

Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions?

1. Why is there a change to the Wait List policy?

On December 14th Ironside Community After School Activities Group (ICASAG) will finish trading. Ironside State School P&C Association have applied to be the Approved Provider of the outside school hours care service (OSHC) at Ironside State School. The service approval for ICASAG will be transferred to the P&C Association and the new OSHC will be known as Ironside OSHC. All outside school hours care will be provided by the P&C from 17th December 2018.

Ironside OSHC will have a different Wait List policy to ICASAG. In formulating the Wait List policy for Ironside OSHC, the P&C has put heavy emphasis on ensuring government guidelines are met, being transparent and ensuring Ironside OSHC is open to the whole community. In developing this policy, the P&C did consult with ICASAG, Ironside State School and industry bodies.

2. If I have a permanent booking at ICASG for 2018, why am I not guaranteed to have a permanent booking at Ironside OSHC in 2019?

Ironside OSHC will have a different Wait List policy to the current ICASAG policy. The P&C has decided a full re-enrolment process is the fairest way to implement the new policy. This means when enrolling for 2019 all families will have to apply to enrol. Each application will be considered using the new Wait List policy. This means that some families that are high on the priority of access but do not currently have a permanent booking, may now have a permanent booking in 2019. It also means that those who are low on the priority of access and have a permanent booking in 2018 may not have a permanent booking in 2019.

If say the fourth priority group (refer to the Wait List policy for detail about who makes up the priority groups) is the group where families start going onto a wait list (initial analysis suggests the enrolment cut off will occur within the fourth priority group), then how quickly families get their Enrolment Application in will influence whether they receive a permanent booking. Following vigorous debate the P&C feel that this is the fairest approach to take with the adoption of the new policy.

3. What government guidelines were taken into consideration?

The P&C was primarily guided by the priority of access guidelines as set out by the Australian Government, Department of Education and Training in the Child Care Provider Handbook. In particular: "There are no mandatory requirements for filling vacancies, and providers can set their own policies for prioritising who receives a place. However, as vacancies in a service arise, providers are asked to consider prioritising children who are:

- at risk of serious abuse or neglect
- a child of a sole parent who satisfies, or parents who both satisfy, the activity test through paid employment.

This reflects the Australian Government's intention to help families who are most in need, and support the safety and wellbeing of children at risk in accordance with the [*Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009 -2020.*](#) "

<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-provider-handbook/other-matters-regarding-enrolment-and-allocation-child-care-places>

4. What Government guidelines were referred to arrive at the third priority group?

The third priority group is defined as Children of parents who both satisfy the CCS test through paid employment or study, have a CCS subsidy percentage of 77% or higher and have at least 100 CCS subsidised hours per fortnight. The intent of the third priority group is to give priority of access to families that satisfy the CCS test through paid employment or study, are in a lower income threshold and hours spent working or studying are in the higher threshold. The previous priority access guidelines provided by the government referred to an individual lower income threshold of \$45,114. This was used to arrive at the CCS subsidy percentage of 77% or higher (<https://www.education.gov.au/priority-filling-child-care-places>).

5. “If we’d known this was the direction the service would take we may not have voted to change service providers?”

The P&C were approached by ICASAG Chair in October 2017 to a request meeting to discuss the future of the service on the back of the parent volunteers serving as the ICASAG management committee for extended periods of time as they were often unable to find replacements. They had a tumultuous few years and with the lease coming up for renewal in late 2018 they realised it was a good time to transition the service to a different service provider. The P&C as per QLD DET policy is to be given the “first offer” to run the service otherwise it would go to commercial tender.

6. How are applications assessed against the priorities?

All completed applications to enrol will be assessed according to the Wait List Policy priority of access. Evidence of meeting the priority levels may be sought such as a CCS assessment notice as provided by Centrelink and/or confirmation from a social worker, State Welfare Department, doctor, court or intervention orders.

Inability to provide evidence will result in the application being moved to Priority 5.

7. When can I apply?

Applications for enrolment will open on Wednesday 10th October 2018 at 7am. Please DO NOT submit prior to this time as early submissions will not be accepted. We will be only accepting ELECTRONIC lodgement of the Enrolment Application Form to the designated email address.

8. What happens if my priority level changes?

A parent with a child enrolled in the service, or on the waiting list, is required to advise the service coordinator as soon as practical of a change in circumstances that could result in that child being classified under a different priority classification.

9. How many places are there in 2019?

There will be 55 places at Before School Care, 195 places at After School Care and 195 places for Vacation Care.

10. Why are there less places at before school care?

The Education and Care Services National legislation that guides outside school hours care requires 3.25 square metres per child for inside space. As the school hall is used every morning for its' extensive instrumental and choir programs it is not included in the useable indoor space. The space that is available before school for Ironside OSHC is calculated to meet the legislation and for the P&C approved service it will cater for 55 children in 2019.