

Three-Year-Old Forum Questions

Questions	Answers
What is definition of quality?	<p>There have been a number of studies that provide clarity in looking at the notion of quality in early childhood.</p> <p>Please see</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality is key in Early Childhood Education in Australia Kate Torii, Dr. Stacey Fox, Dr. Dan Cloney Mitchell Institute Paper No. 01/2017 2. The State of early learning in Australia 2017 Early Learning: Everyone Benefits. (2017). State of early learning in Australia 2017. Canberra, ACT: Early Childhood Australia. 3. The E4Kids study: Assessing the effectiveness of Australian early childhood education and care programs. Final report to the Partner Organisations of the Effective Early Educational Experiences (E4Kids) study. Melbourne Graduate School of Education 31 October 2016 https://education.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/2929452/E4Kids-Report-3.0_WEB.pdf
Can a service add a nature program to all groups, therefore reducing hours needed in the service?	<p>Information about delivering a bush kinder program is available on the DET website.</p> <p>The maximum number of approved places for children who can be educated and cared for by the service at any one time must not be exceeded. To ensure that the approved number of places is not exceeded the service will need to consider all the children being educated and cared for by the service at any one time, including the children at the education and care service's premises and those at the bush kinder site. This is also the case when calculating the ratio requirements and in meeting the educator qualification requirements.</p>
What is in incremental increase requirement up to the 15 hours in 2029?	<p>In 2022, funded three-year-old kindergarten across the rest of the state will be able to access five hours a week. This will increase to 15 hours per week by 2029.</p> <p>From 2023, it will be up to service providers to determine 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.</p>
How will this affect ESK?	<p>Early Start Kindergarten will continue to provide 15 hours a week of funded kindergarten for all eligible children up until 2029, when three-year-old children across the state will have access to 15 hours.</p> <p>It is important to continue enrolling any eligible child in Early Start Kindergarten, even if a funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program is available at the service. This guarantees that children experiencing vulnerability will continue to be enrolled in the full 15 hours of kindergarten in all service settings, including long day care. It also ensures that service providers can continue to receive all funding entitlements.</p> <p>Service providers are expected to continue to provide the full 15</p>

	hours funded through Early Start Kindergarten, even in instances where three-year-old groups are being offered fewer than 15 hours. Applications can be submitted through the Kindergarten Information Management (KIM) system.
Do services need to offer the full 15 hours by 2029?	The objective of the kindergarten expansion reform is that all services will be offering 15 hours of funded three year old kindergarten by 2029.
What happens to children who turn three-year-old between January and April?	<p>Services can work with families of children born between January and April to decide whether to enrol their children in the year they turn three, or the following year. These decisions will be up to individual families. Factors that might be taken into consideration include the individual child's developmental and learning levels, family circumstances and preferred school starting age.</p> <p>Under the National Quality Framework, the minimum educator to child ratio for children under three years of age is 1:4, while for children three years of age and older the ratio is 1:11. Children under three will not be able to attend a funded kindergarten program until they turn three, unless the service has sufficient staff to cover the required ratios.</p>
We have a Diploma Qualified Educator who is upskilling at the moment. She will have a few months left to finish the course at the beginning of 2022. Will there be a possibility of a grace period where she will be able to teach from the beginning of 2022?	<p>In 2022, three-year-old children across the rest of the state will be able to access five hours a week in a kindergarten program led by a teacher.</p> <p>The current Victorian kindergarten funding guide states, Early Childhood Teachers must be registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT).</p> <p>Graduate teachers must be provisionally registered with the VIT and working towards full registration.</p> <p>Educators working towards an approved early childhood teaching qualification or those holding a diploma level education and care qualification are not considered to be qualified early childhood teachers for the purpose of kindergarten funding.</p> <p>Educators who have not completed their teaching course will be unable to obtain VIT registration.</p> <p>DET stated in the forum that in regard to 'Funding by Exemption' requests by services will be assessed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>The funding by exception policy is set out on pages 64-65 of the Kindergarten Funding Guide. Services delivering Three-Year-Old Kindergarten may be able to access funding by exception in other circumstances on a case by case basis. Early Childhood Improvement Branches can provide specific advice to providers based on their particular circumstances.</p>
Will there be a minimum number of children that will be required to be enrolled in a three-year-old group to obtain funding?	No, there is no minimum number of enrolments required to be eligible for per capita funding for a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program.

<p>Can services still charge parents fees for 3yo kinder from 2022, like we do for 4yo?</p>	<p>Yes!</p> <p>Funding rates such as Per Capita, Kindergarten Fee Subsidy and Ratio Supplement will match the rates for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.</p> <p>The Kindergarten Fee Subsidy will continue to be a part of all funded kindergarten programs for three and four-year-old's. The eligibility criteria will be the same as the current funded kindergarten programs as provided in the Kindergarten Funding Guide.</p> <p>All support funding currently available to Four-Year Old Kindergarten is on offer to support Three-Year Old Kindergarten.</p>
<p>How does funding work for those not turning 3 and unable to physically attend until say March or April?</p>	<p>Where children do not attend from the beginning of the kindergarten year because they turn three between January and April, services must waive parent fees for this period. If a deposit is charged, it must be offset against fees once the child commences kindergarten.</p> <p>Service providers are strongly encouraged to waive any deposits for families experiencing vulnerability. Services will receive a full year of child-level kindergarten program subsidy for enrolled children who do not attend until they turn three. Priority</p>
<p>Are all streams of the Building Blocks grants open throughout the year including the inclusion stream?</p>	<p>The new Building Blocks grants program is a co-contribution grants scheme and offers greater flexibility for the sector. The sector can now engage with the grants process at any time, with multiple assessment and announcement processes planned each year.</p> <p>LGAs and service providers will now be able to submit funding applications to the Department for the capacity building stream at any point in their planning cycles. Urgent requests can be raised with the Department at any time and future round closing dates will be communicated once agreed.</p> <p>For more information on the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Infrastructure Strategy, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/capitalprogram.aspx</p> <p>For more information on Building Blocks grants or to apply, visit: www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Building-Blocks.aspx</p>
<p>Is there any information about increasing the capacity and funding of the PSFO program to manage the increase in service provision that will be required?</p>	<p>Additional funding is being supplied in line with the roll-out schedule to ensure that three-year-old children with disabilities, developmental delays or additional needs can access and meaningfully participate in kindergarten programs, including through Kindergarten Inclusion Support and additional Pre-School Field Officers.</p>
<p>Will children be able to attend as an unfunded three-year-old if needing to repeat the year of three-year-old kindergarten?</p>	<p>Children accessing Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will transition to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten the following year. Children meeting the criteria for a second year of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (when a child shows delays in at least two key outcomes of learning and development) will be eligible to access one additional year of kindergarten prior to starting school. More</p>

<p>Will there be a cut-off date that children can withdraw from the three-year-old program?</p>	<p>With the introduction of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, the updated starting age policy will allow children to access only one year of a funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program. Eligible children in the year before school will still be able to access a second year of four-year-old kindergarten in line with current policy.</p> <p>Services will need to work with families of children born between January and April to decide whether to enrol their children in the year they turn three, or the following year. These decisions will be up to individual families.</p> <p>Factors that might be taken into consideration include the individual child's developmental and learning levels, family circumstances and preferred school starting age</p>
<p>If a service does not offer 15 hours in 2029, will they receive funding?</p>	<p>From 2023, all 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 available workforce, capacity and community preferences, and is consistent with the approach in the 2020 and 2021 roll-out areas.</p> <p>The goal of this transition will be to have all services delivering 15 hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten a week by 2029. The Department will confirm closer to this time whether offering 15 hours per week will be a condition of receiving kindergarten funding for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten programs.</p>
<p>if services are in a position to offer up to 15 hours at before 2023, will they be allowed to do so, and will they get the funding for the hours they run?</p>	<p>In 2022, three-year-old children across the rest of the state will be able to access five hours a week in a kindergarten program led by a teacher.</p> <p>This will increase to 15 hours per week by 2029.</p> <p>From 2023, it will be up to service providers to determine 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 factors like available workforce, infrastructure, capacity and community preferences.</p> <p>Service providers can offer 15-hour kindergarten programs, but for those services in the 2022 roll out areas, they will only be funded for five hours in 2022.</p> <p>In 2021, these services will be required to fund the full 15 hours themselves.</p>