

# Three-Year-Old Kindergarten – 2022 service delivery



ELAA online forum Thursday 29 October 2020



# Agenda

1. Overview of the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform
2. DET initiatives and work in progress:
  - Change management and sector communications
  - Policy and funding parameters
  - Workforce initiatives
  - Infrastructure initiatives
3. Q&A

# 1. Overview of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform



# Benefits of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

**Two years** of kindergarten are better than one.<sup>1</sup> Starting a quality kindergarten program at an **earlier age** leads to **positive effects** on child development



At kindergarten, children learn key skills for life, including **creative thinking, social and emotional skills**, and **early literacy and language skills**



**Quality play-based learning** is a powerful way to support learning and development



Children in Year 3 who attended kindergarten were **15 to 20 weeks ahead** of those who did not<sup>2</sup>



At age 16, students who had attended **two to three years** of kindergarten had **higher scores** in English and maths<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Starting Strong 2017, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

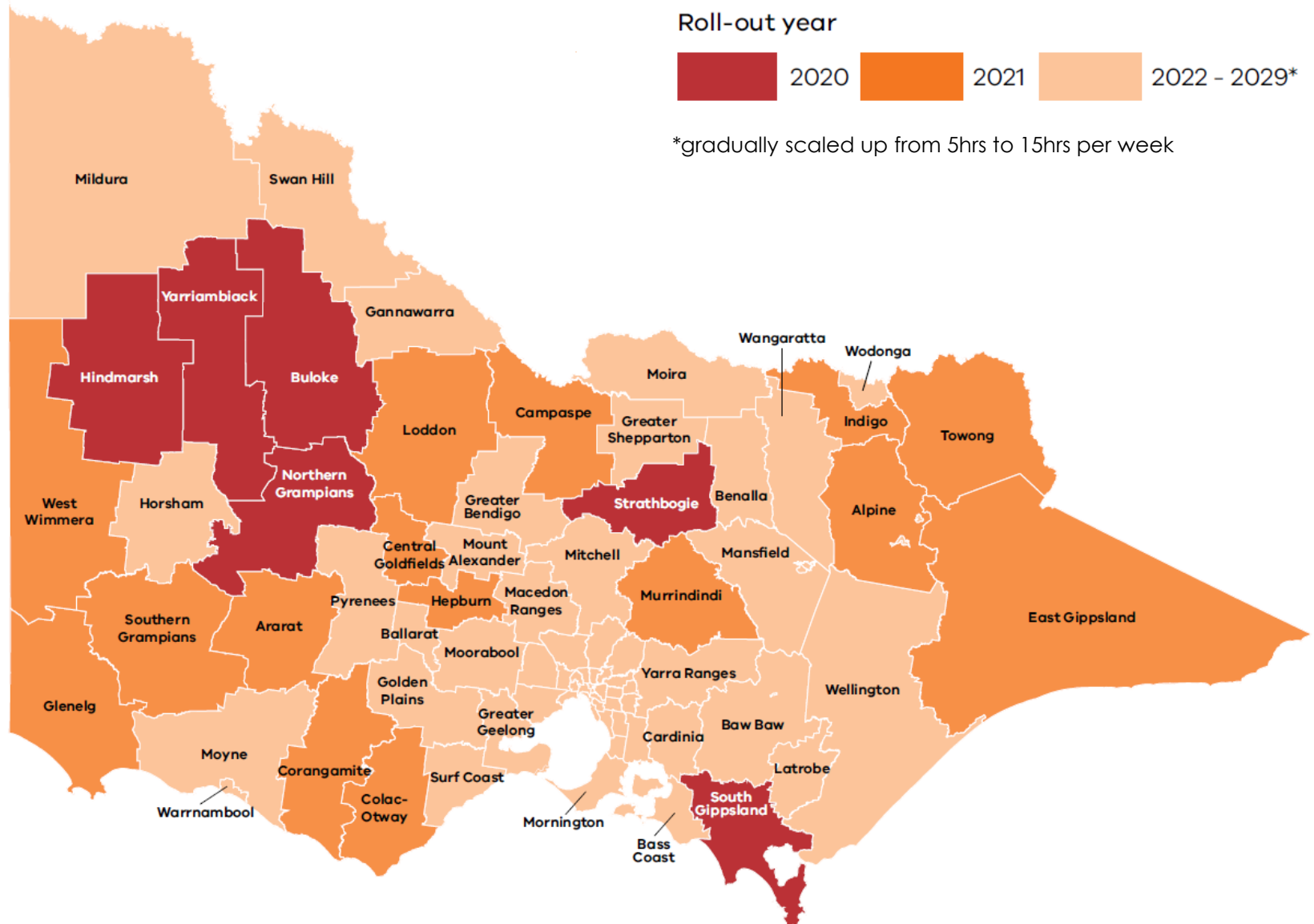
<sup>2</sup>E4 Kids, University of Melbourne

<sup>3</sup>Effective Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education Project, Department for Education, United Kingdom

# Video on the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform



## Map of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten roll-out by LGA





# Victorian Government funding of nearly \$5 billion over the decade to support implementation across four key work streams



## High quality service delivery

Provide three-year-old children with the suite of kindergarten entitlements that are available to four-year-old children



## Infrastructure

Investment to support the expansion of the sector during the roll-out period



## Workforce

Initiatives to attract and retain a growing workforce



## Local planning and change management

Funding to work intensely with the sector and local communities to support uptake and effectiveness

# Implementation principles under Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

The implementation approach harnesses the strengths of Victoria's early childhood sector to support providers, educators, families and communities in improving outcomes for every Victorian child, and based on the following principles:

## Key Implementation Principles



**Strategic** – optimistic and pragmatic approach to use this reform to deliver an early childhood system that meets Victoria's needs in the future



**Quality-focused** – working with sector partners to ensure every Victorian child has access to two years of quality, play-based kindergarten education



**Iterative** – informed by and responds to an understanding of the system, the preferences of families, communities and services, evidence-based approaches and continuous informal and formal evaluation



**Place-based** – State-wide consistency but with equitable local solutions for local challenges



**Partnership** – sector partners, including providers, educators, training partners, families and communities, are engaged in all stages of reform planning and implementation



**Efficient** – understanding and maximising existing infrastructure and workforce capacity in the sector



## 2. DET initiatives and work in progress



# Local planning and change management



The Department of Education and Training will work closely with the early childhood sector to support successful implementation of the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform.

This includes:

- articulating the value of and evidence for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten
- supporting teaching teams to offer developmentally appropriate programs for three-year-old children
- supporting providers and services to more fully utilise existing resources to deliver kindergarten programs to more children

We know that additional enrolments can often be accommodated within existing services by 'unlocking' unused capacity.

There are a range of incremental changes that providers of existing services can make to support access for more children to high-quality programs, including:

- Offering additional programs
- Implementing different timetables, including running 7.5-hour days
- Changing the model of delivery, such as introducing rotational models or mixed-age groups
- Utilising degree-qualified teachers to lead integrated kindergarten programs in LDC settings.

## Support available to providers and services

- Contact ELAA for advice and support
- DET's Area-based Early Childhood Improvement Branches are available to provide resources and advice on:
  - delivering efficient, high-quality kindergarten programs
  - communicating changes to staff, families and the community
- Early Learning Leadership Forums & Early Years Networks are an additional way through which we are engaging with the sector

## Other communication activities

State-wide communications campaign launched in September 2019 and will be expanded in 2021 to support enrolments for 2022

- Brand building to raise awareness of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and the importance of early childhood
- Promotion of workforce initiatives with a focus on recruitment

Campaign website: <https://www.vic.gov.au/kinder>



Other communication activities:

- Specific communications resources to councils and providers
- Engagement with other early childhood professionals that work closely with families such as the MCH workforce
- **Early Childhood Update** subscription via DET's website: [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)
- DET twitter [@DETVic](https://twitter.com/DETVic)
- Email queries to [3yo.kindergarten@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:3yo.kindergarten@education.vic.gov.au)

# Policy and funding parameters for 2022 roll-out areas



# Kindergarten funding parameters for services in 2022 roll-out areas



Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is funded by the State Government and is not subject to the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education

Funding rates for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will broadly match rates for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.

Pro-rata funding for **five hours per week in 2022** will be available in terms of:

- per capita funding
- kindergarten fee subsidy
- ratio supplement
- rural base funding

Other streams of funding available under Three-Year-Old Kindergarten roll-out include:

- School Readiness Funding
- Kindergarten Inclusion Support and Preschool Field Officers
- Central Enrolment
- Pre-Purchased Places



# Kindergarten policies will be updated to support the introduction of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten



## Priority of Access

The priority of access policy prioritises enrolment of vulnerable and disadvantaged children, to ensure they are supported to access a kindergarten place.

The policy will be expanded so that:

- services with separate three and four-year-old groups will be required to apply the policy to each age cohort separately
- in mixed age groups, three and four-year-old children considered vulnerable under the policy are equally prioritised



## Minimum Age of Attendance

In line with the school starting age, some children will be two years old when they start Three-Year-Old Kindergarten (turning three by 30 April at the latest).

Under the National Quality Framework, the minimum educator to child ratio for children under three is 1:4. For children over three the ratio is 1:11.

When staffing does not cover the required ratios for children under three years old, these children will not be able to attend until they turn three years old.

For children who are not yet three years old, services must waive parent fees for this period. When they attend at three years old, DET will provide a full year of child level funding.



## Early Start Kindergarten

Early Start Kindergarten provides targeted funding for children known to child protection or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Early Start Kindergarten will continue for eligible three-year-olds until all children receive 15 hours of funded kindergarten in 2029.

During the roll-out period, service providers should ensure children accessing Early Start Kindergarten continue to be enrolled for the full 15 hours of funded kindergarten.

# Flexible funding from 2023



In **2022** three-year-old children will be eligible for five hours a week of funded Three-Year Old Kindergarten.



From **2023**, providers will be able to choose how many hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten they deliver per week – with a minimum of five hours and a maximum of 15 hours.



This choice will depend on services' available **workforce and their infrastructure capacity, as well as their community preferences**. It is consistent with the approach in the 2020 and 2021 roll-out areas.



The goal is to have all services delivering 15 hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten each week by **2029**. Where necessary, the Department's preference is that participation of children is given priority over the number of weekly program hours delivered.

# Workforce initiatives



# Increasing workforce supply, quality and professional support

## Pre-training entry

**Financial support packages** for undergraduate and post-graduate courses

## Pre-service entry

**Partnering with universities** that deliver early childhood courses to strengthen practical experience opportunities for teachers-in-training

**Free TAFE** inclusion of the Certificate III and Diploma courses in Early Childhood Education and Care from 2020

**Employment incentives** offered in stages to attract more teachers to work in areas where Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is rolling out

## In-service development

**School readiness funding** enables eligible services to select the most appropriate professional development to meet the needs of children

**Beginner Teacher Conferences** to deepen professional practice and networks of early career teachers

**Funding to work with a mentor** who is an experienced early childhood teacher

**Grants to support provisionally registered teachers** move to full registration with VIT

## Strengthen leadership

**Early Learning Leadership Forum** and **Early Years Learning Networks** for practitioners to network with their peers and communicate directly with DET on Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

**Continuation of the Kindergarten Quality Improvement Program** which focuses on governance and leadership

**Development of teaching resources** for working with three-year-old children

# Infrastructure initiatives





# Three-Year-Old Kindergarten infrastructure strategy



The Infrastructure Strategy launched in March 2020 outlines the approach for investing the Victorian Government's record **\$1.68 billion** infrastructure funding in the most effective way possible through:

- making the most of existing infrastructure through using spare places and change management to 'unlock' unused capacity
- creating infrastructure capacity in the locations that need it most

The strategy also launched:

- a new overarching investment program, Building Blocks
- the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans (KISPs) process through which State and Local Governments work together to gain a clear picture of infrastructure needs



# Building Blocks investment program

## Building Blocks Grants

A single grants program for kindergarten infrastructure, which incorporates the existing Children's Facilities Capital Program and Inclusive Kindergartens Facilities Program.

## Building Blocks Partnerships

An in-principle agreement between the Department and a local government or not-for-profit provider for co-investment in kindergarten project pipelines that provide greater investment certainty.

## Kindergartens on Schools Sites

A commitment to ensuring that there is a kindergarten onsite or next door to every new government primary school that opens from 2021.

### CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS STREAM

Grants for new and expanded early learning facilities that create capacity.

Expansions

New Early Learning Facilities

Modular kindergarten facilities

Integrated Children's Centres

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS STREAM

Grants for upgrades and minor expansions of existing facilities.

Investment in IT equipment.

Minor infrastructure

Early Learning Facility Upgrade

IT

### INCLUSION GRANTS STREAM

Upgrades to existing facilities to create a safe and inclusive environment for all children.

Equipment to create a safe and inclusive environment for all children.

Buildings and playgrounds

Equipment

For information on eligibility and application guidelines visit:  
<https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Building-Blocks.aspx>

# Q&A



Thank you



© State of Victoria (Department of Education and Training) 2020



This document is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria (Department of Education and Training), indicate if changes were made and comply with the other licence terms, see: [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

The licence does not apply to:

- any images, photographs, trademarks or branding, including the Victorian Government logo and the DET logo; and
- content supplied by third parties.

Copyright queries may be directed to: [copyright@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:copyright@edumail.vic.gov.au)