



MODELS

# Delivering a 4 year old kindergarten program in a long day care

# Contents

Purpose of this guide.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Providing a kindergarten program.....	5
Integrated vs Sessional kindergarten programs.....	7
Integrated kindergarten programs.....	8
Sessional kindergarten programs.....	9
Low-income comparison.....	26
Conclusion.....	28

## Purpose of this guide

The purpose of this guide is to help you apply a four-year-old kindergarten program model that best suits your service and your families.

This booklet has been designed to be used along with the following additional ACA Victoria publications, available on the ACA Victoria website under Resources:

- ***Kindergarten Funding: Why Should I Apply?***
- ***Kindergarten Funding: How do I apply?***
- ***Kindergarten Funding: What Happens Next?***
- ***Kindergarten Funding: Early Start Kindergarten.***

***For up-to-date information, refer to the Department of Education's page on [kindergarten funding requirements](#).***

***For questions and ongoing support about funding requirements, call ACAV on (03) 9532 2017.***

# Introduction

Kindergarten funding allows you to improve the quality of your program and enhance educational opportunities for children. This, in turn, may allow you to retain high quality early childhood teachers at your service.

The Victorian Government is investing almost \$5 billion over ten years so that children across the state will have access to two years of funded kindergarten before school. The introduction of funded three-year-old kindergarten, providing two years of funded kindergarten gives you the opportunity to maximise the retention of families and children in the two years before school, enabling the children and families to experience continuity of care and education.

A funded kindergarten program can be an asset to your service, allowing children and families to combine the educational benefits with the convenience of the longer days and hours available in a long day care setting.

Research shows that an earlier start and more time at kindergarten prepares children for success at school and has a positive impact later in life. As brain development is most rapid during the early years of life, research shows that children who attend both three- and four-year-old kindergarten commence school more ready to learn and demonstrate higher levels of numeracy and literacy than their peers who did not attend kindergarten.

You can charge your usual daily fees, subsidised by CCS where families are eligible, and the Victorian Government per capita kindergarten funding is allocated to those children who access 15 hours of kindergarten per week for 40 weeks of the year (600 hours per year). The per capita funding in most instances does not need to be passed on to families and will be used by the service to deliver the program.

In the pages that follow, we explore different operating models that long day care service providers can apply to their kindergarten program, including an integrated program and a sessional program. We also explore programs where families access Child Care Subsidy (CCS) and programs where they are charged a fee with no CCS.

We recommend that you look at all aspects of the modelling to ensure that you can maximise both enrolments and quality of your kindergarten program. You may also find that in your location a combination of models works best for your families, maximising their access to kindergarten and your enrolments.

# Providing a kindergarten program

## General information

Once you are ready to run your kindergarten program, there are many criteria that need to be met to ensure that you continue to receive your per capita funding

The information below is a summary of the criteria around requirements for the early childhood teacher (ECT) and the children attending the funded program. For a comprehensive guide to providing a funded kindergarten program, refer to the ACA Victoria guide, ***Kindergarten funding: What Happens Next?***

A [Victorian Institute of Teaching](#) (VIT) registered early childhood teacher (ECT) must deliver the program, which can be run in a 3–5 or 4–5-year-old room, for at least 15 hours per week for 40 weeks of the year (600 hours per year) for each funded child. You must factor in whether your teacher will be available during the school holidays when considering how many hours the program runs over the year.

If the teacher is absent both parents and your [regional office](#) need to be notified of these changes. Please keep in mind that there are specific guidelines that need to be adhered to in relation to kindergarten funding requirements as well as the national regulatory requirements if the ECT is absent. Refer to the [Kindergarten Funding Guide](#) and [ACECQA](#) for more information.

Each enrolled child must attend the program for a minimum of 15 hours per week for 40 weeks over the year (600 hours over the year). This may mean 2 days of 7.5 hours with the ECT each, or 3 days of 5 hours each.

The attendance of children needs to be monitored and they **must** attend 600 hours over the year. If a child's attendance becomes a concern, contact you need to contact your [regional office](#). If a child leaves the service, this must be entered into KIM as soon as possible.

From a business perspective, the two longer days are likely to lead to more funded enrolments. Whether you can manage this will depend in part on your ECT's working conditions. If you offer 4 days per week of a 7.5-hour kindergarten program, you can deliver that program to more children and the ECT can do planning on day 5.

Families need to elect the service as the nominated funded kindergarten for their child by signing a letter that is kept on file. You can find a template for this letter [here](#).

## Priority of Access guidelines

It is a condition of receiving kindergarten funding that you will adhere to the priority of access guidelines, so plan accordingly to enable you to prioritise the enrolments of these families. More detail can be found in the [Kindergarten Funding Guide](#). This may include implementing the sessional models on pages 21-24, where families only need to pay for the kindergarten program hours that they attend, rather than a whole long day care day. It may also include being aware of the criteria for Early Start Kindergarten Extension grants as well as Additional Child Care Subsidy. Please refer to the ACAV guide, ***Kindergarten Funding: Early Start Kindergarten*** for more information.

HIGH PRIORITY CHILDREN
Children at risk of abuse or neglect, including children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- are in Out of Home Care</li><li>- are eligible for ESK or AEL</li></ul>
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children
Asylum seeker and refugee children
Children eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (see page 21), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- a parent or child who holds a Health Care Card</li><li>- multiple birth children (triplets or more)</li></ul>
Children with additional needs, defined as children who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- require additional assistance to fully participate in the kindergarten program</li><li>- require a combination of services which are individually planned</li><li>- have a specific disability or developmental delay</li></ul>



## Funding

The following funding is available for services providing a kindergarten program:

- Per capita funding for each eligible child.
- Child Care Subsidy (CCS) (and Additional Child Care Subsidy if applicable) is available every day. \* Each family that is eligible for CCS is eligible for 18 hours per week (36 hours per fortnight) of CCS hours through the pre-school exemption activity test criteria (4-year-old kindergarten only).
- Early Start Kindergarten and Early Start Kindergarten Extension grants for eligible children. (See the ACA Victoria guide: **Kindergarten Funding: Early Start Kindergarten** for more information)
- Free Kinder funding for each eligible child.
- Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS) for eligible families (only if there is a separate fee structure and you do not claim CCS).

\*If you choose to offer sessional kindergarten (see pages 21-25) this may not be the case.



## Integrated vs Sessional kindergarten programs

For the majority of services, a kindergarten program is ‘integrated’ into the long day care (LDC) day. Fees are charged as normal, and the child accesses the early childhood teacher for part of the day and other educators for the remainder of the day (as per the regulatory requirements).

Some services may elect to run the kindergarten program as a ‘sessional’ program, allowing families to access and be charged for only the specific hours the kindergarten program is on offer. This type of program can be charged in two ways, which we will explore from page 15.

In both models, the families may also choose to access other days apart from the days that the kindergarten program is run, with fees being charged as usual and CCS applied for all attendances (assuming the family is eligible for CCS).

***We have based the scenarios and fees that appear in the following pages on an 80-place service operating 48 weeks per year.***



## Integrated kindergarten program

In an integrated kindergarten program, children attend for a normal session of care (whether that is a 9, 10, 11 or 12 hours or other length of session) and pay fees as normal. The ECT delivers the kindergarten program for a certain period during the day, the children access the program and the ECT for that part of the day and other educators for the remainder of the day. Depending on the number of hours your ECT is on the floor each day, the children will need to attend 2 or 3 days per week to accrue the necessary 15 hours per week.

Families may also choose to access other days apart from the days that they attend the kindergarten program, with LDC fees being charged as usual for all attendances. These children may also access the ECT on these other days, but this is simply an added benefit of being in LDC and there is no additional funding for the extra time spent with the ECT.

If you have children in your service who are eligible for ESK or ESK Extension, they can also access the program in this way. For more information about ESK please see the ACA Victoria guide:

***Kindergarten Funding: Early Start Kindergarten.***



## INTEGRATED KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

	<b>MODEL 1A</b> <i>2 days per week, 9-hour CCS sessions</i>	<b>MODEL 1B</b> <i>3 days per week, 9-hour CCS sessions</i>
	<b>ECT working with children</b>	<b>ECT working with children</b>
Day 1	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 2	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 3	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 4	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 5	ECT planning (not on floor)	5 hours
Per capita grant	Available for any child who attends 2 days per week (other than Friday)	Available for any child who attends 3 days per week. ECT planning after each session.
Child Care Subsidy	A service might offer 9-, 10-, 11- or 12-hour sessions and CCS would be applied for the whole session.	
The different LDC session lengths can be offered to maximise a family’s childcare subsidy. For example, a family with 36 hours of CCS per fortnight may be better suited to accessing 2x 9-hour days, rather than 2 x 10- or 11-hour days.		

## Integrated Kindergarten Financial Models

### **MODEL 1A - 7.5-hour program (integrated)**

*This model may suit families who are only eligible for 36 hours of CCS per fortnight (pre-school exemption exception).*

*Ruby attends an early learning centre that offers an integrated four-year-old kindergarten program.*

*The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm and the early childhood teacher (ECT) delivers the kindergarten program from 8:30am – 4:00pm, 4 days per week.*

*Ruby attends on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:00am – 5:00pm (a 9-hour session), accessing her 15 hours of funded kindergarten and 18 hours of CCS.*

#### **SUMMARY – MODEL 1A**

Service daily fee: **\$110**

Daily session length: 9 hours

Days attended per week: 2

Total weekly full fees: \$220

#### **FAMILY FEE CALCULATION**

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 4 different income levels:

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
Family Income	\$300,000	\$174,390	\$97,000	\$58,000
Family CCS percentage	35%	50%	76%	85%
Weekly CCS contribution \$12.22 (hrly rate) X 9 X % X 2 (-5% withholding)	\$73.14	\$104.48	\$158.81	\$177.62
Weekly family gap fee	<b>\$146.86</b>	<b>\$115.52</b>	<b>\$61.19</b>	<b>\$42.98</b>

## SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE SUMMARY (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

<b>Yearly total</b> (Family gap fee + CCS x 48 weeks)	\$10,560	<i>This model gives you an income of \$14, 334 per funded kindergarten enrolment.</i>
<b>Per capita grant</b>	\$3,774	<i>You will multiply this number by the number of funded places you can offer, based on every child attending for 2 of the 4 days that the program runs.</i>
<b>Total annual revenue</b>	\$14,334	<i>If you can accommodate 22 children per day, you can offer 44 places overall.</i>



## MODEL 1B - 5-hour program (integrated)

*This model requires families to be eligible for more than the 36 hours per week of CCS.*

*In this scenario, Ruby attends a four-year-old kindergarten program that runs for 5 hours over 3 days.*

*The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm, and the kindergarten program runs from 8:30am – 1:30pm, 5 days per week.*

*Ruby attends on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00am – 5:00pm (a 9-hour session), accessing her 15 hours of funded kindergarten and 27 hours of CCS.*

### SUMMARY 1 – MODEL 1B

Service daily fee: **\$110**

Daily session length: 9 hours

Days attended per week: 3

Total weekly full fees: \$330

### FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 4 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
<b>Family Income</b>	\$300,000	\$174,390	\$97,000	\$58,000
<b>Family CCS percentage</b>	35%	50%	76%	85%
<b>Weekly CCS contribution</b> \$12.22 (hrly rate) X 9 X % X 3 (-5% withholding)	\$109.71	\$156.72	\$238.22	\$266.43
<b>Weekly family gap fee</b>	<b>\$220.29</b>	<b>\$173.27</b>	<b>\$91.38</b>	<b>\$63.57</b>

## SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE SUMMARY (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

<b>Yearly total</b> (Family gap fee + CCS x 48 weeks)	\$15, 840	<i>This model gives you an income of \$19,614 per funded kindergarten enrolment.</i>
<b>Per capita grant</b>	\$3,774	<i>You will multiply this number by the number of funded places you can offer, based on every child attending for 3 of the 5 days that the program runs.</i>
<b>Total annual revenue</b>	\$19,614	<i>If you can accommodate 22 children per day, you can offer 36 places overall.</i>

## SUMMARY 2 – MODEL 1B

Service daily fee: **\$130**

Daily session length: 12 hours

Days attended per week: 3

Total weekly full fees: \$390

## FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 4 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
<b>Family Income</b>	\$300,000	\$174, 390	\$97,000	\$58,000
<b>Family CCS percentage</b>	35%	50%	76%	85%
<b>Weekly CCS contribution</b> \$10.83 (hrly rate) X 12 X % X 3 (-5% withholding)	\$129.64	\$185.19	\$281.49	\$314.83
<b>Weekly family gap fee</b>	<b>\$260.36</b>	<b>\$204.81</b>	<b>\$108.51</b>	<b>\$75.17</b>



### SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE SUMMARY (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

<b>Total Fee Revenue</b> (Family gap fee + CCS X 48 weeks)	\$18,720	
<b>Per capita grant</b>	\$3,774	
<b>Total revenue</b>	\$22,494	
<i>This model gives you an income of \$22,494 per funded kindergarten enrolment</i>  <i>You will multiply this number by the number of funded places you can offer, based on every child attending for 3 of the 5 days that the program runs.</i>  <i>If you can accommodate 22 children per day, you can offer 36 places overall.</i>		

### Summary of integrated models

When looking at the two integrated models, there are some considerations.

Both models can offer an element of flexibility for families to choose the days that they would like to attend. How flexible you are may depend on demand and the number of children you can accommodate.

For a service provider, at first glance there is higher income from 1B (three days) than 1A (two days). However, it is important to remember that you will be able to attract more funded children in 1A, leading to potentially more income overall.

You can also see that for families on a low income, in 1A (two days), their gap fee is **\$42.38** and if they attend in model 1B (three days) their fee is **\$63.57** at 9-hour days and **\$75.17** at 12-hour days. So, if you have many families in this low-income bracket, this needs to be considered.

If your service has a high number of families only with the pre-school exemption CCS limit (36 hours per fortnight), model 1A meets the needs of these families and they will be not disadvantaged as could be the case with model 1B.

Please keep in mind the priority of access criteria outlined in the [Kindergarten Funding Guide](#) as this is an important part of your planning (*see also page 6 of this guide*).

## Sessional kindergarten program (within LDC)

Some long day care services elect to run the kindergarten program as a 'sessional' program, allowing families to access and pay for **only** the specific hours the kindergarten program is on offer. This type of program can be charged in two ways. One way incorporates using CCS (in the usual way) and the other does not apply CCS to the fees.

This model allows for the provision of 'wrap around' care. Families can choose to have care before or after the kindergarten program and this is charged accordingly with CCS. You can allocate fees for 'before' and 'after' sessions as well as a 'whole day' fee

Please see below the different ways in which this type of program can be managed.

### OPTION 1: Using Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

The service might choose to offer a 'sessional kindergarten' fee which would be at a lower rate than the normal daily fee and would attract CCS. The service would also receive per capita funding per eligible child.

This model would be best suited where the program was offered in 7.5 hours per day, 2 days per week. The service may also consider allocating set days for this option to allow for staff planning and to reduce the impact on viability (e.g., **only** Mondays and Fridays). It would be wise to choose your days of lowest occupancy for these sessions.

This may be suitable for services with a small number of funded enrolments or a small cohort of families on a low income. It could also be used to fill any ongoing vacancies on two days a week.

Using this model does not mean that you do not have a teacher on the other 3 days, it just means that you do not offer the sessional program on those days. You need to consider the National Quality Framework regulatory requirements for an early childhood teacher while delivering the kindergarten program that best suits your service. Information can be found on the [ACECQA](#) website.

## SESSIONAL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE (using CCS)

	<b>MODEL 2A</b> 2 days per week, 7.5-hour sessions	<b>MODEL 2B</b> 2 days per week with wrap around care
	<b>ECT working with children</b>	<b>ECT working with children</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	7.5 hours	7.5 hours
<b>Day 2</b>	7.5 hours	7.5 hours
<b>Day 3</b>	Sessional model not available	Sessional model not available
<b>Day 4</b>	Sessional model not available	Sessional model not available
<b>Day 5</b>	ECT planning (not on floor)	ECT Planning (not on floor)
<b>Per capita grant</b>	Available for any child who attends 2 days per week (other than Friday)	
<b>Child Care Subsidy</b>	A service might offer 7.5-hour daily fee at a lower rate than their other daily rates.	
The service may offer ‘wrap around’ care for the time on either side of the kindergarten session. Note that to ensure that the program is offered for 15 hours a week (600 hrs per year), if the ECT only works during term time, the actual program may run for 8 hours to include a lunchbreak (unless an ECT covers the break).		

### Sessional Kindergarten Financial Models

#### MODEL 2A – 7.5 hour sessional with CCS

*This model may suit families that have 36 hours of CCS per fortnight (pre-school exemption).*

*Ruby attends an early learning centre that offers a sessional four-year-old kindergarten program.*

*The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm and the early childhood teacher (ECT) delivers the kindergarten program from 8:30am – 4:00pm, 2 days per week.*

*Ruby attends on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 8:30am – 4:00pm, accessing her 15 hours of funded kindergarten and 15 hours of CCS per week.*

## SUMMARY – MODEL 2A

Service daily fee: \$100

Daily session length: 7.5 hours

Days attended per week: 2

Total weekly full fees: \$200

## FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 4 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
<b>Family Income</b>	\$300,000	\$174,390	\$97,000	\$58,000
<b>Family CCS percentage</b>	35%	50%	76%	85%
<b>Weekly CCS contribution</b> \$12.31(hrly rate) X 7.5 X % X 2 (-5% withholding)	\$61.40	\$87.71	\$133.32	\$149.10
<b>Weekly family gap fee</b>	<b>\$138.60</b>	<b>\$112.29</b>	<b>\$66.68</b>	<b>\$50.90</b>

## SERVICE PROVIDER INCOME REVENUE SUMMARY (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

<b>Yearly total</b> (Family gap fee + CCS x 48 weeks)	\$9,600	<i>This model gives you an income of \$13,374 per funded kindergarten enrolment.</i>  <i>You will multiply this number by the number of funded places you can offer, based on every child attending for the 2 days that the program runs.</i>  <i>If you can accommodate 22 children per day, you can offer 22 funded places per week. This figure does not include that fact that you can offer the regular long day care days on the other 3 days of the week.</i>
<b>Per capita grant</b>	\$3,774	
<b>Total annual revenue</b>	\$13,374	

## MODEL 2B – 7.5 hour sessional with CCS, with wrap around care

*This model requires families to have more than the 36 hours per fortnight of CCS.*

*In this scenario, Ruby not only attends the four-year-old kindergarten program 2 days a week as per Model 2A, but she also stays on after the ECT finishes for the day, accessing a further 2.5 hours of early learning between 4.00pm and 6.30pm.*

*The service charges the family for 2 days of 10 hours. Ruby attends 20 hours per week, accessing 15 hours of kindergarten and 20 hours of CCS per week.*

### SUMMARY – MODEL 2B

Service daily fee: \$100 – 7.5 hours

Afternoon session fee: \$20 - 2.5 hours

Days attended per week: 2

Total weekly full fees: \$240

### FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's gap fees for this program based on 4 different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
<b>Family Income</b>	\$300,000	\$174,390	\$97,000	\$58,000
<b>Family CCS percentage</b>	35%	50%	76%	85%
<b>Weekly CCS contribution</b> \$12.31 (hrly rate) X 7.5 X % X 2 (-5% withholding)	\$61.40	\$87.71	\$133.32	\$149.10
<b>Weekly CCS contribution for wrap around care</b> \$8 (hrly rate) x 2.5 x % x 2 (-5% withholding)	\$38.35	\$19.00	\$28.88	\$32.30
<b>Weekly family gap fee</b>	<b>\$140.25</b>	<b>\$133.29</b>	<b>\$77.80</b>	<b>\$58.60</b>

## SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE SUMMARY (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

<b>Yearly total</b> (Family gap fee + CCS x 48 weeks)	\$11,520	<i>This model gives you an income of \$15,294 per funded kindergarten enrolment.</i>
<b>Per capita grant</b>	\$3,774	<i>You will multiply this number by the number of funded places you can offer, based on every child attending for the 2 days that the program runs.</i>
<b>Total annual revenue</b>	\$15,294	<i>If you can accommodate 22 children per day, you can offer 22 funded places overall.</i>  <i>This figure does not include families who may take up the option of a morning session as well and does not include the offer of the regular long day care days on the other 3 days of the week.</i>  <i>This model offers a lot of flexibility which may appeal to a particular demographic.</i>

### Summary of sessional models using CCS

When looking at these two sessional models, there are some considerations to take into account.

Model 2B can offer the most flexibility for families to be able to choose care before and after the kindergarten session.

For a service provider, the income is higher in model 2B when offering the before and after care. However, there will be additional staffing considerations as well as additional fee structures.

You can also see that for families on a low income, in 2A, their gap fee is **\$50.90** and if they attend in model 2B their fee is **\$58.60**, due the hourly rate and the child attending additional hours.

If your service has a high number of families only with the pre-school exemption CCS limit (36 hours per fortnight), model 2A is recommended. In model 2B a family would use 15 hours of their weekly CCS and only have 3 hours per week to add a before or after care session to the days, depending on the opening hours of the service.

Please keep in mind the priority of access criteria outlined in the [Kindergarten Funding Guide](#) as this is an important part of your planning.



## OPTION 2: Using Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS) OR applying a Term Fee (No CCS)

A service can charge a per term or per week fee, which would not attract CCS.

A service may provide this model if there are families who are eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy or who are not eligible for CCS

In this way, the service could receive Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS) and per capita funding for eligible children OR receive parent fees and per capita funding. The kindergarten program fees are run separately from the LDC program daily fees.

Families eligible for KFS would be able to access 15 hours of free kindergarten using this model.

This model is more beneficial for families eligible for KFS, but it will in most instances reduce the fees able to be collected by the service providers. Therefore, it is suggested services offer this model only on set days and even on an “as needs” basis, if it will enable a vulnerable child to attend the program.

A service may also offer this option to support vulnerable children, low-income families, meet a community need or to address any low occupancy rates.

In both the models that follow, a service could offer families the opportunity to access additional hours of care on either side of the sessional program (wrap around care), as well as other full days, accessing CCS. This would be a positive outcome for both the family and the service.

You do not have to offer this model as an option to your families, however, you do need to ensure that all families are supported in accessing a place in the kindergarten program, using the priority of access guidelines.

## SESSIONAL KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE (no CCS)

	Model 3A 2 sessions, 15 hours per week	MODEL 3B 3 sessions, 15 hours per week
	ECT working with children	ECT working with children
Day 1	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 2	7.5 hours	5 hours
Day 3	Sessional model not available	5 hours
Day 4	Sessional model not available	Sessional model not available
Day 5	ECT planning (not on floor)	Sessional model not available
KFS	Families meeting the criteria can access 15 hours of free funded kindergarten.	N/A
Per capita grant	Available for any child who attends 2 days per week (other than Friday)	Available for any child who attends 3 days per week
Child Care Subsidy	Child Care Subsidy will not be applied to the actual kindergarten program hours where a family receives KFS or where the family pays a term fee.	
Child Care subsidy would be applied to any wrap around care or extra days that the families may utilise if eligible. Any activity test or income test relating to CCS is only relevant to these hours.		

## Sessional Kindergarten financial models (no CCS)

*The following models are offered over 40 weeks (and do not include the school holidays):*

### **MODEL 3A – 7.5 hour sessional with KFS**

*Ruby attends an early learning centre that offers a sessional four-year-old kindergarten program.*

*The service is open from 6:30am – 6:30pm and the early childhood teacher (ECT) delivers the kindergarten program from 8:30am – 4:00pm, 2 days per week.*

*Ruby attends on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 8:30am – 4:00pm, accessing her 15 hours of funded kindergarten.*

*In this scenario, the family has a Health Care Card, and this makes the family eligible for KFS.*

*The days that Ruby attends the kindergarten program do not count towards any attendance hours in relation to CCS. If Ruby attends any other days, then CCS requirements would be applied.*

### **SUMMARY – MODEL 3A**

Service term fee:

For full fee-paying families: **\$500**

For HCC holders: **\$0**

Days attended per week: 2

### **FAMILY FEE CALCULATION**

The table below shows fees for HCC holders on an income of \$58,000 or less

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
<b>Family Income</b>	-----	-----	-----	\$58,000
<b>Family CCS percentage</b>	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Weekly CCS contribution</b>	-----	-----	-----	-----
<b>Weekly family fee</b>	-----	-----	-----	<b>\$0</b>

## SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE (ANNUAL PPER CHILD)

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	\$2,154	<i>This model gives you an income of \$5,928 per funded kindergarten enrolment.</i>
Per capita grant	\$3,774	<i>As mentioned previously, this model may be best suited on an 'as needs' basis for vulnerable families and specific situations.</i>
Total annual revenue	\$5,928	



## MODEL 3B – 5 hour sessional with no CCS

*In this scenario, Ruby attends on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30am – 1:30pm, accessing her 15 hours of funded kindergarten.*

*The family is not eligible for CCS, so they pay a term fee for Ruby to attend. They do not have to meet any CCS requirements.*

### SUMMARY – MODEL 3B

Service term fee: \$500

Sessions attended per week: 3

### FAMILY FEE CALCULATION

The table below shows the family's weekly fees based on the different income levels

	INCOME 1	INCOME 2	INCOME 3	INCOME 4
Family Income	\$300,000	\$174,390	\$97,000	\$58,000
Family CCS percentage	-----	-----	-----	-----
Weekly CCS contribution	-----	-----	-----	-----
Weekly family fee	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0

### SERVICE PROVIDER REVENUE (ANNUAL PER CHILD)

Term fees	\$2,000	<i>This model gives you an income of \$5,774 per funded kindergarten enrolment.</i>  <i>As mentioned previously, this model may be best suited on an 'as needs' basis for specific family circumstances.</i>
Per capita grant	\$3,774	
Total annual revenue	\$5,774	

## Summary of sessional models with no CCS

The most noticeable difference in these non-CCS models is the level of income for the service provider. As you are charging a term fee only and not receiving any CCS, income is significantly less.

However, this model can be used where service have excess capacity with sufficient staffing already in place. This can mean, for example, services can deliver a dual program in a room where some children are receiving an integrated four-year-old kindergarten program and some are receiving a sessional program with no wrap around care. This increases the viability of services by increasing per capita income and allows more children to receive a funded kindergarten program. Some services find this dual model attractive on days of the week where enrolments are lower (e.g., Friday and Mondays).

Another crucial point about using this model is how it can benefit families who are eligible for KFS, as these families can access 15 hours of kindergarten for free.

Having said that, there are two other options available to assist vulnerable families where CCS can be accessed. This includes the ESK extension grant and ACCS. These two options can minimise fees or enable families to access the kindergarten program for free.

It is worth considering offering one of these models if your service is in an area where there are a high number of eligible families and where families perhaps cannot access a sessional/stand-alone kindergarten.

It is also interesting to note that for families on a CCS rate of around 76%, the fee difference between models 3B (sessional term fee) and 1A (integrated), 2A and 2B (sessional CCS) is small, and yet those programs can offer longer days, more flexibility and care in the holidays.

Please keep in mind the priority of access criteria outlined in the [Kindergarten Funding Guide](#) as this is an important part of your planning (*see also page 6 of this guide*).



## Low-income comparison

The low-income comparison was put together to enable service providers to compare the cost to families of an average standalone sessional kindergarten and average long day care fees for 15 hours of kindergarten.

As you can see, for families in the \$58 000 - \$68 000 bracket, the cost per 7.5 – 10-hour day is cheaper than a sessional kindergarten day. Generally, in LDC the days are longer, meals are included, and care is available in the school holidays.

For families on a higher income, the cost for sessional kindergarten remains the same, while for LDC it will go up in the CCS increments. The advantageous conditions of LDC may still make it the preferred option for families.

Families eligible for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy pay no fees at a sessional kindergarten. Where a family is also eligible for the ESK extension grant or ACCS there may also be no fees to pay in LDC and, once again, there may be advantages to this option.

<b>LONG DAY CARE DAILY FEES</b>	<b>LONG DAY CARE SESSION LENGTH (including 7.5 hours of kindergarten)</b>	<b>WEEKLY OUT OF POCKET FEES <i>INCOME &lt; \$68000</i> 85% CCS APPLIED</b>
\$130	12 HOURS	\$50.11
\$120	10 HOURS	\$45.80
\$110	9 HOURS	\$42.38
\$100	7.5 HOURS	\$50.90
<b>SESSIONAL KINDERGARTEN FEES</b>	<b>SESSION LENGTH</b>	<b>WEEKLY OUT OF POCKET FEES <i>On INCOME &gt; \$58000</i></b>
\$500 TERM	7.5 HOURS	\$50.00
<b>SESSIONAL KINDERGARTEN FEES</b>	<b>SESSION LENGTH</b>	<b>WEEKLY OUT OF POCKET FEES <i>On INCOME &lt; \$58000</i></b>
\$500 TERM	7.5 HOURS	\$0

## Conclusion

Kindergarten funding can enhance the delivery of the kindergarten program and enable service providers to meet the needs of the families and the wider community.

One of the important takeaways from this document is that it gives a broad overview of the options available when providing a funded kindergarten program. Each service provider will consider the many aspects associated with the service including the cohort of families, the early childhood teacher availability and location when determining the model to use.

You could even use a combination of the models to meet the needs of your community and it may also be useful to refer to this document if you find yourself with a family that needs a specialised enrolment at any time during the year.

# Connecting you with Victoria's Early Childhood Education & Care sector.

## ACA Victoria

📍 1/1535 Dandenong Road, Oakleigh VIC 3166

☎ (03) 9532 2017

✉ [vic@childcarealliance.org.au](mailto:vic@childcarealliance.org.au)

🌐 [vic.childcarealliance.org.au](http://vic.childcarealliance.org.au)

