

2914/13

Guidelines for the Provision of DECD Preschool Associated Programs

Summary

This document offers guidance to sites that choose to offer individual children in the community an unfunded program in order to further the child's development, education, care and welfare.

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Related Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks	Preschool Enrolment Policy
Replaces	Version 1
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Policy Sponsor (Name/Position)	Helen Leo, Manager, Preschool Policy and Programs Unit
Executive Director Responsible (Name/Position/Office)	Trish Strachan, Executive Director, Office for Children and Young People
Applies to	All DECD staff and DECD grant funded preschool services
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REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision Description
April 2013	1	Approved
February 2015	2	Approved

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1. TITLE

Guidelines for the Provision of DECD Preschool Associated Programs.

2. PURPOSE

The Department for Education and Child Development is responsible for providing preschool education programs in a range of government funded centres including preschools, kindergartens, school-based preschools (previously known as child parent centres), integrated centres, children's centres for early childhood development and parenting. These centres provide sessional preschool for eligible children, and where possible, additional programs to support young children. Within existing staffing and physical resources, centres may deliver additional programs and activities (Associated Programs) to further the development, education, care and welfare of young children in the community.

3. SCOPE

All departmental staff and DECD grant funded preschool services.

4. GUIDELINE DETAIL

Associated programs may vary from site to site and should be determined by the site leader in consultation with the governing council, to suit the needs of a community and contribute to the objectives of the service, namely: To provide quality preschool education, programs and activities to further the development, learning, care, health and wellbeing of young children and their families.

The guiding principles in the provision of these services are:

- (a) *The rights and best interests of the child are paramount.*
- (b) *That children are successful, competent and capable learners.*
- (c) *The principles of equity, inclusion and diversity.*
- (d) *That Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued.*
- (e) *That the role of parents and families is respected and supported.*
- (f) *That best practice is expected.*

4.1. Associated programs:

- may be offered weekly, fortnightly, monthly or any combination that meets the communities' needs and utilises the available preschool staff contact time
- are not to incur any additional costs to the Department. Where, in the provision of a program, costs are incurred above the existing staffing, this cost is to be met through a parent contribution
- are to be evaluated regularly, in accordance with Departmental guidelines, by the site leader in consultation with the governing council to ensure that the associated program/s continue to meet the needs of the community.

Examples of associated programs include:

- parenting support; these may be delivered in partnership with other agencies
- transition program to school
- playgroup, including special interest programs for young children with additional needs
- pre-entry programs for vulnerable children.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Authority/Responsibility for
Executive Director, Office for Children and Young People	Approval of Guidelines
Director, Early Childhood Services	Endorsement of Guidelines
Preschool Policy and Programs	Evaluate and review policy
Site Leader	Responsible for the implementation of the Guidelines

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy is due to be reviewed in 2018. Stakeholders will be sought for feedback.

7. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Meaning
Departmental site	Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) site
Grant funded preschool services	Private preschool with grant funding agreement with DECD prior to 2000
School-based preschool	Preschool program delivered by a school under the leadership of the school principal (formerly known as child parent centres)
Preschool	An approved early childhood educational program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher to children in the year before they start schooling Preschools may also be referred to as kindergartens, school-based preschools (previously known as child parent centres), integrated centres, children's centres for early childhood development and parenting

8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

[DECD Preschool Enrolment Policy](#)

9. REFERENCES

APPENDIX