



## Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Families & Children  
Minister for Youth Affairs

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Dear Service Provider

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State. We understand the importance of quality early childhood education and care that sets children up for the rest of their lives, helping to shape their happiness, wellbeing and success.

I am pleased to announce that an in-principle Heads of Agreement has been reached for the early childhood Enterprise Bargaining Agreements. The Agreements provide greater recognition of the important role of early childhood teachers and educators and include a new dedicated salary level for Diploma qualified educators. This new salary level acknowledges the skills of Diploma qualified educators and their important contribution to the quality of early childhood education and care programs. In addition, this agreement achieves pay parity between kindergarten teachers and school teachers at entry and at the top of the scale.

The Andrews Labor Government will provide increased funding rates from 2016 in recognition of increased salaries for early childhood teachers and educators. I have attached details of the provisional 2016 kindergarten funding rates, noting that these are contingent on finalisation of the *National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education for 2016 and 2017* with the Commonwealth.

Given the creation of the new salary level for positions requiring a Diploma qualification, the 2016 ratio supplement for enrolments of groups of 23 or more has been increased from \$370 to \$434. The 2016 ratio supplement for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy enrolments in groups of 23 or more has been increased from \$200 to \$234.

The impact of the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreements on parent fees should be minimal, given the increase in per capita funding. On average it's anticipated the impact on parent fees will be approximately \$1.15 per week. The Agreements will provide for immediate wage increases for all staff covered by the Agreements from 13 August 2015. For services covered by the Agreements, the increases arising from the EBAs from 13 August to 31 December 2015 will be fully funded by the Government (after adjusting for the indexed funding increase provided to services since July 2014).

It is important that every eligible child has the opportunity to attend kindergarten in their local area. I am therefore urging services to consider maintaining or increasing current enrolment numbers wherever possible, particularly in areas where there is high demand for kindergarten places.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts and commitment to implementing quality reforms that are strengthening our early childhood sector and helping to give all Victorian children a strong start in life.

If you would like further information about the kindergarten funding rates, including ratio supplement funding, please contact your Departmental regional office on the number provided below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Mikakos', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

**Jenny Mikakos MP**  
Minister for Families & Children  
Minister for Youth Affairs  
05 / 10 / 2015

Lead region office	Local region office	Phone	Email
<b>North-Eastern region</b>	Glen Waverley	(03) 8392 9300	<a href="mailto:nevr@edumail.vic.gov.au">nevr@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
	Benalla	(03)8392 9500	
<b>North-Western region</b>	Coburg	(03) 9488 9488	<a href="mailto:nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au">nwvr@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
	Bendigo	(03) 5440 3111	
<b>South-Eastern region</b>	Dandenong	(03) 8765 5600	<a href="mailto:sevr@edumail.vic.gov.au">sevr@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
	Moe	(03) 5127 0400	
<b>South-Western region</b>	Footscray	(03) 8397 0225	<a href="mailto:swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au">swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
	Geelong	(03) 5225 1000	
	Ballarat	(03) 5337 8444	

## Provisional kindergarten funding rates 2016

Per Capita funding rates*	2016	
	January - June	July - December
Standard per capita	\$3,279	\$3,390
Rural per capita	\$4,054	\$4,192
Small rural per capita	\$5,982	\$6,185

*\*Per capita funding is paid on a pro rata basis, and the table above reflects the rates per financial year*

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	January – December 2016
Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	\$1,386

Early Start Kindergarten	January - December 2016
Early Start Kindergarten for standard service	\$4,591
Early Start Kindergarten for rural service	\$5,356
Early Start Kindergarten for small rural service	\$7,259

Ratio Supplement**	January - December 2016
Standard supplement	\$434
Kindergarten Fee Subsidy supplement	\$234

*\*\*Ratio supplement funding commences 1 January 2016 and is paid per child to services operating group sizes of 23 or more*