

# Kindergarten Funding Guide

## Key policy changes and updates

Topic	Change/update	Page ref.
<b>Compliance with National Quality Framework</b>	Services are required to work towards achieving an exceeding rating instead of a high quality rating.	37
<b>Types of kindergarten funding</b>	Ratio supplement funding added as a new funding type.	24
	Small rural funding has been updated to reflect the new rural kindergarten funding model for 2017.	22
<b>Core eligibility criteria for applying for kindergarten funding from the Department</b>	Services no longer require a minimum of 20 enrolments in order to receive kindergarten funding.	Removed
	From 1 January 2016, all early childhood services are required to comply with new child safe standards.	41
<b>Requirement to have a VIT registered early childhood teacher</b>	A qualified teacher employed in a Victorian licensed children's service must be registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT), or in the case of graduate teachers, be provisionally registered with the VIT and working towards full registration by demonstrating that they have met the required standards of professional practice and conduct.	8
<b>New educator to child ratio requirements</b>	In accordance with the National Quality Framework, the educator to child ratio that applies in all centre-based services is 1 educator to 11 children, for children from 36 months up to and including kindergarten age.	8
<b>Children less than four years of age</b>	A copy of the written request for early entry to school must accompany the child's application for kindergarten enrolment. The service must include a copy of this request in the child's enrolment record and upload the request to KIM.	44
<b>No Jab No Play</b>	<p>Before confirming a child's enrolment, early childhood services are required to obtain evidence that the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is fully vaccinated for their age, or</li> <li>• is on a recognised catch-up schedule if the child has fallen behind with their vaccinations, or</li> <li>• has a medical reason not to be vaccinated.</li> </ul> <p>Services must keep a copy of this evidence with the child's enrolment record.</p>	44
<b>Managing teachers</b>	Early childhood teachers are required to be registered with VIT. Employers are obliged to ensure that the teacher/s employed in services are registered.	37
	Graduate teachers are required to be provisionally registered with VIT. Service providers are required to ensure a provisionally registered early childhood teacher has the support of a trained VIT mentor teacher in order to achieve the Proficient Teacher level of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers.	37

	Service providers are required to support registered teachers to complete professional development each year to maintain their VIT registration. Professional development also needs to link to the teacher's professional development plan in accordance with applicable employment agreements.	37
<b>Notifying the Department of a change in teacher</b>	When there is a change in the early childhood teacher delivering the funded kindergarten program, the service provider must confirm that the new teacher is VIT registered and update teacher details for the applicable service/s in the KIM system.	50
<b>Workforce strategies</b>	<p>New workforce strategies in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mentor training to support experienced early childhood teachers to develop skills and knowledge in preparation for mentoring beginning early childhood teachers, and</li> <li>• support for all professionals in early childhood settings to meet their responsibilities as mandatory reporters of child abuse.</li> </ul>	48
<b>Children in out-of-home care: The <i>Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out-of-Home Care</i></b>	The Agreement describes a new role for a local government to assist case workers to find suitable early childhood education and care services in the local government area. Secure information sharing to locate children can be provided to the local government contact on a case by case basis.	51
<b>Early Start Kindergarten grants: eligibility</b>	Families who have been referred to a services connect case worker have been added to the list of those eligible for an Early Start Kindergarten grant.	27
<b>Kindergarten Fee Subsidy</b>	Delays in obtaining health care cards should not provide a barrier to accessing the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy if a carer identifies that the child is in out of home care. An application should proceed with a note entered in KIM. Information in KIM should then be updated once the health care card is sighted.	25
<b>Early Years Management</b>	The former Kindergarten Cluster Management has transitioned into Early Years Management, in line with the launch of the Early Years Management Framework.	57
<b>Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)</b>	The revised VEYLDF was launched in May 2016 and is an approved framework that guides practice for all professionals working in Victoria with children from birth to eight and their families, as declared in the Education and Care Services National Law. As a core funding requirement, services must deliver a program that adheres to the VEYLDF.	8
<b>Early Childhood Teacher Supplement</b>	The Early Childhood Teacher Supplement (ECTS) is paid for permanent staff members or relief teachers engaged for periods of three months or more. It is not payable for staff covering lunch breaks (ie those who are not primarily responsible for the caseload in a group). The starting point for ECTS eligibility has increased to level 2.3 to reflect the level changes introduced in the 2016 EBA.	17