



Education
and Training

Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

City of Latrobe

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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

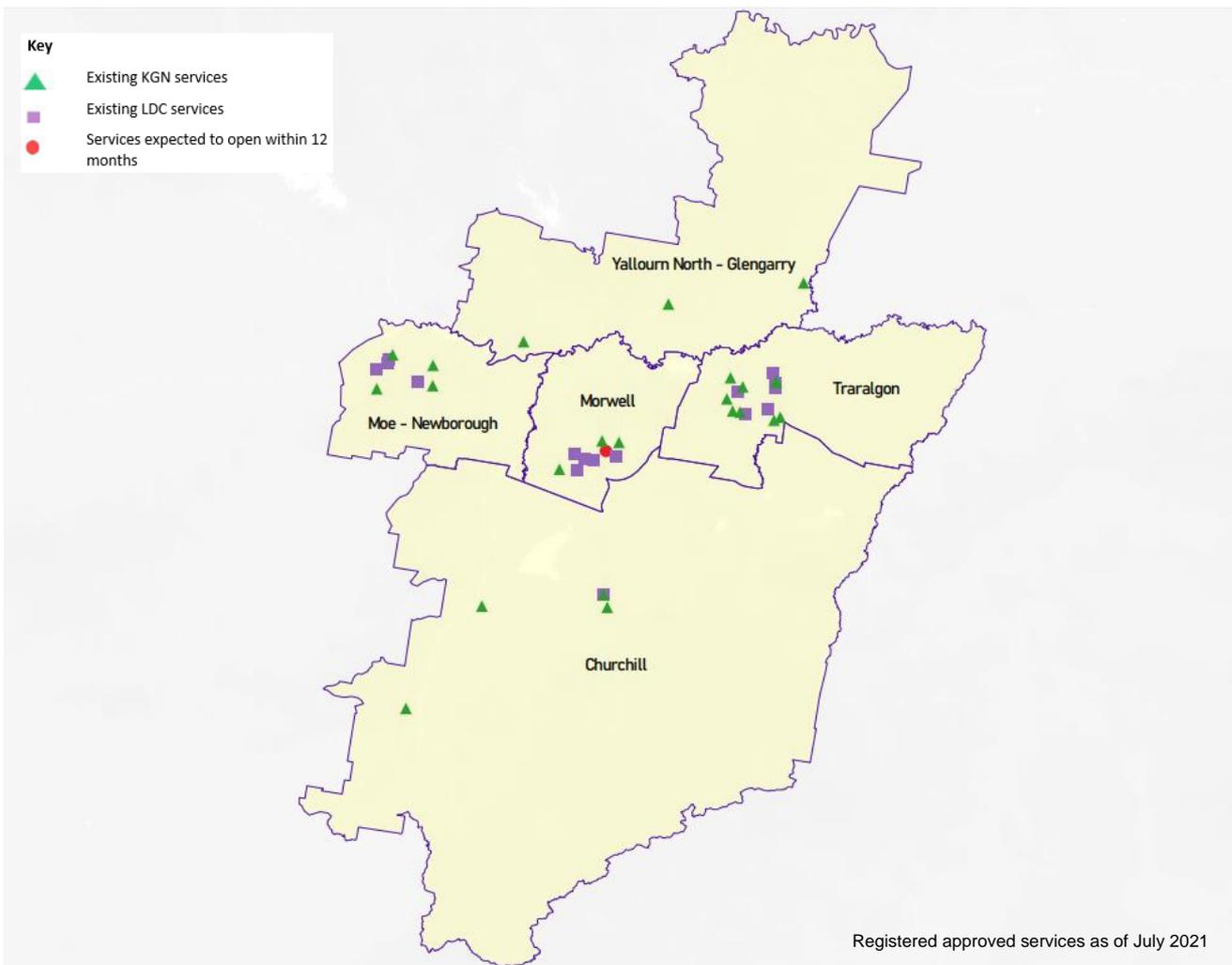
All data presented in this document are estimates only and are based on the best information available to the Department and Local Government at the time. They are published on an as-is basis and are for informational purposes only. They are subject to adjustment in response to market forces and as new 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 THE CITY OF LATROBE

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 Latrobe 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
Morwell Park Primary	KGN	Morwell	66



3. LOCAL CONTEXT

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

Latrobe City is located in the Gippsland region of Victoria, about 150 kilometres south-east of Melbourne. It is the fourth largest regional city in Victoria and the largest regional centre in eastern Victoria. Latrobe City is an urban and rural area, with the majority of the population living in the urban areas. The City includes the four major centres of Churchill, Moe-Newborough, Morwell and Traralgon and the smaller townships of Boolarra, Glengarry, Toongabbie, Traralgon South, Tyers, Yallourn North and Yinnar. Traralgon is the largest town, followed by Moe-Newborough and Morwell. The City encompasses a total land area of 1,400 square kilometres.

With the State Government announcing a commitment of \$70m to Latrobe City under the 'big build' scheme, it is anticipated that there will be growth in Social and Affordable housing in the region. Whilst Council does not have the detail as yet, it is likely that this will impact the demand for kindergarten in Morwell, Moe and Traralgon in particular.

With a SEIFA ranking of 4, the Latrobe City municipality is considered an area of relatively greater disadvantage to other areas across the State. Latrobe has a 2.5 times higher than the State rate of family violence incidents reported. It also has a significantly higher rate of child protection notifications and re-notifications.

The AEDI data identified 28.5% of children starting Prep as developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains compared to a 19.9% State average and 19.2% of children developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains, compared to a 10.1% State average.

Of the children enrolled in both 3 and 4 year old kindergarten currently;

- 7% Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- 6% speak a language other than English at home
- 9% are enrolled in ESK
- 41% of families hold a recognised concession card/health care card
- 14% of parents have identified that they are registered with a support agency
- 10% of parents have identified that their child has additional support needs
- 13.5% have been supported by the Preschool Field Officer Program.

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

When considering Infrastructure requirements for the future roll-out of the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform, the KISP has identified and grouped kindergartens into the following areas:

- Churchill
- Morwell
- Moe-Newborough
- Traralgon
- Yallourn north-Glengarry

Churchill

The Churchill area includes the kindergartens within the townships of Churchill and also Yinnar and Boolarra. Although there is significant service capacity within the Boolarra township, there is limited ability for this to assist with a potential shortfall of places in Yinnar or Churchill due to travel distances (Boolarra is located approximately 15km South-West of Churchill) and limited public transport services to Boolarra. Families from Yinnar and Churchill who are unable to get a placement in these towns typically travel into the main townships of Morwell or Traralgon for Kindergarten.

The Federation University Children's Centre, the only early learning centre located within the Churchill and district area, offers a funded kindergarten program but due to size constraints currently only provide 16 places each of 3 and 4 year old kindergarten per day.

Morwell

With the recent announcement of a new Early Learning Centre being built at Morwell Park Primary school and also a refurbishment of Parklands Preschool on Bridle Road, Morwell should have the infrastructure required to be able to transition to the delivery of two years of funded kindergarten. Work undertaken at both locations is due to commence in 2022 and both sites will be operational in 2023.

Traralgon

The Traralgon township is Latrobe City's fastest growing town. The KISP estimates indicate the town is able to accommodate both three and four-year-old places until 2026, however Council considers there are a number of factors which may result in unmet demand occurring earlier.

Firstly, three-year-old enrolment numbers for 2022 are at relatively high levels, which may indicate a higher level of participation than estimated in the KISP.

Furthermore, there is a large private Early Learning Centre situated in Traralgon which would like to offer funded kindergarten but finds it challenging recruiting and retaining a Bachelor Qualified staff member to deliver the program. If this service is unable to offer kindergarten, this may result in unmet demand to occurring earlier in this SA2.

Traralgon is also an area that families from outlying towns (Glengarry, Tyers, Traralgon South) choose to enrol their children in as opposed to their residential town due to care and work arrangements. This can put pressure on the kindergarten places in the town.

Moe/Newborough

Although not as critical as some of the other areas, Moe/Newborough is another area where Council considers unmet demand could potentially occur earlier than in the KISP. Moe has a number of Private Early Learning Centres that find it challenging to recruit and retain the qualified staff needed to operate a kindergarten program, which may impact on their ability to contribute to kindergarten capacity. It is also noted that families in this SA2 appear to have a preference for sessional kindergarten, with the Private Early Centres only attracting a small number of enrolments in past years.

Yallourn North - Glengarry

The Yallourn North – Glengarry area incorporates both the Glengarry and Yallourn North Kindergartens and also Tyers Kindergarten. Tyers is a town situated in between both Yallourn North and Glengarry.

Although Tyers and Glengarry are only a short distance from one another and we see some families travel between these two settings when needed, Yallourn North cannot be considered to have available places for unmet demand from any other town in Latrobe due to travel distances. Typically, any unmet demand from Glengarry or Tyers will travel into Traralgon.

Glengarry also services the township of Toongabbie. Although only a small number of children attend from Toongabbie each year, this does have an impact on the already expanding township of Glengarry.

4. FUNDED KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT ESTIMATES BETWEEN 2021-29 FOR THE CITY OF LATROBE

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 the City of Latrobe, Latrobe 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 Latrobe 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 Latrobe 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 March 2021.
- 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, 2021)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	23
Long day care centres	16

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITs, 2021)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	62%
Private not for profit	15%
Private for profit	18%
Other	5%

Current kindergarten offering	
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018):	98%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2020):	37
Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	9



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.

Latrobe 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.

Latrobe 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*	1826	1826	1923	1923	1923	1923	1923	1923	1923

*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.

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 Latrobe 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, Latrobe 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)

LGA level estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	1099	1372	1466	1577	1667	1821	1904	1990	2103
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	2	8	53	103	168	253

Community estimates

**Table 3-7: Estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29
(presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

Churchill estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	124	161	173	187	198	218	228	237	250
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Moe – Newborough estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	215	265	283	305	321	350	364	378	398
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	36

Morwell estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	203	247	262	277	290	313	324	335	350
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Traralgon estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	462	586	629	681	725	797	841	886	944
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	35	79	124	182

Yallourn North – Glengarry estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	95	113	120	126	132	142	147	153	160
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	2	8	18	23	29	36

5. AUTHORISATION

The Area Executive Director, Inner Gippsland of the Department of Education and Training and the Chief Executive of Latrobe City Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for City of Latrobe by signing on 05 / 05 / 2022.

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 **2024** to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Latrobe City Council

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Signature

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Signed by Area Executive Director, Inner Gippsland, Department of Education and Training


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