

FEES POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 7

Uniting Victoria and Tasmania Limited is the Approved Provider of children's services known in these policies as Uniting Early Learning.

Overarching Policy Statement:

The *Keeping Children Safe Policy* of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania (refer to *Sources*) is the overarching whole of church policy to be implemented by individuals and entities involved with or connected to the Uniting Church. All children who are involved in any of the Church's activities, events or programs have a right to feel and be safe. The Church is committed to provide safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained.

POLICY STATEMENT

Uniting Early Learning is committed to:

- providing responsible financial management of the service, including establishing fees that will result in a financially viable service, while keeping user fees at the lowest possible level;
- ensuring parents are informed of applicable fees and providing invoices in a timely manner, with a clear payment schedule;
- providing a fair and manageable system for dealing with non-payment and/or inability to pay fees/outstanding debts;
- advising users of the service about program funding, including government support and fees to be paid by parents;
- working with families experiencing financial barriers to accessing an early childhood program
- maintaining confidentiality in relation to the financial circumstances of parents;
- providing equitable access for families eligible for State Government subsidies such as the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy and Early Start, and Commonwealth Government Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR);

PURPOSE

This policy provides clear guidelines for:

- the setting, payment and collection of fees
- ensuring the viability of the service by setting appropriate fees and charges
- the equitable and non-discriminatory application of fees across the programs provided by Uniting Early Learning.

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURES RELATING TO THIS POLICY:

Uniting Early Learning is responsible for developing a fee policy that balances parents capacity to pay with providing a high-quality program and maintaining service viability. The service should assist families enrolling their children to understand the funding criteria and fee implications of each program. National Regulation 168 (2) (n) requires the service to provide all parents with a written

statement of fees upon enrolment of their child, and to ensure that the *Fees Policy* is readily accessible at the service.

Attachment 1 provides details of procedures and responsibilities.

The following attachments provide additional information:

- Attachment 2: Legislation and Sources
- Attachment 3: Fee information for families
- Attachment 4: Statement of Fees and Charges – Fee schedule – Four-year-old (funded) kindergarten program
- Attachment 5: Statement of Fees and Charges – Fee schedule – Three-year-old kindergarten program
- Attachment 6: Fee Payment Agreement – Four-year-old (funded) kindergarten program
- Attachment 7: Fee Payment Agreement – Three-year-old kindergarten program

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators and parents with an enrolled child, or who wish to enrol a child at the service.

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

The Education and Care Services National Regulations requires services to have a policy in place in relation to the payment of fees and provision of a statement of fees charged by the service (Regulation 168 (2) (n)).

The Department of Education and Training (DET) provides per capita funding as a contribution towards the costs of the four-year-old kindergarten program. Income from other sources, primarily fees, is required to meet all the additional costs incurred by the service in the delivery of the children's program. In addition the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (refer to *Definitions*) enables eligible children to attend the four-year-old kindergarten program at minimal or no cost.

DET also funds eligible three year old children who meet the criteria for vulnerable disadvantaged children where an earlier enrolment in quality education and care improves their learning and development outcomes. The *Kindergarten Guide* (refer to *Sources*).

DET requires that funded services have a comprehensive written fees policy in place, and the content of this policy must be communicated to families. All families must be informed of applicable term and annual fees at the time of enrolment. Services must also advise eligible families of the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy arrangements. The fees charged must comply with the *Kindergarten Fee Subsidy – Fees Policy* (refer to *Definitions*), and be responsive to the local community and the viability of the service. *The Kindergarten Guide* (refer to *Sources*) outlines the criteria to be covered in the policy.

Child Care Benefit (CCB – refer to *Definitions*) approved child care services have many obligations, including those under the family assistance law. The operator has a legal responsibility to:

- comply with the family assistance law (in particular, to reduce fees in accordance with amounts specified by the Department of Education)
- comply with the National Law and National Regulations and/or other applicable child care laws (for example, state or territory licensing laws)
- account for Australian Government funds
- ensure that the operator and their key personnel are suitable persons to operate a child care service
- comply with Australian Government child care funding agreements
- ensure the service remains financially viable and can meet its debts and other obligations as they fall due.

Legal obligations are set out in Australian Government and state/territory child care legislation, rules and funding agreements. Adherence to these conditions ensures that the service is operating in accordance with legislation and in a financially responsible manner.

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, particularly in relation to affordability, flexibility of payment options and procedures for the collection of fees
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- monitor the number of families/children excluded from the service because of their inability to pay fees
- 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 at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures (Regulation 172(2)).

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.

Approved care: Care given by a service provider that has been approved by the Department of Human Services to pass on Child Care Benefit as a reduction in child care fees. Most long day care, family day care, before-and-after school care, vacation care, some occasional care and some in-home care childcare services are approved providers. Details are available at:

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

Child Care Benefit (CCB): A Commonwealth Government payment to help families who use either approved or registered childcare. All eligible families can receive some Child Care Benefit. From January 2016 claims for CCB will not be approved unless the child is immunised, on an immunisation catch up schedule, or is exempt from the immunisation requirements. Children will no longer be exempt if their parents have registered an objection to the vaccination on the basis of personal or philosophical beliefs. Details are available at:

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

Child Care Rebate (CCR): A Commonwealth Government payment covering 50% of out of pocket child care expenses for approved child care, up to an annual limit per child, in addition to any other child care assistance. Eligibility will be affected if a child's immunisations are not up to date. Eligibility requirements and further details are available at:

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-rebate>

Early Start Kindergarten: A funding program that enables three-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children known to Child Protection to attend a kindergarten program that is planned and delivered by an early childhood teacher for a specific number of hours. Details are available at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/learningdev/Pages/default.aspx>

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.

Excursion/service event charge: An additional charge required to meet the cost of special events or excursions that occur in response to emerging children's program needs. Events that are planned ahead and are included as an expenditure item in the service's budget do not incur this additional charge (refer to *Excursions and Service Events Policy*).

Fees: A charge for a place within a program at the service.

Health Care Card: A Commonwealth Government entitlement providing concessions for low-income earners and other eligible people. Details are available at:

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/health-care-card

Kindergarten fee deposit: A charge to secure a place that has been offered in a program at the service. This is deducted from term fees.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS): A state government subsidy paid directly to the funded service to enable eligible families to attend a funded kindergarten program at no cost (or minimal cost) to promote participation. Details, eligibility requirements and a calculator, are available in *The Kindergarten Guide* (refer to *Sources*).

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy – Fees Policy: Provides operational guidelines for services administering the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy and can be found in *The Kindergarten Guide* (refer to *Sources*).

Late collection charge: A charge that may be imposed by the service when parents are late to collect their child/children from the program (refer to Attachment 1 – Fee information for families).

Registered care: Is care provided by individuals who are registered as carers with the Department of Human Services. It can include care provided by grandparents, relatives, friends, neighbours or nannies. In some cases, it can also include care provided by individuals in private preschools, kindergartens and some outside school hour services, including before and after school care, vacation care and holiday programs. An organisation that offers Child Care Benefit for approved child care, or is a budget-based funded or non-formula funded service, is not eligible to offer Child Care Benefit for registered care. Eligible families can receive some reimbursement of costs when using a registered care provider. Details are available at:

www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

Voluntary parent contribution: A voluntary payment for items not directly related to the provision of the children's program. Attendance at the service is not conditional on this payment.

Each Founding Agency Policy, Procedure, Practice Manual or Form continues to have effect on and after the Date of Establishment as Uniting to the extent that it is not inconsistent with a Uniting Level 1 & 2 Policy and until such time as Uniting replaces it.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by Uniting Victoria and Tasmania Limited on: **01/01/2017**.

Review date: September 2017

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- *Complaints and Grievances Policy*
 - *Delivery and Collection of Children Policy*
 - *Enrolment and Orientation Policy*
 - *Excursions and Service Events Policy*
 - *Inclusion and Equity Policy*
 - *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy*
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Attachment 1: Responsibilities relating to the Fees Policy

Action	Approved Provider	Nom'ated S'visor	Certified S'visor, Educator	Parents
Review the current budget to determine fee income requirements	x			
Develop a fee policy that balances the parent's capacity to pay with providing a high-quality program and maintaining service viability	x	x		
Implement and review this policy in consultation with all relevant parties, and in line with the requirements of service and funding agreements	x	x	x	x
Ensure that this policy is based on the principles of the <i>Kindergarten Fee Subsidy – Fees Policy</i> , CCB and CCR Guidelines (see <i>Definitions</i>)	x	x		
Consider any fee-related issues that may be a barrier to families enrolling at the service and work to remove these wherever possible; including considering options for payment when affordability is an issue for families	x	x		
Review the number of families experiencing financial hardship and the effectiveness of the procedures for late payment and support offered	x			
Clearly communicate this policy and payment options to families in a culturally-sensitive way, and in the family's first language where possible	x	x		
Provide all parents with a copy of the document containing fee information for families (refer to Attachment 3)	x	x		
Provide all parents with a statement of fees and charges (Regulation 168 (2) (n) upon enrolment of their child. Refer to samples in Attachments 4 and 5)	x	x		
Ensure that this <i>Fees Policy</i> is readily accessible at the service (Regulation 171)	x			
Provide all parents with a fee payment agreement (refer to samples in Attachments 5 and 6)	x	x		
Collect and receipt all fees	x			
Collect all relevant information and maintain relevant documentation regarding families with entitlements to concessions, where applicable	x	x		
Comply with the Centre's <i>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy</i> regarding financial and other information received, including in relation to the payment/non-	x	x		

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Action	Approved Provider	Nom'ated S'visor	Certified S'visor, Educator	Parents
payment of fees				
Notify parents at least 14 days prior of any proposed changes to the fees charged or the way in which the fees are collected (Regulation 172(2))	x			
Ensure a notice outlining fees charged by the service is displayed prominently in the main entrance.	x	x		
Inform the Approved Provider of any complaints or concerns that have been raised regarding fees at the service			x	
Refer parents questions in relation to this policy to the Approved Provider			x	
Assist the Approved Provider, as required, in sighting supporting documentation for access to the various Government subsidies.			x	
Read the service's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fee information for families</i> (refer to Attachment 3) • the Fee Payment Agreement (refer to Attachments 6 and 7) and • the Statement of Fees and Charges (refer to Attachments 4 and 5) 				x
Sign and comply with the Fee Payment Agreement (refer to Attachments 6 and 7)				x
Notify the Approved Provider if experiencing difficulties with the payment of fees				x
Provide the required documentation to enable the service to claim the various Government subsidies for eligible families (refer to Attachment 3 – Fee information for families)				x

ATTACHMENT 2: LEGISLATION AND SOURCES

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006* (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*: Regulation 168(2)(n)
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1995* (Vic)
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 7: Leadership and Service Management
 - Standard 7.3: Administrative systems enable the effective management of a quality service

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>
- Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/>

Sources

- Commonwealth and State service and funding agreements
- The constitution of the service
- *Keeping Children Safe Policy* of the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Approved June 2015:
<http://victasintranet/hr/Documents/Keeping%20Children%20Safe%20Policy.pdf>
- *The Kindergarten Guide*:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/kinderfundingcriteria.aspx>

ATTACHMENT 3

Fee information for families

[Click here to enter text.](#)

1. Why fees are necessary

The Department of Education and Training (DET) provides per capita funding as a contribution toward the costs of providing a four-year-old kindergarten program. Services meet the balance of costs through charging fees and fundraising activities.

DET provides a Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (see below) that enables children from eligible families to attend a four-year-old kindergarten program free of charge, or at a minimal cost.

DET also provides funding to assist eligible three-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children known to Child Protection, to access kindergarten programs.

Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) are available to assist eligible families with the cost of child care fees. There are other Commonwealth payments to assist families with child care including the *Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance*.

[Click here to enter text.](#) provides a range of support options to parents experiencing difficulty with payment of fees (see below).

For further information contact the service.

2. How fees are set

As part of the budget development process the service takes the following into account when setting fees for programs:

- the financial viability of the service
- the level of government funding provided for the program, including any subsidies and concessions
- the availability of other income sources, such as grants
- the fees charged by similar services in the area
- the capacity of parents to pay fees
- reasonable expenditure in meeting agreed program quality and standards
- requirements of State and Commonwealth Government service and funding agreements

Fees set for the year are only reviewed in extraordinary circumstances, for example, if attendance rates fall below the budget 'break even' point.

3. Other charges

Other charges levied by the service are included on the Statement of Fees and Charges. These may include:

- **Late collection charge:** The service reserves the right to implement a late collection charge when parents are frequently late in collecting a child from the service. This charge will be set at a level determined by the Parent Advisory Committee and the Approved Provider.

4. Statement of fees and charges

A statement of fees and charges for the program in which the child is enrolled will be provided to families on enrolment.

5. Fundraising

Fundraising activities are an additional way the service can raise funds for specific purposes. While participation in fundraising is voluntary, the support of every family is encouraged. Fundraising activities are also an opportunity for families and communities to come together.

6. Subsidies

6.1 Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (funded four-year-old programs only)

The Kindergarten Fee Subsidy is provided by DET and enables eligible children to attend kindergarten free of charge or at minimal cost. Eligibility conditions change from time-to-time; contact the service for further information.

Families who may be eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (four-year-old programs only) include those who are:

- Health Care Card holders
- Pensioner Concession Card holders
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card or White Card holders
- Refugee or Asylum Seeker visa (200-204 or 866)
- ImmiCard holders
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children
- triplets or quadruplets attending a funded kindergarten program in the same year.

Families or children with a humanitarian or refugee visa listed by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection which is not included in the above list, may still be eligible for the kindergarten fee subsidy. Contact the service for more information.

Supporting documentation must be sighted by the service on acceptance of a place or on commencement in the program. Families are eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy for the full term in which their concession is valid. Contact the service for further information.

6.2 Early Start Kindergarten fee subsidy

Three-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children known to Child Protection are eligible to attend a funded early childhood program that is planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher free of charge. The service receives funding for children who meet the eligibility criteria. Contact the service for further information.

6.3 Child Care Benefit (CCB)

A Commonwealth Government payment to help families who use either approved or registered childcare. All eligible families can receive some Child Care Benefit. From January 2016 claims for CCB will not be approved unless the child is immunised, on an immunisation catch up schedule, or is exempt from the immunisation requirements. Children will no longer be exempt if their parents have registered an objection to the vaccination on the basis of personal or philosophical beliefs. Details are available at: www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

6.4 Child Care Rebate (CCR)

A Commonwealth Government payment covering 50% of out of pocket child care expenses for approved child care, up to an annual limit per child, in addition to any other child care assistance. Eligibility will be affected if a child's immunisations are not up to date. Eligibility requirements and further details are available at: www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/child-care-benefit

7. Payment of fees

The service will regularly review payment options and procedures to ensure that they are inclusive and sensitive to families' cultural and financial situations.

Fees will be invoiced to parents directly and must be paid by the date indicated on the invoice. Each invoice will be accompanied by payment instructions.

Parents experiencing difficulty in paying fees are requested to contact the office to arrange a suitable alternative payment plan. The *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* of the service will be complied with at all times in relation to a family's financial/personal circumstances.

8. Unpaid fees

If fees are not paid by the due date, the following steps will be taken.

- An initial reminder will be given to parents, and will include information on a range of support options available for the family.
- Where payment is still not received, families will be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the range of support options available and establish a payment plan.
- Failure to attend the meeting and continued non-payment may result in a letter notifying parents that the child's place at the service may be withdrawn unless payment is made or a payment plan is entered into within a specified period of time. This letter will also include information on a range of support options available for the family.
- The service and will continue to offer support and will reserve the right to employ the services of a debt collector.
- If a decision is made to withdraw the child's place at the service, the parents will be provided with 14 days' notice in writing.

9. Refund of fees

If a family becomes eligible for a subsidy or concession, they are required to provide evidence of eligibility to the service for concession to be applied from the following Term.

There will be no refund of fees in the following circumstances:

- a child's short-term illness
- public holidays
- family holiday during operational times
- closure of the service for one or more days when a qualified educator is absent and a qualified reliever is not available
- closure of the service for staff training days
- closure of the service due to extreme and unavoidable circumstances.

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In addition, there will be no refund where a family chooses not to send their child to the program for the maximum number of hours for which they are enrolled.

10. Children turning three during the year of enrolment

Full payment from the first day of Term 1 is required if a place is to be reserved for a child in the three-year-old kindergarten program. Children can only commence the program when they have turned three.

11. Support services

Families experiencing financial hardship often require access to family support services. Information on these services is available from the service and a list can be supplied to those families who require it.

12. Notification of fee changes during the year

Fees set for the year would only be reviewed in extraordinary circumstances, for example, if attendance rates fall below the budget 'break even' point. Parents will be notified one term in advance of any required fee increase and will be offered the option to request a payment plan.

ATTACHMENT 4
Statement of Fees and Charges

Click here to enter text.

Fee schedule 2016

Four-year-old (funded) kindergarten

Hours: 15 hours per week

	Fees (\$)	Families eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy		
		Fees (\$)	Other charges (\$)	Total (\$)
Term 1				
Term 2				
Term 3				
Term 4				
Total				

Payment of fees

Invoices will be issued **the first week of each term** and must be paid by the due date.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

Families who are eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (refer to Fee information for families) will not be required to make fee payments.

Child Care Rebate (CCR)

For information on the Child Care Rebate, refer to Fee information for families.

Late collection charge

The Parent Advisory Committee and the Approved Provider reserves the right to implement a late collection charge when parents are frequently late in collecting a child (refer to Fee information for families).

Each Founding Agency Policy, Procedure, Practice Manual or Form continues to have effect on and after the Date of Establishment as Uniting to the extent that it is not inconsistent with a Uniting Level 1 & 2 Policy and until such time as Uniting replaces it.

ATTACHMENT 5 Statement of Fees and Charges

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Fee schedule 2016

Three-year-old kindergarten

Hours: 3 hours per week

	Fees (\$)
Term 1	
Term 2	
Term 3	
Term 4	
Total	

Payment of fees

Invoices will be issued **the first week of term** and must be paid by the due date.

Early Start Kindergarten fee subsidy

Families who are eligible for the Early Start Kindergarten fee subsidy (refer to Fee information for families) will not be required to make fee payments.

Child Care Rebate (CCR)

For information on the Child Care Rebate, refer to Fee information for families.

Children turning three during the year

Full payment from the first day of Term 1 is required if a place is to be reserved for a child in the three-year-old kindergarten program. Children can only commence the program when they have turned three.

Late collection charge

The Parent Advisory Committee and the Approved Provider reserves the right to implement a late collection charge when parents are frequently late in collecting a child (refer to Fee information for families).

ATTACHMENT 6 Fee Payment Agreement

2016-Four-year-old (funded) kindergarten program

Please complete this form and return to [Click here to enter text.](#) by [Date].

Fee payment contract

Child's full name: _____

Parent's/parent's full name: _____

- I/we acknowledge that the four-year-old kindergarten program is partly funded by the state government, with the balance of funds coming from fees paid by parents.
- I/we understand that I/we am/are entitled to obtain the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy if I/we meet one of the criteria below. If my/our eligibility lapses, then I/we understand that full payment of fees is required from the beginning of the following term.
- I/we agree to pay fees by the due date on the invoice.
- I/we understand that term fees are non-refundable.
- I/we acknowledge that if fees are not paid by the due date, the service will implement the late payment of fees procedures, as outlined in the *Fees Policy*, which could result in the withdrawal of my/our child's place at the service.
- I/we agree that if my/our financial circumstances change and I/we am/are unable to pay as agreed, I/we will immediately notify the service to discuss alternative payment options.
- I/we acknowledge that I/we have received and read the service's Fee information for families, which outlines the procedure for payment of fees.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

Please indicate if you are eligible for one of the following concessions:

Health Care Card

Pensioner Concession Card

DVA Gold Card or White Card

Refugee or Asylum Seeker visa (200-204 or 866)

ImmiCard

Triples or Quadruplets

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Supporting documentation will need to be sighted on commencement at [Click here to enter text.](#) by the enrolment officer or the [Click here to enter text.](#)

Note: the eligibility of concessions may vary from time-to-time. Up-to-date information can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/careankinder/funding/subsidy.htm

Signature (parent)

Date

Note: invoices, receipts and collection of fees will be in accordance with the service's *Fees Policy*.

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ATTACHMENT 7 Fee Payment Agreement

2016-Three-year-old kindergarten program

Please complete this form and return to [Click here to enter text.](#) by [Date].

Fee payment contract

Child's full name: _____

Parent's/parent's full name: _____

- I/we acknowledge that the three-year-old kindergarten is not funded by the state government and that the program cannot operate without receiving fees (the only exception is where a child is eligible for the Early Start Kindergarten fee subsidy – see below).
- I/we agree to pay fees by the due date on the invoice.
- I/we acknowledge that if fees are not paid by the due date, the Parent Advisory Committee and the Approved Provider will implement the late payment of fees procedures, as outlined in the *Fees Policy* which could result in the withdrawal of my/our child's place at the service.
- I/we understand that term fees are non-refundable.
- I/we agree that if my/our financial circumstances change and I/we am/are unable to pay as agreed, I/we will immediately notify the enrolment officer or the [Click here to enter text.](#) to discuss alternative payment options.
- I/we acknowledge that I/we have received and read the service's Fee information for families, which outlines the procedures for payment of fees.

Signature (parent)

Date

Note: invoices, receipts and collection of fees will be in accordance with the [Click here to enter text.](#) *Fees Policy*.

Early Start Kindergarten

Three-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children known to Child Protection are eligible to attend a funded early childhood program that is planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher free of charge. The service receives funding for children who meet the eligibility criteria. Contact the service for further information.