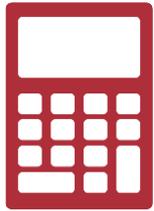


# Funded kindergarten programs in Victoria



## What funding and support is available?



Per capita funding for 4yos and 3yos (progressively rolled out over the next decade)

Early start kindergarten



School Readiness Funding

Kindergarten Quality improvement program



Grants for beginning teachers



Contribution to writing transition learning and development statements

Early Childhood Language Program

If you wish to find out more, please ask for a **Early Childhood Improvement Branch** at your local Departmental regional office.

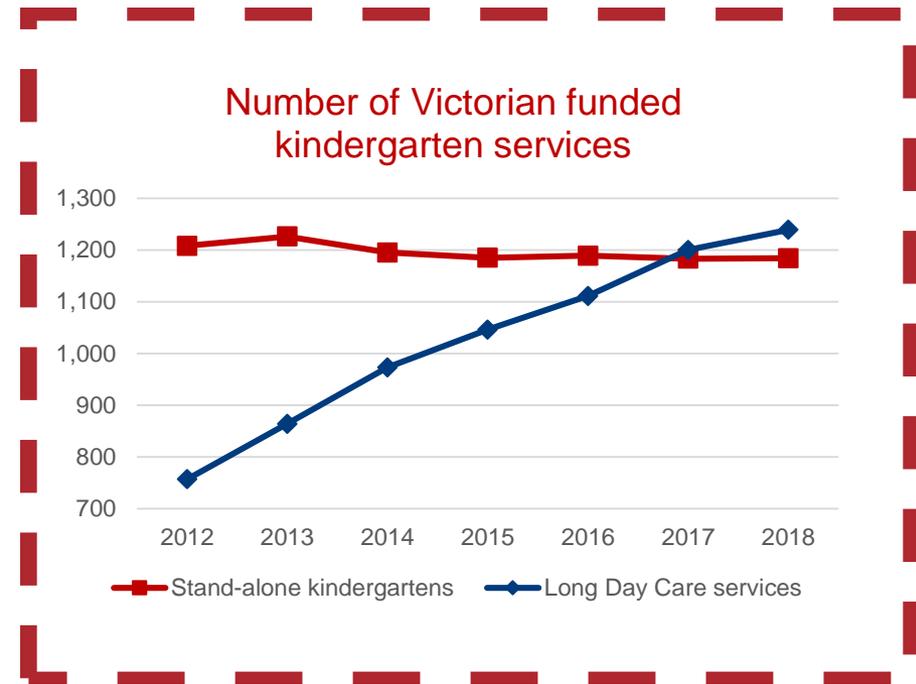
## Kindergarten participation

Kindergarten participation in Victoria is strong.

However, participation rates have slightly declined in recent years due to a number of factors.

It is estimated that 3000 - 4000 kindergarten aged children may be accessing a long day care service that doesn't offer a funded kindergarten program.

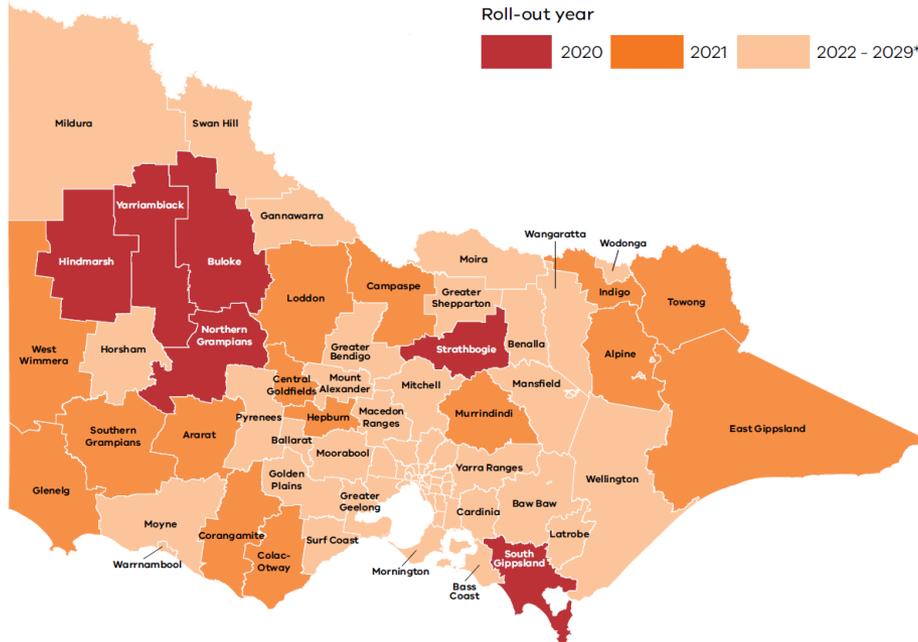
We need to ensure that the highest number of children possible participate in and attend a kindergarten program.



## Proportion of kindergarten enrolments in across settings

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Long day care	23%	24%	28%	29%	31%	32%	32%
Stand-alone kindergarten services	77%	76%	72%	71%	69%	68%	68%

# Funding Three-Year-Old Kindergarten



Universal Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will involve an initial geographical roll-out commencing in 2020 and 2021, followed by state-wide rollout from 2022.

**2020:** Buloke, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, South Gippsland, Strathbogie, Yarriambiack

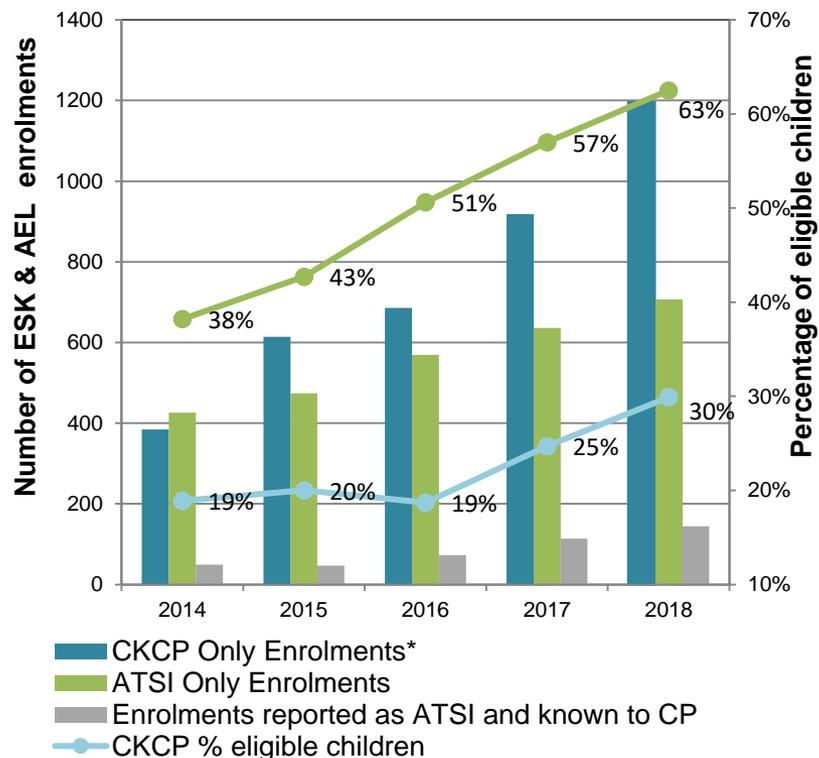
**2021:** plus Alpine, Ararat, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Colac-Otway, Corangamite, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Hepburn, Indigo, Loddon, Murrindindi, Southern Grampians, Towong, West Wimmera

**2022:** plus all remaining (58) LGAs.

Same funding as 4yo.

Proposed settings	2020	2021	2022	2023 – 2029
Areas in scope	6 LGAs	+ 15 LGAs (21 LGAs total)	+ remaining LGAs (79 LGAs total)	79 LGAs
Hours of service funded	Between 5-15	Between 5-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 5 and 15 hours funded for 2020 and 2021 LGAs</li> <li>5 hours funded for all 2022 LGAs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services scale up delivery to 15 hours</li> <li>5-15 hours funded for all LGAs</li> </ul>

# Early Start Kindergarten – what you need to know



The Victorian Government remains committed to ensuring vulnerable children continue to access 15 hours of Kindergarten during the rollout of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

ESK and the ESK Extension Grant will continue to be available and can be used in combination with CCS and ACCS.

In 2018, Long Day Care services accommodated:

- 16 per cent of ESK enrolments (7% in private)
- 24 per cent of four year old enrolments

Progress in uptake has been steady

## School Readiness Funding supporting kindergartens across Victoria



School Readiness Funding will be available in all kindergarten settings, including long day care.

Kindergartens across 32 local government areas will receive School Readiness Funding in 2020. All Victorian kindergarten services will receive the funding from 2021.

School Readiness Funding for three and four-year old children will be available in line with the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

Over 200 private Long Day Care services running a funded kindergarten program will benefit from School Readiness Funding from 2020

# Supporting the workforce is a partnership to maintain quality in a time of change

## Current support offered at each career stage

### Pre-training entry

**More scholarships** of higher value for both undergraduate degrees and post-graduate courses and **Free TAFE**

**Financial incentives** to encourage teachers to move to areas that are currently hard to staff, and areas where three-year-old kindergarten is rolling out.

### Pre-service entry

**Partnering with universities** that deliver early childhood teacher training to strengthen practical experience opportunities for teachers-in-training.

**Engaging at a national level** in the review of ECEC training packages to promote higher quality VET qualifications.

### In-service development

**School Readiness Funding** enables eligible services to select the most appropriate professional development to meet the needs of children.

**Funding services** to provide backfill and time-release to support provisionally registered teachers and their mentors to complete the inquiry process for full teaching registration.

**Delivering forums** to deepen professional practice and networks of early career teachers.

### Strengthen leadership

**Continuation of the Kindergarten Quality Improvement Program** which focuses on Quality Area 7 of the National Quality Standard - *Governance and Leadership* to support ongoing quality improvement work.

### Career progression

**The Effective Mentoring Program** which builds the capacity of experienced EC teachers to share their professional practice learnings with early career colleagues.

**\$92 million** to grow a quality workforce by attracting and retaining the best teachers and educators, and supporting their ongoing development

# Opportunities

The introduction of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, alongside other reforms to support kindergarten access and quality in all settings, provides an opportunity to further build on integrated provision in LDC settings. Areas for collaborative work include:

- Supporting more LDC services to become funded kindergarten providers (at any time, over 200 LDC services do not deliver a funded program)
- Continuing to grow Early Start Kindergarten provision in LDC, noting that this is often the most practical option for carers of children in out of home care
- Developing and trialling program models for the delivery of kindergarten in LDC that maximise access and affordability, including for disadvantaged families
- Maximising the use of quality supports, particularly School Readiness Funding
- Bringing more LDC services into council central enrolment schemes, not to replace but to complement existing enrolment processes