



INFORMATION SHEET

What is a Standalone Kindergarten?

A standalone kindergarten is an early childhood education service that operates independently, rather than as part of a larger school, childcare centre, or Early Years Management organisation. These kindergartens are typically managed by parent-run Committees of Management (CoM) and are dedicated solely to delivering high-quality, sessional kindergarten programs for children in their local communities.

Standalone kindergartens focus specifically on preparing children aged 3-5 for the transition to primary school. Programs are designed and led by qualified Early Childhood Teachers (ECTs) and supported by dedicated educators, ensuring that children receive a high standard of educational and social development opportunities.

Why Are Standalone Kindergartens Important?

Standalone kindergartens play a vital role in the early childhood education sector by delivering high-quality, affordable, and accessible education through community-focused programs. As deeply embedded parts of their local areas, these kindergartens foster strong relationships between families, educators, and children, creating nurturing environments where children thrive. They empower parents to take an active role in governance and decision-making, enhancing community ownership and support. By focusing on play-based, child-centred learning, standalone kindergartens build strong educational foundations crucial for children's lifelong success.

Additionally, with initiatives such as the **Best Start, Best Life Reform** in Victoria, including **Free Kinder**, standalone kindergartens are making early childhood education more accessible than ever, ensuring every child gets the best start in life while easing financial pressures on families.

The Role of the Committee of Management

In standalone kindergartens, the CoM plays a critical role in ensuring the smooth operation and sustainability of the service. Comprised of parent volunteers and community members, the CoM is responsible for overseeing governance, financial management, staff employment, policy development, and compliance with regulatory requirements. By taking on these responsibilities, the CoM ensures that the kindergarten remains a vibrant, well-managed, and community-centred service that continues to thrive for future generations.

It is important to note that not all standalone kindergartens can accept community members as part of their Committee of Management. The eligibility criteria for committee membership are governed by the kindergarten's constitution, which outlines who can join and in what capacity. While some kindergartens welcome community members alongside parents, others may restrict membership to families currently enrolled in the service. Understanding and respecting these guidelines is crucial for maintaining compliance and governance integrity.



Standalone kindergartens play a vital role in nurturing our youngest community members, but they cannot exist without the support of their local community. By joining your local community kindergarten, you're not just supporting children's education; you're contributing to a legacy of parent-run, community-driven programs that offer invaluable early learning opportunities. Standalone kindergartens depend on the involvement of families and locals to remain operational and impactful. Your participation, whether as a committee member or a volunteer makes a tangible difference in keeping these valued services running. Step forward, get involved, and help shape the future of your community's children!

What Makes a Great Committee of Management Member

- A Committee of Management needs diverse skills, including but not limited to:
- Budgeting and financial reporting
- Decision-making and strategic planning
- Recruitment and staff management
- Knowledge of employment laws and workplace policies
- Skills in developing and reviewing policies
- Experience in conducting risk assessments
- Organising community events and fundraising initiatives
- Managing challenges and resolving disputes
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Compliance and Risk Management
- Proficiency in using digital tools
- Leadership

Finding Your Local Standalone Kindergarten

1. Visit the VicGov's [Find a Kinder Program](#):
2. Search for Kindergartens in Your Area:
 - Enter your address in the search bar
 - Ensure the filter for "Standalone" is selected to display only relevant options
3. Review the List of Services:
 - Scroll through the list of standalone kindergartens in your area
 - Visit the websites of any services that interest you for more details
4. Check Their Management Type:
 - Look for information on their website to confirm whether the service is committee managed
5. Contact the Service:
 - Reach out to the kindergarten to express your interest and inquire about an expression of interest in joining the committee

It's the easiest way to connect with kindergartens in your area and explore opportunities to get involved in your local community.



ELAA Members That Are Currently Looking for Members to Join Their Committee

Standalone Service	Location	Position	Contact Person	Email
Beechworth Kindergarten	Beechworth	General member (with the possibility of taking on executive roles in 2026).	Liana	beechworth.committee@kindergarten.vic.gov.au
Robina Scott Kindergarten	Williamstown	General committee members	Beth	president@robinascott.com.au