

# Media Release

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



Wednesday, 5 January 2025

## GRANTS TO MAKE KINDERGARTENS INCLUSIVE FOR ALL

The Allan Labor Government is making kindergartens more inclusive and accessible for all children – with more than 400 services sharing in \$9 million to upgrade facilities and buy specialist equipment.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today announced the recipients of the *2024-25 Building Blocks Inclusion Grants* program which delivers critical funding for upgrades and equipment to help Victorian kids reach their full potential.

The grants of up to \$200,000 will be shared among 41 kindergartens and will help to deliver upgrades to buildings, playgrounds and amenities – making early learning activities safer, more inclusive and accessible.

Another 361 services will receive up to \$10,000 in funding to buy moveable and accessible equipment, such as mobility tools, adjustable furniture and sensory equipment.

Funding is designed for projects that help children engage in activities, build skills, and ensure early learning is inclusive for all abilities.

Highgate Early Learning Centre in Ashburton will redevelop its outdoor playground into an inclusive play space for children of all abilities. The area will feature a multi-entry climbing space, sandpit, cubby and sensory garden.

Warburton Preschool will revitalise its outdoor play area with a natural climbing fort and slides, a cubby house, bike track and a yarning circle.

Since the Labor Government launched the Building Blocks program in 2020, it has delivered more than \$235 million to plan, build and improve early childhood services across Victoria.

It's all part of Victoria's nation-leading \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, which are transforming early childhood education, saving families money and supporting parents and carers to return to work or study if they choose.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

*"Every child deserves to actively participate at kindergarten, no matter their ability – these grants will make sure kinders have the inclusive facilities and equipment they need to support all children to grow, learn and play."*

*"We're supporting the diverse needs of Victoria's children by making hundreds of kindergartens safer, more engaging and inclusive, so all children can grow and thrive from the best start in life."*