



## BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF INTENT

### **Mitchell Shire Council**

Mitchell Shire Council and the Department of Education and Training have today committed to working in partnership to deliver infrastructure for approximately 442 funded kindergarten places (based on 15 hours of kindergarten) over the next decade to support the roll out of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten. This follows agreement of the Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (KISP) for Mitchell Shire Council.

To support this commitment, the State Government has provided in-principle support to co-contribute up to approximately \$12.3 million for three early childhood infrastructure projects across Wallan and Seymour SA2s, creating approximately 442 funded kindergarten places over the course of the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform through to 2029, noting that projects post-2025 are subject to further planning and scoping.

This commitment follows work between the Department and Mitchell Shire Council to develop a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement, a forward plan for kindergarten infrastructure provision. This forward planning will help ensure that all children will have access to two years of funded Kindergarten from 2022 onwards.

As part of the development of a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement, the Department and Council have signed a Building Blocks Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, which commits both parties, in-principle, to:

- commit to working together to plan and deliver infrastructure to support the roll out of the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform, providing 15 hours of funded kindergarten for all three-year-old Victorian children by 2029
- supporting the creation of approximately 442 funded kindergarten places through co-investment
- an annual review of proposed projects, allowing project details (timings, scale, scope etc.) to be amended to reflect updated KISP data, enrolment data and local particulars.
- a Working Group supported by the Council and Department will continue to scope potential additional projects in the Wallan SA2 for future funding under the Partnership, in recognition of high forecast kindergarten demand in this area beyond 2025.

This commitment is subject to:

- Council submitting projects to Building Blocks grants program to confirm project scope and readiness to access the agreed State Government funding contribution
- changing requirements as a result of altered market conditions/supply and demand patterns over time, which parties will monitor together as part of the annual Building Blocks Partnership Project Schedule review.

### **Building Block Partnership Agreements**

Building Block Partnership Agreements are a strategic, in-principle agreement between State Government and councils and NFPs to deliver funded kindergarten places via infrastructure investment projects. A Building Blocks Partnership Agreement may only be signed once the associated KISP is signed and published. The primary objectives of Building Block Partnership Agreements are to:



1. Provide greater funding certainty for both State Government and partners about co-investment intentions in a forward pipeline of kindergarten infrastructure.
2. Support State Government and partners to forward plan their infrastructure budgets and deliver facilities in line with kindergarten enrolment growth.
3. Support the successful roll out of the reform by identifying projects that will facilitate the delivery of additional kindergarten capacity over a multi-year period.

The Building Blocks Partnership Agreements form part of the Victorian Government's Three-Year-Old Infrastructure Strategy.

## Three-Year-Old Kindergarten funding

State Government has committed to rolling out Three-Year-Old Kindergarten across Victoria, with all three-year-old children to receive 15 hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten by 2029. \$1.68 billion has been committed for infrastructure to support the roll-out, of which \$703.5 million was provided in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 State Budgets.

This funding is used to co-invest in infrastructure with local councils, NFP kindergarten providers and other asset owners.