

Introduction

The Victorian Government's \$14 billion *Best Start, Best Life* reforms are the most significant change to Victoria's early childhood sector in a generation.

The *Best Start, Best Life* reforms give Victorian children – regardless of their life circumstances, background or postcode – access to 2 years of quality early learning before they start primary school.

To find out more, go to

vic.gov.au/best-start-best-life-reforms



Benefits of 2 years of early childhood education

When children access 2 years of quality early learning before school, it has many benefits, especially for those who need additional support.

Between the ages of 3 and 5, children learn important social and emotional skills. Kindergarten is a safe place for children to build these skills, their independence and concentration while forming positive relationships and making friends.

Studies show that children who went to kindergarten for at least 2 years also had better development in language, pre-reading, and early number concepts.

Cost of Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep, like Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, will be free for children enrolled at participating standalone (sessional) kindergarten services across Victoria. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.

Learn more about Pre-Prep at

vic.gov.au/pre-prep



Four-Year-Old Kinder is becoming Pre-Prep



Pre-Prep is coming soon

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep, with programs across Victoria increasing to 30 hours each week at the full roll out.

In 2025, Pre-Prep programs will start in Ararat Rural City, Gannawarra Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Northern Grampians Shire and Yarriambiack Shire, with weekly programs ranging from 16 to 30 hours.

At full roll out, children across Victoria will have access to 1,800 hours of funded kindergarten before school, comprising 600 hours of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and 1,200 hours of Pre-Prep.

About Pre-Prep

Like Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Pre-Prep programs will be play-based. Pre-Prep will be delivered through standalone (sessional) kindergarten services and long daycare centres.

Providing a longer program of quality play-based learning in the year before school will give 4-year-old children even greater access to the many benefits of early childhood education.



Pre-Prep roll-out schedule

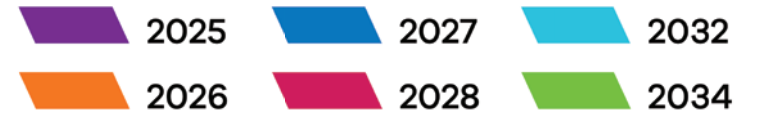
Pre-Prep will start in 6 local government areas (LGAs) in 2025, and gradually roll-out across the state.

In 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee background, and families who have had contact with Child Protection services will be eligible for Pre-Prep, no matter where they live in Victoria. An additional 12 regional LGAs will also start Pre-Prep in 2026.

Learn more about the Pre-Prep rollout schedule at vic.gov.au/pre-prep



Roll-out year



2026: Pre-Prep becomes available across Victoria to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and children who have had contact with Child Protection services.

2028: Pre-Prep becomes available across Victoria to children who have (or have a parent or guardian who has) a Commonwealth concession card and children who are a multiple birth child (triplets or more).

