

Media Release

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



Saturday, 30 November 2024

SUPPORT FOR KINDERS GETTING READY FOR DAY ONE

The Allan Labor Government is equipping new state-delivered kindergartens opening in 2025 with furniture, fixtures and equipment, making sure kindergartens have the modern facilities they need to help our littlest learners thrive.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today announced up to \$6.4 million will be provided for 27 kinders opening next year to purchase furniture such as desks and chairs, fixtures like blinds and lamps and equipment such as stoves, dishwashers, play and IT equipment and medical items.

Service providers opening a new kinder delivered by the state will receive up to \$100,000 for each 33-place kindergarten room to prepare for their opening.

Eligible purchases made over the past six months will also be reimbursed, ensuring that state-delivered kinders opening in 2025 are ready for children to learn from their very first day.

The Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment Funding Policy is part of the Labor Government's nation-leading work helping kindergartens deliver high-quality early learning facilities right across Victoria.

This funding, delivered on top of our *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, will support the fit-out of kinders on school sites and on third-party sites.

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.

The nation-leading \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms are transforming early childhood education to help children thrive, save families money and support parents to return to work or study.

To find out more about the funding including guidelines, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/early-childhood-grants.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

"Young children have so much to gain and learn from the opportunities provided through kindergarten – we're opening new kinders across the state and making sure they have the equipment they need from day one."

"Every year we're delivering more kinder places in modern facilities, and saving families up to \$2,500 per year, to make sure every child in Victoria gets the best start in life."

2025 Funding for Furniture and Equipment recipients

Four-room kindergarten services providing 132 licensed places (up to \$400,000)

- Barayip Primary School Kindergarten (interim name), Tarneit (Early Childhood Management Services)

Three-room kindergarten services providing 99 licensed places (up to \$300,000)

- Baden Powell Preschool, Frankston South (Frankston City Council)
- Ballan Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Eureka Community Kindergarten Association)
- Covenant College, Bell Post Hill (Covenant College)
- Devon Meadows Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Kids First Australia)
- Lancefield Kindergarten (Macedon Ranges Shire Council)
- Mildura South Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Shine Bright EYM)
- Montgomery Park Kindergarten, Essendon (Moonee Valley City Council)
- Pax Hill Kindergarten, Traralgon (Latrobe City Council)
- Thornbury High School Kindergarten (interim name) (Early Childhood Management Services)
- Tootgarook Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Community Kinders Plus Inc.)
- Wallan Secondary College Kindergarten (interim name) (Kids First Australia)

Two-room kindergarten services providing 66 licensed places (up to \$200,000)

- Aitken Hill Integrated Community Centre, Craigieburn (Hume City Council)
- Broadmeadows Valley Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (The Lady Gowrie Child Centre)
- Dover Street Preschool, Oakleigh East (Monash City Council)
- Echuca Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Shine Bright EYM)
- Epalock Crescent Kindergarten, St Albans, (Brimbank City Council)
- Greenvale Primary School Kindergarten (Northern Schools Early Years Cluster)
- Kerang South Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Gannawarra Shire Council)
- Lakes Entrance Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Gippsland Lakes Complete Health)
- Nagambie Early Learning Centre (St Joseph's School – Sandhurst Diocese)
- Topirum Primary School Kindergarten (interim name), (Early Childhood Management Services)
- Whitfield District Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (North East Regional Pre-School Association)
- Wonthaggi North Primary School Kindergarten (interim name) (Uniting Vic.Tas)

Single-room kindergarten services providing 33 licensed places (up to \$100,000)

- Dromana Preschool (Mornington Peninsula Shire Council)
- Swifts Creek P-12 - Flagstaff Campus (Uniting Vic.Tas)
- Yea Primary School (Uniting Vic.Tas)