

# Media Release

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



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## MORE KINDER PLACES FOR FAMILIES IN DAREBIN

The Allan Labor Government is delivering more kindergarten places and modern learning facilities for busy families in the City of Darebin.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today announced the second project in the Building Blocks Partnership with the City of Darebin, which will expand and upgrade Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten – creating up to 68 new kindergarten places for families.

The Labor Government is investing \$1.7 million towards the project that will increase capacity at the Kingsbury service by adding a brand-new second kindergarten room and expanding the existing kinder room. Outdoor learning areas for children to use will also be improved in both rooms.

The partnership is creating up to 97 new three and four-year-old kindergarten places for local families by delivering two kindergarten projects in the Darebin local government area.

The first project in the partnership, which began this year, is increasing capacity by up to 29 kindergarten places at Merri Community Childcare & Kindergarten in Thornbury.

This investment is part of the \$2.4 million Building Blocks Partnerships program with City of Darebin.

The Labor Government is investing billions to build and expand hundreds of kindergartens across the state, supporting the delivery of 15 hours of three-year-old kindergarten each week by 2029 and up to 30 hours of pre-prep each week by 2036.

Through the nation-leading Best Start, Best Life reforms, the Labor Government is 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.

For more information, go to [schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/building-blocks-grants-capacity-building](https://schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/building-blocks-grants-capacity-building).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

*“We promised to invest to build and expand hundreds of kindergartens across the state and that’s exactly what we are doing - ensuring families can access the best kinder and childcare services no matter where they live.”*

*“Expanding Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten in Kingsbury by up to 68 new places through our partnership with the City of Darebin is another way we’re giving more families access to great local kinders close to home.”*

### Quotes attributable to City of Darebin Acting Chief Executive Officer Michael Tudball

*“We are proud to be partnering with the Victorian Government to ensure even more families in Darebin have access to the best kindergarten and childcare services, which is crucial to their development.”*

*“This latest expansion project in Darebin means more kindergarten places and more modern facilities close to home, setting our youngest learners up with educational and social benefits that will last a lifetime.”*

### Quote attributable to Member for Bundoora Colin Brooks

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*“This new kinder in Bundoora will give more children in the area the chance to attend a great local kindergarten, where they can learn, play and make new friends.”*