, their placement will be cancelled.