ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Principals can seek any information they consider to be of assistance in determining this issue. Such evidence may include council rate notices, accounts for electricity, gas or water, telephone bills, lease documents or electoral confirmation.

Can Principals insist on the provision of more than one document to establish a person's address? Yes.

What do I do if am living with someone but not in a position to provide a copy of any of the usual range of notices or accounts OR, the enrolment application indicates the student is living at an address which is different from the parents?

Sometimes people state they are living with others in circumstances where there are no formal lease arrangements in place. In these situations, Principals can ask the prospective student/parents for a statutory declaration in which the person confirms his or her residential address and that it is to be his or her place of residence during the school year.

Principals can also ask the parents and or student for a statutory declaration from the "landlord" confirming the arrangements that are in place and his or her understanding the person intends to reside there during the school year.

So long as the Principal is satisfied the information being provided is correct, the students place of residence is his or her "home" for the purposes of enrolment.

If someone provides information about where they live which subsequently proves to be false, can the enrolment be terminated?

The Application to Enrol in a NSW Government School (2nd edition) requires the applicant to declare the information provided is correct. It also makes it clear the provision of false information can result in the enrolment being reversed. Any decision to reverse an enrolment needs to take into account the specific circumstances of the matter.

The includes determining if the student was an "out of area enrolment" and whether acceptance of the enrolment application has resulted in the student gaining entry at the expense of other prospective students who may be on a waiting list. Any decision to reverse an enrolment in these circumstances should only be made with the approval of the relevant Executive Director.

Do any legal ramifications arise if a person provides false information in order to gain enrolment in a particular school?

If a person provides materially false or misleading information to a school when making an application for enrolment, this is an offence which has a penalty of up to 2 years imprisonment, $22,000 fine or both – section 3078 of the Crimes Act 1900.

If a person provides a statutory declaration he or she knows to be false, for the purpose of gaining entry to a school, he or she commits an offence which has the maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment- section 25A of the Oaths Act 1900.

If enrolling parents refuse to provide the Principal with information that is required to satisfy address or age or both of the prospective student can the enrolment be declined.

Yes in consultation with the Executive Director.

Can a student be enrolled in two schools at the same time?

There is nothing in the Education Act which prevents a student from being enrolled at two schools at the same time. If it is necessary for a student who is enrolled in a government school to temporarily attend another government school, the Principal of the second school should, in accordance with the policy, utilise the provisions of the short term attendance procedures.