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Policy for the provision of service to students in school time by private providers/agencies

Many parents are accessing funding for their children with disabilities through Disability Care Australia (formerly the National Disabilities Insurance Scheme).

As a result, parents may request that a service provider they engage work with a student in our school. DECD is developing a policy on managing the work of private providers in schools and pre-schools. In the interim there are some things we are requested to consider when making a decision about agreeing to this kind of service provision in our site.

Regardless of parent views or those of the agency or service, the decision to have them work in our site with a student or students is always made by the Principal, based on the assessment of the child's educational needs.

Funding for service provision by outside providers should not include DECD funds from a child's Disability Level of Support or from another DECD resource such as RAAP, Disabilities Supplementary Funding, Challenging Behaviours, or behaviour funds. These funds are allocated to support the school to engage the child successfully with the curriculum, or to meet specific learning and behaviour goals, and should not be diverted from this purpose.

Any service provided in school time should be directed towards assisting a child to engage successfully with, and meet the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. Therapeutic interventions that cannot demonstrate a clear link to this purpose are best undertaken outside of school time. Interventions provided by non DECD providers should not disadvantage a child's learning by reducing their access time to all areas of the curriculum. Kilparrin School meets the prescribed 1600 minutes of curriculum instruction per week.

Prior to a decision to agree to a designated service provision, the private provider will be required to provide a written copy of their program so that it can be assessed as to its effectiveness in meeting educational needs. Only after it is assessed as being suitable for the child in a school setting and after it has been formally approved by the Principal, will the following be actioned:

- Request to see a copy of the DECD Criminal History clearance and a Responding to Abuse and Neglect training certificate.
- Request a written copy of the program, showing links to the child's NEP/ILP curriculum goals if appropriate.
- Document a service agreement that states when, with whom, at what times, and for how long this service will be provided, and what facilities the site will provide. This agreement will be signed by the site leader, parent/carers and the service provider. A review date will be set to consider the effectiveness of the intervention and whether it is appropriate to continue.
- Agree to an interim period in the first instance.
- Session - Report

If you have any questions about this, please call the school and discuss with the Principal (or delegated member).

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