



Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
25 February 2022

Asked by Mr Davis on 25 February 2022 Mr Matthews took on notice the following question(s):

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In relation to:

Has there been any instance over the course of the last year where a student has been denied enrolment to a preschool program at either Charles Conder Primary or Gordon Primary that you are aware of?

Ms Berry MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

ACT public preschools do not have Priority Enrolment Areas (PEA) as all other ACT Public Schools do. Therefore, due to capacity issues at some sites, pre-schoolers are unable to be guaranteed a preschool place at their local school. Preschool enrolment applications are prioritised according to the following criteria:

1. Exceptional circumstances based on student wellbeing.
2. ACT-resident siblings of students concurrently enrolled in the primary school.
3. Children living within the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) of the associated primary school, up to the limits of available places.
4. Where there are not enough places for all children living in the PEA of the primary school, applications will be ranked by 'proximity', that is the distance that your child lives from the preschool. The distance is measured 'as the crow flies'.

2022 enrolments opened on 27 April 2021.

Every child who applied to Gordon preschool for 2022 has to date been offered a place at the school.

Charles Conder preschool was designated a 'high-demand preschool' for 2022, which means that only applicants living in the primary school's PEA, or who met criteria 1 or 2, were allocated to the school in the bulk preschool allocation round (27 April – 4 June 2021). The Education Directorate is aware that under this provision two children who applied to Charles Conder Primary School were instead allocated to their PEA school Gordon Primary School.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Date: 21/04/22

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Ms Yvette Berry