



Education  
and Training

# Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

City of Melton

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. REFORM CONTEXT

In an Australian first, the Victorian Government has committed to implement Three-Year-Old Kindergarten for all children over a 10-year roll-out with a total investment of almost \$5 billion, including \$1.68 billion to support the infrastructure expansion required for the reform. This reform will add another year of universal funded kindergarten so that, by 2029, all children in Victoria will have access to two years of play-based learning through a funded kindergarten program.

## 1.2. PURPOSE OF KISPS

Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will require a large expansion of kindergarten across the State. The Government has invited all 79 Victorian Local Governments to discuss and agree upon a Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for their Local Government Area (LGA).

Each KISP has been jointly developed with Local Government and published to estimate the growth in demand for kindergarten within the LGA. The KISPs will help all kindergarten providers meet demand and provide a clear picture of infrastructure need across the State.

While a KISP is not a funding document and does not define required infrastructure projects or commit any party to funding specific projects, it is expected that future investment requests through Building Blocks and funding decisions about Local Government and not-for-profit projects would align with the relevant KISP.

## 1.3. HOW TO USE THE KISP

Each KISP contains estimates of future kindergarten supply of, and demand for, Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places against existing enrolment capacity. Not-for-profit and for-profit providers can use these estimates to inform their plans to expand kindergarten programs, establish new services or invest in new or extended facilities.

For example, KISPs provide demand estimates in terms of where, when and how much demand for kindergarten places will grow in an LGA. KISPs also estimate where and how many kindergarten places providers can accommodate in existing facilities before an area needs new infrastructure to meet demand. The estimates can be used to inform decisions about where and when expansions of kindergarten program capacity and the construction of new or extended facilities are needed to meet demand growth.

Where there is an agreed KISP for the LGA, the Local Government and not-for-profit kindergarten providers seeking co-investments through the Building Blocks Capacity Building stream must refer to, and align their proposed project with, the infrastructure need identified in the KISP.

## 1.4. STRUCTURE OF THE KISP

Each KISP consists of the following sections:

- **Section 1:** A short introduction to the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform and the KISP.

- **Section 2:** A map of existing and planned Early Childhood Education and Care service locations.
- **Section 3:** Local knowledge and context relevant to the expansion of kindergarten services.
- **Section 4:** Funded kindergarten demand estimates.

## 1.5. DISCLAIMER

All data presented in this document are estimates only and are based on the best information available to the Department and Local Government at the time. They are published on an as-is basis and are for informational purposes only. They are subject to adjustment in response to market forces and as new data and other relevant information becomes available. The data may under- or over-estimate both total demand in a given location or year and the capacity for new demand to be met by providers. As a result, operational and business decisions should not be made solely based on this document. Any use of this data is solely at the risk of the user. The Department and Local Government accept no responsibility for any loss or damage, either direct or incidental, that may result from the use of the data.

## 2. MAP OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES IN CITY OF MELTON

The map below shows the distribution of currently operating and new services that are planned to open in the future in the LGA and across its communities.

This map has been prepared using Departmental data, from both the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA). Where applicable, this map has been refined by the Melton City Council and the Department to capture other services that are planned to open in the future.

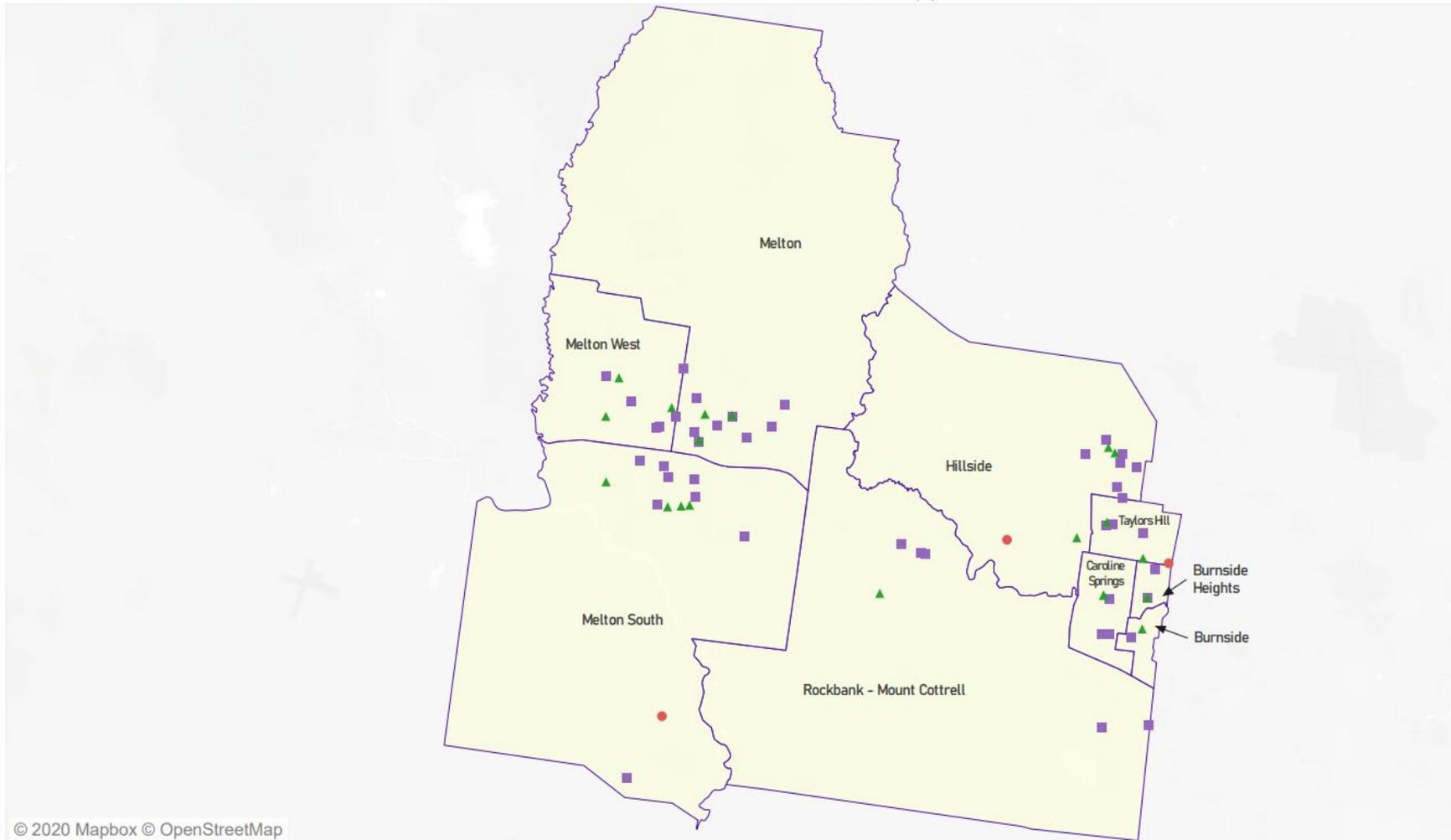
Service Name	Project Type	Suburb	Total Licensed Capacity Proposed by project
Gilson College Early Learning Centre	New Early Learning Facility	Taylor's Hill	120
*Diggers Rest Preschool	Early Learning Facilities Upgrade	Diggers Rest	66
Eynesbury Station Early Learning Centre	Integrated Children's Centre	Eynesbury	66
Grasslands (Deanside) Primary School Kindergarten (interim name)	Kindergarten on School Site	Deanside	66
<b>Total licensed capacity</b>			<b>318</b>

\*While Diggers Rest Preschool is located in the City of Melton, this service falls within Sunbury South SA2 which has been allocated to Hume for KISP purposes. Accordingly, the Diggers Rest Preschool is not factored into Melton KISP estimates and has not been included in the KISP map. Please refer to the note below the map for further clarification.

# Early Childhood Services in Victoria

LGA  
Melton (C)

KGN ▲ LDC ■ NEW ●



*Note: In some instances, SA2s overlap multiple LGAs. Where this occurs, the SA2 and any services within it, are allocated to the LGA that contains the greatest proportion of the SA2s land area. As a result, services that sit within these SA2s have been excluded from the above diagram as they are represented on the neighbouring LGA's map.*

## 3. LOCAL CONTEXT

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### 3.1 PURPOSE

Local, place-based knowledge and context play an important role in supporting the implementation of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten across Victoria. This section of the KISP documents this knowledge and context and has informed the funded kindergarten enrolment estimates in Section 4.

### 3.2 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

#### **Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten**

Melbourne's Western region is one of the fastest growing regions of Australia. The Western Region is expected to grow by around 430,000 people\* by 2031. Most of this population growth will happen in the City of Melton and Wyndham City.

The City of Melton is recognised as a diverse and growing recognised as an Interface Council of Melbourne. The Interface Councils represent the ring of ten municipalities surrounding metropolitan Melbourne and are home to just under 1.5 million people (or more than a third of Melbourne's population). Strong growth at the Interface Councils in the Melbourne's West is predicted to 2036.

\*Source: [http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/131348/Fact-Sheet-Western-Subregion-May-2014.pdf](http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/131348/Fact-Sheet-Western-Subregion-May-2014.pdf)

A key challenge will be ensuring the suburbs have the infrastructure and services they need for a liveable and sustainable future, especially ensuring access to kindergarten places for all three and four-year-old children.

It is acknowledged that COVID-19 will have some impact on population data and requires further consideration at the two-year review.

#### **Projects or trends that may influence supply of early childhood education and care**

Accelerated development in Melbourne's West will lead to increased access to local employment. For example, Toolern is now included in nationally designated employment nodes, and the Government investment in public infrastructure, such as the proposed building of Ravenhall Train Station, regional rail and Outer Western Ring Road will ensure that Melton business locations have sufficient capacity to grow. It is expected that this will make Melton a desirable place for young families, increasing people moving to the area and increased birth rates.

The future Melton Hospital is planned to be located in Cobblebank, a new suburb 4 km southeast of the Melton Centre. This may impact demographics and population in the area being a significant influence on supply and demand in the future.

Due to Diggers Rest bordering on Hume LGA it is represented in Hume KISP data not Melton despite Melton being responsible for infrastructure. This KISP agreement acknowledges that this will not reduce funding opportunities for Melton City Council in the Diggers Rest area.

Melton has limited land take for building community centres and therefore base long-term infrastructure planning on maximising centre capacity.

## **Key local geographic considerations or information relevant to Three-Year-Old Kindergarten**

Forecast id data suggests that the number of three and four-year-old children will continue to increase from 6382 in 2020 to 8231 in 2026. We expect this to continue to increase until 2036 so infrastructure planning must consider the future population and demographic needs. It is noted however that the effects of COVID-19 will need to be further considered.

Melton City Council does not manage kindergarten services but owns buildings where early child education programs are delivered. Population growth and introduction to three-year kindergarten will increase demand over this period. Although change management will support the maximization of rooms and places in existing centres, we expect that the most pressure and demand for new infrastructure will be felt when all centres offer 15 hrs of three-year-old funded kindergarten (estimated 2026-2029). Based on the existing growth on early years at this stage it is estimated that, Melton City Council's Capital Works Plan will see the addition of 11 early year's facilities between 2021-2029

Many Melton City Council residents experience disadvantage and vulnerability which places limitations to transport options. As an example, Eynesbury is not appropriate as a feeder to Cobblebank-Strathulloh, Weir Views and Melton South as the travel will likely become a barrier for families. The location of centres, and their accessibility therefore requires consideration in relation to supply and demand and the location of future builds. Infrastructure planning requires a place-based approach that considers Melton's unique and changing needs.

Primary School zoning also requires consideration. If a family's school age child requires dropping off in one area that may be a 20-minute drive from the closest point of contact for kindergarten this will have an impact on accessibility and engagement, particularly for children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage.

The impact of Kindergarten on future Primary School sites on supply and demand will also require ongoing consideration.

### **Other information about the expansion of early childhood services**

Melton City Councils aims to ensure quality kindergarten programs yet maximise capacity using the high efficiency model. Long term planning uses the assumption of 33 children per room and that the maximum number of sessions per room will be run. It is expected that all available rooms will be utilised, including Occasional Care rooms where required. However, given the uncertainties within the roll out and challenges within change management, scenario 2 'more efficient utilisation' will be used.

It has been agreed that the next steps of the KISP process is that the VSBA will meet with Council to negotiate a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement which will provide certainty of co-investment in infrastructure for the next ten years. Melton City Council has identified a list of future infrastructure projects that, if (or when) delivered will ensure the delivery of 15 hours of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten across the Melton community. It is the Council's ambition to review the KISP and the list of projects every two years following the initial formal review in 2022.

# FUNDED KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT ESTIMATES BETWEEN 2021-29 FOR CITY OF MELTON

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## 4.1 PURPOSE

As Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is rolled-out and Victoria's population grows, demand for both Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places will increase significantly. While additional capacity will be needed to meet this demand, this will vary across the State and over time, due to differences in the capacity of existing services, growth trends and sector composition.

To identify where, when and how many additional kindergarten places are expected over the roll-out in City of Melton, the Melton City Council and the Department have developed:

1. A summary of the current provision of kindergarten within the LGA (**Section 4.3**).
2. An approach to optimising the utilisation of existing services and infrastructure through 'change management' strategies that the Melton City Council and the Department will support to help meet additional demand in the LGA (**Section 4.4**).
3. An estimate of the Three and Four-Year-Old kindergarten places that cannot be met through existing services for the 2021-29 period, taking into account the additional demand that can be accommodated by optimising utilisation of existing services and infrastructure through point 2, above (**Section 4.5**).

Local Government and providers can use these published estimates to inform reform implementation activities such as service planning, kindergarten program expansion, infrastructure investments and Building Blocks funding applications in alignment with future demand over the 10-year roll-out.

## 4.2 METHODOLOGY

The estimated Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places used in the following sections have been agreed between the Melton City Council and the Department, and were informed by:

- Estimates developed by the Department which draw on a range of inputs, including population forecasts, current enrolments and results from the Kindergarten Capacity Assessment Program (KCAP), conducted in 2019.
- The estimated capacity of new services that are planned to open in the LGA (Section 2)
- Local knowledge and context provided by the Local Government (Section 3) that explains particular issues and trends in their area.
- The approach to optimising utilisation of existing services in the LGA (Section 4.4), and
- Other sources, such as modelling undertaken by Local Governments and local data.

The KISP measures a service's capacity to deliver funded kindergarten in terms of the number of children it could enrol in Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten. The number of funded kindergarten places is different from a service's licensed or approved places, which count the number of children permitted to attend the service at any one time under the license. Many services can enrol more children in their funded kindergarten program(s) than they have licensed places for because they can run more than one kindergarten program per week. Kindergarten places are therefore a more accurate measure of service kindergarten capacity than licensed places.

Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places have been presented as 15-hour places so they can be easily compared to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places. Moreover, when Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is fully rolled-out in 2029, every three-year-old child will have access to 15-hours of kindergarten.

From 2023 all providers will have flexibility 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 funded pro-rata. It is expected that hours offered will vary. Given this variation, **it is important to be aware that during the transition to all three-year-old children receiving 15-hours of funded kindergarten per week in 2029, the 15-hour places presented in this report may represent multiple three-year-old places that individually receive less than 15-hours of kindergarten per week.**

These estimates have been developed at an LGA and community level to show the overall forecast and variation within an area. The KISP defines community at the Statistical Area Level 2, which is medium-sized areas which represent a community that interacts socially and economically, with a population range of 3,000 to 25,000 people, and an average population of about 10,000 people.

### 4.3 SUMMARY OF CURRENT KINDERGARTEN PROVISION

The figures below provide a summary of current kindergarten provision within the LGA and provide relevant context for the estimates of demand for funded kindergarten places included in Section 4.5. The data included in this section are largely drawn from:

- The Kindergarten Capacity Assessment Program (KCAP), collected between June and October 2019.
- The Department's Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), as at 2019.
- The Department's Quality and Regulatory Division (QARD) monitoring data, as at 2019.
- The National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS), as at April 2020.
- The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS), as at 2018.

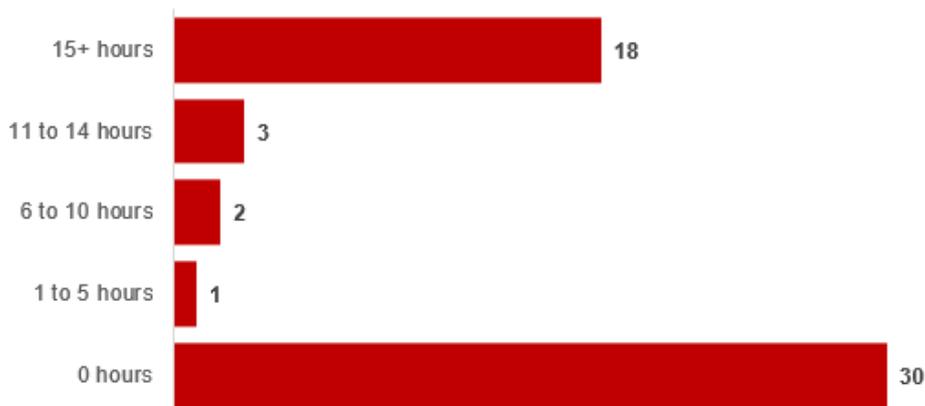
Please note that, because these sources were collected at different points, this may result in slightly different totals appearing in the below data.

Number of services by service type (NQAITs, 2020)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	21
Long day care centres	43

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITs, 2020)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	0%
Private not for profit	44%
Private for profit	48%
Other	8%

Current kindergarten offering	
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018):	92%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	54
Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	24

**Hours of unfunded 3YO programs currently offered (DET, 2019):**



#### 4.4 APPROACH TO OPTIMISING THE USE OF EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

##### Change management strategies to optimise existing services and infrastructure

Children can often be accommodated through existing spare places and by services ‘unlocking’ unused capacity. As the experience of providers in the 2020 Three-Year-Old Kindergarten roll-out LGAs shows, while the optimisation of existing services can be challenging, it is highly time- and cost-effective compared to building new capacity through infrastructure projects. It also helps target infrastructure investment to the places that need it most and avoids over-supplying the local market.

The Melton City Council and the Department will support providers and services to maximise their kindergarten places through the following change management activities and practices:

- Increasing the capacity of any Local Government operated services by:
  - Running additional programs.
  - Using different timetables, including running 7.5-hour days.
  - Changing the delivery model, such as introducing rotational models or mixed-age groups.
  - Having degree-qualified kindergarten teachers leading integrated kindergarten programs in long day care settings.
- Encouraging and supporting other providers and services in the LGA to undertake change management.

The Melton City Council and the Department have estimated how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places can be accommodated through existing services in the LGA (**Table 1**). Both parties are committed to helping providers and services offer these kindergarten places before progressing to funded infrastructure solutions to meet demand. This commitment is reflected in the LGA and community level estimates below (**Table 2** onwards), which assume that demand will be met first through existing services and second through additional infrastructure. Note that in some cases the number of kindergarten places that can be offered through existing services may exceed demand for kindergarten places.

**Table 1: Total estimated funded kindergarten places that can be offered by optimising existing services and infrastructure across the LGA, between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Estimated existing supply of kindergarten places*	5,049	5,185	5,185	5,185	5,185	5,185	5,185	5,185	5,185
Total three and four-year-old places that can be accommodated by optimising existing services**	5,814	6,002	6,002	6,002	6,002	6,002	6,002	6,002	6,002

\*This may be higher than current three and four-year-old enrolments as it includes any spare places that are currently available or could be generated by making some minor adjustments to programming approaches.

\*\*The likely expansion of services and kindergarten places in response to population growth (i.e. growth in demand not generated by the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten Reform that would likely occur) is not accounted for in these estimates.

## 4.5 AGREED ESTIMATES OF DEMAND FOR FUNDED KINDERGARTEN PLACES THAT CANNOT BE MET THROUGH EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The below estimates (**Table 2** onwards) have been developed by Melton City Council and the Department to illustrate the estimated:

1. Total number of Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places expected over the roll-out period.
2. Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by optimising existing services and infrastructure over the roll-out period.

These estimates have been developed to reflect that the increase in demand for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places will be gradual.

In estimating how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places cannot be accommodated by existing services and infrastructure, the Melton City Council and the Department have taken into account any new places that will be made available through planned expansions of existing services or new services, into estimates of existing supply, where this information is available. This may include Local Government owned services being developed and planned Kindergartens on School Sites.

These estimates do not, however, estimate how and when the broader sector will expand to meet the additional demand for kindergarten places that are estimated over the roll-out period.

Infrastructure need in the LGA and its local communities is indicated by the bottom rows of the tables in this section (**Table 2** onwards): 'Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services'. For example, if the number of kindergarten places for the LGA or a community is above zero in this row, it means that the area is estimated to need additional infrastructure (noting that further optimisation which avoids the need for additional infrastructure may be possible). Any type of provider – Local Government, not-for-profit or for-profit – can build this additional infrastructure. If this row shows all zeros, it means that there is no estimated need for additional infrastructure in the area.

Local Government and not-for-profit kindergarten providers must refer to the estimates in this section when applying through the Building Blocks Capacity Building Grants stream for Government funding. Under this stream, projects must be in a community where there is infrastructure need as shown in the community's table of estimated demand for kindergarten places (i.e. there are numbers in the bottom row above zero). Projects in LGAs or communities where demand can be met through existing services (i.e. the bottom row shows all zeros) are not eligible for funding under this stream.

## LGA estimates

**Table 2: Estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

<b>LGA level estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	2,759	3,751	4,220	4,736	5,213	5,952	6,517	7,108	7,825
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	69	212	352	864	1,213	1,597	2,196

## Community estimates

**Table 3-11: Estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

<b>Burnside estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	105	138	159	180	192	206	216	224	234
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Burnside Heights estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	228	264	275	293	304	306	314	322	332
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Caroline Springs estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	264	348	357	368	377	485	508	531	562
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	70	93	116	147

<b>Hillside estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	378	528	607	723	809	905	1,033	1,174	1,350
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	197

<b>Melton estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	366	457	500	577	626	590	614	638	672
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Melton South estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	575	818	937	972	1,088	1,418	1,555	1,693	1,855
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	275	413	550	713

<b>Melton West estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	322	441	491	555	596	629	661	692	734
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Rockbank – Mount Cottrell estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	215	360	471	615	755	920	1,110	1,313	1,542
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	69	212	352	518	707	910	1,139

<b>Talors Hill estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	306	397	423	452	467	492	507	522	545
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 4. AUTHORISATION

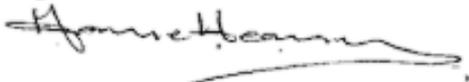
The Area Executive Director (Brimbank Melton) of the Department of Education and Training and the General Manager, Community Services of Melton City Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for City of Melton by signing on 20/01/2021.

This KISP is not intended to create legal relations or constitute a legally binding contractual agreement between the parties. The parties may review this KISP in 2022 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

An out-of-cycle review may be triggered if both parties agree that there has been a change in relevant data, information or the local early childhood sector that significantly affects the reliability of a KISP's estimates for planning purposes.

### Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Melton City Council

Signature



Name: Maurie Heaney

Witness Signature



Title: General Manager, Community Services, Melton City Council

Address: P.O. Box 21, Melton, Vic 3337

### Signed by Area Executive Director (Brimbank Melton) Department of Education and Training



Signature

Name: Bronwen Heathfield

Title: Area Executive Director (Brimbank Melton), Department of Education and Training

Address: 704B Old Calder Highway, Keilor, Vic 3036



Witness Signature