

Media Release

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Children
Minister for Disability



Friday, 6 September 2024

MORE KINDER PLACES FOR HUME THANKS TO NEW PARTNERSHIP

The Allan Labor Government is making sure Victorian families have access to world-class kinder facilities close to home, partnering with Hume Council to deliver a multi-million-dollar pipeline of early childhood infrastructure projects.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today announced four expanded and modernised kindergartens in Hume – providing up to 181 additional kinder places at a cost of \$5.45 million.

The funding will increase capacity and modernise facilities at four kindergartens:

- Bluebird Way Child and Community Centre, Roxburgh Park
- Craigieburn Child and Family Centre
- Mickleham South Community Centre
- Kalkallo North Community Centre

The Building Blocks Partnership, which includes up to \$7.45 million invested to support five new and expanded kindergarten projects, will create up to 280 new three- and four-year-old Kindergarten places across Hume.

The Labor Government has entered into 16 Building Blocks Partnerships – 15 with local councils and one with the non-government school sector – ensuring families across the state get world-class kinder facilities close to home.

This will deliver 101 new and expanded kindergartens and up to 13,400 extra kinder places across the state.

The Labor Government is build and expand hundreds of kindergartens across Victoria, supporting the delivery of 15 hours of free Three-Year-Old Kindergarten each week by 2029 and up to 30 hours of Pre-Prep each week by 2036.

As our suburbs grow, the Building Blocks Partnership is making sure families have reliable, quality early learning facilities close to home – no matter where they live –providing funding to build, upgrade and expand services to give children the best start to life.

The Labor Government’s nation-leading \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, transforming early childhood education to help children thrive, save families money and support parents and carers to return to work or study if they choose.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

“Every child deserves a high-quality local kindergarten in which to learn and play. This partnership will deliver hundreds of new kinder places for families in Hume, so more children can get the best start in life.”

“We’re investing in new and upgraded kindergartens now, so more families in Melbourne’s growing northwest can access a great local kinder.”

Quote attributable to Member for Kalkallo Ros Spence

“I can’t wait to see families in our community benefit from this announcement, with hundreds of new three and four-year-old kindergarten places across Melbourne’s outer north.”

Media contact: Philip Ritchie 0430 336 243 | philip.ritchie@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Member for Greenvale Iwan Walters

“We know that high quality early childhood education helps every young person to get the best start in life and the chance to thrive. That’s why the Government’s record investment in new kindergarten spaces will have such a positive impact in growing communities like Craigieburn and Roxburgh Park”

Quote attributable to Mayor of Hume City Cr Naim Kurt

“The Victorian Government’s Building Blocks Program allows Hume City Council to deliver these crucial early years services for young families close to home and at a time when people need it most.”