



Education  
and Training

# Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

City of Moonee Valley

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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.

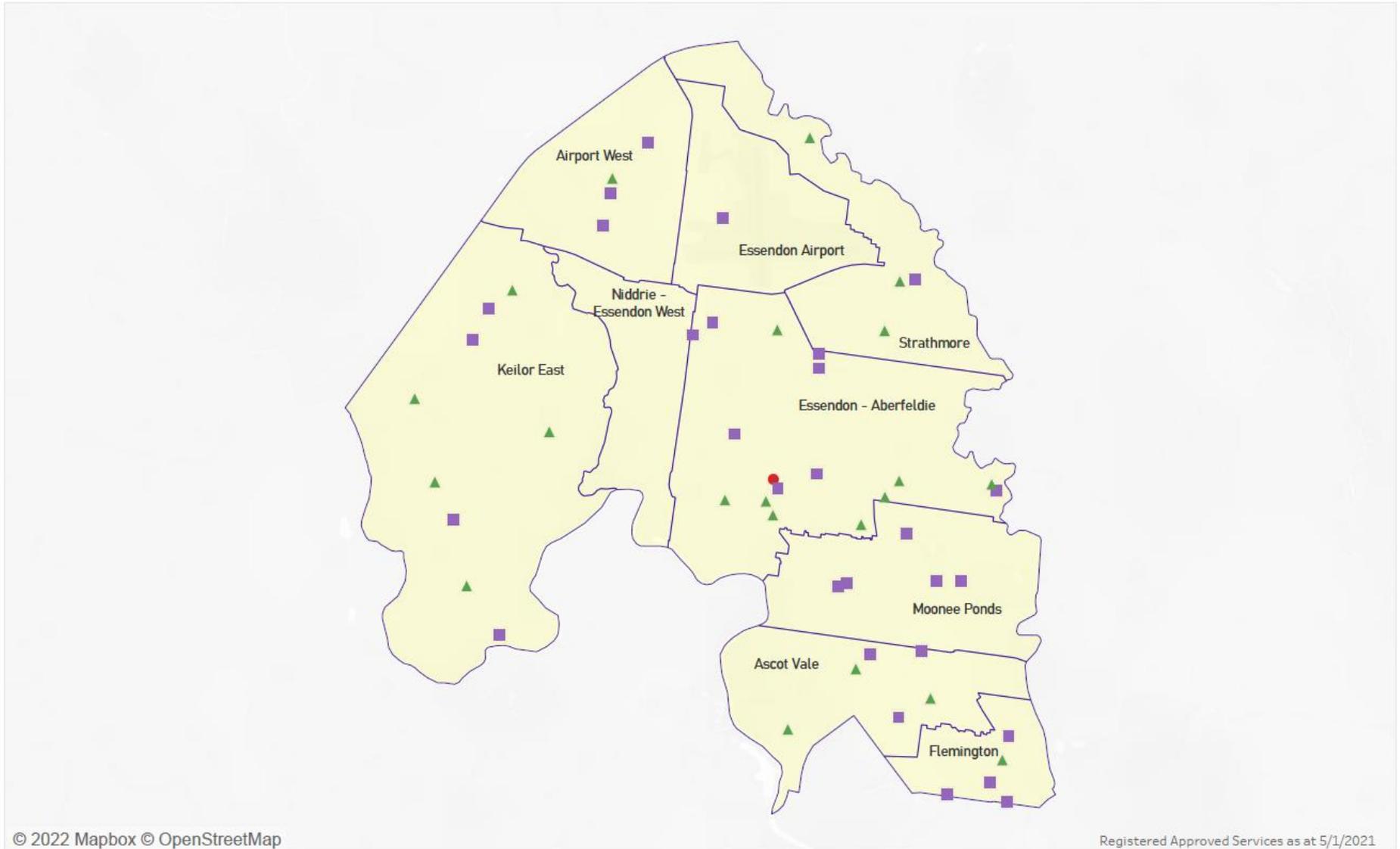
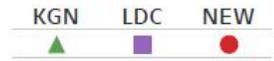
## 2. MAP OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES IN CITY OF MOONEE VALLEY

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 Moonee Valley City Council and the Department to capture other services that are planned to open in the future.

### Services that are planned to open in the next 12 months

Service name	Project type	Suburb	Total licensed capacity
Essendon Keilor College	Kindergarten on School Site	Essendon - Aberfeldie	66



## 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**

The City of Moonee Valley comprises approximately 43 square kilometres of land, with around 67 per cent of the land areas used for residential purposes. The municipality is bordered by the local government areas of Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Moreland and Melbourne and at its closest point, it is approximately 5 kilometres from Melbourne CBD<sup>1</sup>.

#### ***Snapshot of municipality demographics***

Moonee Valley is a culturally and linguistically diverse community, with more than a quarter of the population born overseas. The top three countries of origin are Italy, the United Kingdom and India. Around 30 per cent of our population speak a language other than English at home, the most dominant languages being Italian, Greek and Vietnamese.

The most recent census indicated the following:

- 243 households that identify as indigenous.
- 4,383 adults indicated that they were single parents.
- 14.3% of families report an income of between \$0 and \$64,999, which entitles them to the maximum childcare subsidy percentage<sup>2</sup>.
- The majority of workers (28.6%) travel to work as a driver.
- 5.2% of people require assistance with core activities due to a profound or severe disability.
- Social housing makes up 4.2% of all dwellings in Moonee Valley, the fourth highest amongst councils in metropolitan Melbourne.

#### ***Population Growth***

Council uses Remplan to plan and forecast population. Based on this data, Moonee Valley is expected to grow 35% from 122,871 in 2016, to 166,143 people by 2041 at an average increase of 1.21% percent per year. The majority of this change (68%) is due to net migration rather than natural change<sup>3</sup>. The largest growth is expected to occur between 2026 and 2031.

Key influences on total municipality growth are as follows:

- Couples with children, or one parent family households are projected to make up 39% of all households by 2041.
- The number of dwellings is expected to increase by 22,084 from the 53,168 existing structures in 2016 (Feb 2021).
- High density dwellings are projected to contribute the largest increase in dwelling structure types.

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<sup>1</sup> MV2040 Strategy, June 2018 – Your Neighbourhood, Your Vision

<sup>2</sup> Services Australia – Family Income Calculator

<sup>3</sup> Remplan – Community Forecast data

- Children aged 0 - 4 years make up at least 5% of the total population across all forecast years.
- Moonee Ponds is forecast to experience the greatest growth, increasing by 102% from 13,911 in 2016, to 28,135 in 2041.

### **Relative Disadvantage**

In Australia, those who are most socioeconomically disadvantaged are twice as likely to have a long-term health condition compared to those who are the least disadvantaged. Although Moonee Valley's overall Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) score is quite high (1035), this isn't the case for the whole community.

Levels of relative disadvantage vary dramatically by SA2 across Moonee Valley, ranging from the 7th percentile in Flemington to the 95th percentile in Strathmore. Table 1 below provides further detail.

*Table 1 – SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by SA2, 2016 (released 2018)*

2016 SA2s	SEIFA Disadvantage Score	Percentile (VIC)	Rank (VIC) (of 454)
Airport West	1,021	52	234
Ascot Vale	1,003	43	193
Essendon - Aberfeldie	1,078	86	397
Flemington	904	7	28
Keilor East	1,017	50	223
Moonee Ponds	1,069	81	366
Niddrie – Essendon West	1,059	73	328
Strathmore	1,097	95	430

Two of Council's lowest scoring SA2 areas, Ascot Vale and Flemington, consist of SA1 areas that have very high levels of disadvantage. Seven of these identified SA1 areas are ranked within the state's top fifteen areas of disadvantage, with three of these areas within the Ascot Vale SA2 and four within the Flemington SA2.

Further to this, only 1.4% of all properties available to rent within Moonee Valley are recorded as affordable, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Rental Report. This is significantly below the metropolitan Melbourne affordable rental figure of 5.9%.

### **High Density Living**

High density dwellings are the dwelling type forecast to see the highest levels of growth in the municipality. These are expected to increase by 11,678 (153.64%) dwellings from 7,601 in 2016 to 19,279 in 2041.

A number of the high-density dwellings are provided by the state government. Overall, 4,282 families indicated that their landlord was the state government housing authority.

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

### ***Strategic Directions and Leadership***

In June 2018, Council launched the plan for the future of Moonee Valley City Council, the MV2040 Strategy. This document determines Council's future commitments and priorities, supporting Council's vision to be a healthy city. This strategy supersedes previous standalone planning documents, including the Municipal Early Years Plan.

A key outcome of MV2040 is the move towards a neighbourhood planning approach for planning and service delivery. This approach aims at creating a more inclusive, vibrant and healthy city, and to provide residents with accesses to the services they need within a 20-minute walking distance.

Council understands the need to play various roles in order to ensure the best outcome for the community. These roles include:

- Provider – takes full responsibility for funding and carrying out services.
- Partner – funds and carries out services in formal partnership with other organisations.
- Funder – funds other organisations to carry out services, for example through grants and service delivery contracts.
- Regulator – has statutory responsibilities and directs these activities as required.
- Monitor – gathers information on activities and checks against progress.
- Facilitator – encourages others to be involved in activities by bringing interested parties together to progress identified issues.
- Advocate – promotes the interests of the community to other decision-making organisations, for example the State and Federal Governments.

### ***Provider***

As a provider, Council currently delivers the following services to support three and four-year-old children:

- 11 standalone sessional Kindergartens delivering both three and four-year-old kindergarten
- 2 standalone sessional Kindergarten delivering just three-year-old kindergarten
- 5 long day care programs
  - 3 that offer sessional four-year-old kindergarten
  - 2 that offer integrated kindergarten

In 2021, these services provided 732 four-year-old places, and 333 three-year-old places within the community.

In addition to delivering sessional kindergarten services, Council also provides a Central Registration Service to the following non-Council Kindergartens:

- Ascot Kindergarten (committee operated)
- Ascot Vale Progress Kindergarten (committee operated)
- St Andrews, St Aiden's and St Brendan's Kindergarten (operated by BPA)

### ***Partner***

Council continues to work in partnership with DET's South Western Region representatives matters relating to the Early Years Reform. Council notes that there is a significant number of private long day services in the municipality, and that the approach these services take to kindergarten provision is outside Council's direct influence.

### ***Council Infrastructure***

Council owns 12 of the 13 kindergarten facilities in operation, and all five of the childcare centres in operation. In addition to this, Council owns one kindergarten (Ascot Kindergarten) and one childcare centre (Airport West Co-Opt) which are currently operated by committees of management, with outdated lease arrangements. One of Council's kindergarten sites operates within a community centre type building which is leased by Council.

One of the most significant issues within Moonee Valley is the lack of suitable land and the cost of purchasing land parcels if and when these become available. This limits rate payer funded opportunities to acquire locations within the municipality.

Council's existing kindergarten infrastructure consists mostly of single unit buildings (only one double unit), with 61% built to old regulated building specifications, operating at a maximum capacity of less than 33 children. At least 25% these sites do not have land capacity to convert the site to a double unit premises. A further 30% of Council's kindergarten locations are affected in some way by heritage overlays, and 25% by other planning overlays (airport and culture heritage) complicating future build options.

The general condition of Council's buildings could be summarised as aged, with 38% of sites having an identified remaining lifespan of eight years or less according to 2020 building audits.

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

### ***Priority Geographic Areas***

Using the principles of 20-minute neighbourhoods, Council aims for Moonee Valley's residents to have access to services and community facilities within a pleasant 20-minute walk of their homes. Adopting a place-based approach means the diverse and complex needs of residents, workers and visitors will be considered at the neighbourhood level. Currently, this objective is not supported by the existing placement of sessional kindergartens.

### ***Early Years Survey***

During July of 2021, Council undertook a community survey seeking feedback from families with children aged 0 – 6 years of age. In total, 456 responses were received, with 420 of these being from Moonee Valley residents. The responses provided identify the following:

- 78.5% of all families had children aged 4-5 years<sup>i</sup>
- 46.8% of Primary Carers work part time, and 72.61% of the secondary carers work full time<sup>ii</sup>
- 6.62% of families who responded have a Health Care Card<sup>iii</sup>
- 41.41% of families were attending either a sessional (36.32%) or integrated (5.09%) four-year-old kindergarten program<sup>iv</sup>
- 23.89% of families who use sessional kindergarten are also using 2 days of childcare, and a further 18.43% are using 3 days of childcare<sup>v</sup>
- 323 children are intending to access a funded 4yo kindergarten in the next three years – 59% at a sessional kindergarten, and 18% at an integrated kindergarten<sup>vi</sup>
- 249 children are intending to access a funded 3yo kindergarten – 37% at a sessional kindergarten, and 20% at an integrated kindergarten<sup>vii</sup>

- 48.64% of families advised that the introduction of funding for 3yo kindergarten from 2022 will make them more likely to use the program<sup>viii</sup>
- Saturday sessions are of low interest to the community, with only 15.96% considering this for 3yo and 14.65% for 4yo<sup>ix</sup>
- Of responses received for families currently using kindergarten, on average 31.68% indicate that the sessional kindergarten is their preferred service as it is closest to their home<sup>x</sup>
- 36.55% of those currently using sessional kindergarten indicated that they moved from their existing childcare centre in order to attend<sup>xi</sup> with much higher figures in some areas.
- 36.30% of all families currently using sessional kindergarten who moved from childcare indicated that they did so because they prefer the sessional kindergarten facility, and a further 29.81% indicate cost as the reason<sup>xii</sup>
- When considering a kindergarten, families rank the quality of staff and program (57.65% of first preferences) as the most important factor when choosing where to go, followed by the hours offered in the timetable (24.83% of first preferences)<sup>xiii</sup>
- With the consideration of all preferences (up to 13 available) the most popular factors included<sup>xiv</sup>:
  - The quality of staff and program (98.11%)
  - Hours of the timetable (93.07%)
  - Quality of the outdoor play spaces (89.78%)
  - Quality of the indoor facility (89.66%)
  - Location (84.50%)

### **Central Registration Service (CRS) data**

In 2020, Council's Central Registration team received over 1700 applications for three and four-year-old kindergarten. The majority of these applications are converted into allocated places; however, some cancel as a result of not being able to obtain a position of choice.

The first round of allocations is usually the strongest indication of where parents are wanting to access kindergarten. At the conclusion of round one, we will, on average, have filled more than 88% of the places available within the system. This allocation usually occurs in July for four-year-old kindergarten and September for three-year-old kindergarten. For families that didn't obtain a position in round one, depending on the area they are applying for, they may be facing an uncertain wait for months on a waiting list, and at times to no avail.

Each area faces different demand issues, with varied factors contributing to this demand. The SA2's listed below have been identified as a concern to Council or different to the KISP forecast indications. On average in the past few years, sessional kindergartens on the CRS have provided places to 35% of the three-year-old population and 69% of the four-year-old population.

### **SA2 - 21116 - Moonee Ponds**

*Contains no Council operated services.*

The KISP identifies unmet demand in this SA2 from 2028 onwards. The KISP takes a sector neutral view of existing supply, and does not differentiate between supply available in sessional and long day care settings. Parent preferences have not been considered in this calculation, and CRS evidence indicates that there are a significant number of Moonee Ponds families who are opting to attend sessional kindergarten instead of the available long day care spaces.

*Table 2 – CRS Allocation for Moonee Ponds families (as per the year of attendance)*

CRS Demand	Three-Year-Old Kindergarten				Four-Year-Old Kindergarten			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Places Offered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Families Allocated	37	42	36	46	77	72	76	78
Allocation vs. Availability	-37	-42	-36	-46	-77	-72	-76	-78
Ascot Vale SA2	12	11	12	16	28	25	25	26
Essendon-Aberfeldie SA2	21	28	24	23	45	40	49	48
Other SA2's	4	3	0	7	4	7	2	4

Table 2 identifies that a significant number of Moonee Ponds families are accessing a CRS sessional kindergarten. Based on these numbers, which take into account existing parent preferences, there are shortages of two three-year-old groups, and more than two four-year-old groups within the immediate area.

As a result of not being able to access a kindergarten in their immediate area, families are applying for access in other neighbourhoods, increasing the pressure on these SA2's to provide for more than just their immediate community. This is of significant impact to the Essendon-Aberfeldie SA2, which is catering for 60% (24 children) of all allocated Moonee Ponds three-year old's and 57% (46 children) of the four years old allocations and to Ascot Vale, who is catering for 32% (13 children) of all allocated Moonee Ponds three-year old's and 18% (14 children) of the four-year-old allocations.

The recently conducted Early Years Survey (July 2021) identified some parent preferences, behaviours and expectations with regard to attending early childhood services within Moonee Ponds including:

- Cost is a significant factor when choosing services, with second highest percentage in the municipality.
- Almost half of all responding families indicate that the introduction of three-year-old funding will make it more likely for them to access three-year-old kindergarten in the future.
- About a third of all responding families who use sessional kindergarten indicate that they moved from childcare to be able to attend the sessional program, most because they prefer the sessional facility.
- Sessional kindergarten will continue to be needed within the community, with a significant number indicating their desire to attend sessional 4yo in the future, and smaller, but still significant portion attending sessional 3yo kindergarten.

From the centre of Moonee Ponds, almost all of the kindergartens within the Ascot Vale or Essendon – Aberfeldie SA2 are more than twenty minutes walking distance away, working against Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Council's neighbourhood planning expectations.

The number of families within this community is expected to continue to grow significantly, and with that, Council considers that the expectation to be able to attend a sessional kindergarten program will also grow. Without additional places to address the immediate need identified within table 2, and the expected increases, Council considers that nearby SA2's such as Ascot Vale and

Essendon – Aberfeldie will continue to be significantly affected, trying to cater for both their own community and the unmet needs of Moonee Ponds families.

Council’s limitations in increasing capacity within this area has been as a result of the high cost and lack of available land within the area. Available funding opportunities only contribute to a portion of the development of buildings not land, leading Council to pay significantly higher expenses to build in this area in comparison to other Council’s with land availability.

**SA2 - 21113 - Ascot Vale**

*Contains Coronation Kindergarten – within the Ascot Vale neighbourhood, in the Myrnong Ward*

The KISP forecast data identifies unmet demand in this SA2 from 2023 onwards. CRS data, which takes account the preferences of families accessing the service indicates that sessional kindergarten services within the area are unable to meet the demand of the community. There are three sessional kindergartens servicing the Ascot Vale community, which includes two non-council, committee operated kindergartens. The area combined sees a demand that exceeds the available number of places. This is evident the table below.

*Table 4 – CRS Demand for Ascot Vale at Round 1*

CRS Demand	Three-Year-Old Kindergarten				Four-Year-Old Kindergarten			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Places Offered	70	70	70	77	140	166	166	166
Demand (1st Pref)	90	93	111	97	151	191	176	195
Demand vs. Availability	-20	-23	-41	-20	-11	-25	-10	-29

Council has observed a trend over the past 6 years that Coronation Kindergarten is repeatedly full after the first round, and is often faced with long waiting lists in both the three and four-year-old program space, some from families who have indicated each of the Ascot Vale kindergartens as a preference and have still been unable to obtain a position.

Ascot Vale’s CRS Kindergartens provide enough places for 40% of the area’s three-year-old population (compared to Council’s average of 35%) and 96% of the four-year-old population (compared to Council’s average of 69%).

Demand for this site is affected by not having an available sessional kindergarten site in Moonee Ponds (as per above). Of the number of Moonee Ponds families that apply for a CRS sessional kindergarten, 32% (13 children) of these apply for an Ascot Vale three-year-old program, and 34% (26 children) apply for a four-year-old program.

The number of applications received within the Ascot Vale area is reaching near three hundred, and the number of places available is currently maxed at 263 places. Growth is expected to continue, and with that, Council considers that the community expectation to be able to attend a sessional kindergarten program will also grow. The demand for this service continues to grow beyond the numbers above throughout subsequent rounds.

The recently conducted Early Years Survey (July 2021) identified some parent preferences, behaviours and expectations with regard to attending early childhood services within Ascot Vale including:

- Ascot Vale attracted the highest number of family responses when compared to all other suburbs.
- The suburb has a high number of children currently using sessional kindergarten, and intending to use sessional kindergarten in the future.
- A high proportion of families moved from their childcare program to attend a sessional kindergarten, most because they preferred the sessional kindergarten facility, and another portion because they didn't require the longer hours available in a childcare setting.
- More than a third of families indicated that the introduction of funding will make it more likely for them to use three-year-old kindergarten in the future.

In addition to the above information, CRS provides further insight to the vulnerability experienced within the area for 2021 attending families. Ascot Vale presents with the following:

- Highest number of children with an identified vulnerability (when compared to all other suburbs).
- Highest number of children eligible for a second year of 4-year-old kindergarten.
- Second highest number of Health Care Card holders (behind Flemington).
- Highest number of children with additional needs.
- Equal highest number of applications submitted with referral support (alongside Flemington).
- Equal second highest number of children requiring assistance to attend (Avondale Heights and Strathmore higher, sharing second place with Airport West).
- Second highest number of children known to child protection (behind Flemington).
- Second highest number of refugee or asylum-seeking children (behind Avondale Heights).
- Second highest number of children eligible for Early Start Kindergarten.

Without additional places to address the existing immediate need identified within table 2, Ascot Vale will continue to experience high waiting lists, and services will be full long before the kindergarten year commences. This could significantly impact on families experiencing vulnerability within the community who may not submit an application in the first round.

### **SA2 - 21114 - Essendon – Aberfeldie**

*Contains:*

- *Beaver Street Kindergarten – within the Aberfeldie neighbourhood*
- *Cooper Street Kindergarten – within the Keilor Road / North Essendon neighbourhood*
- *Montgomery Park Kindergarten – within the Essendon neighbourhood*
- *Montgomery Park Children's Centre – within the Essendon neighbourhood*
- *North Essendon Kindergarten – with the Keilor Road / North Essendon neighbourhood (all within the Buckley Ward)*

The KISP forecast identifies unmet demand in this SA2 from 2028, however Council considers that there is pressure now due to this SA2 providing significant support to two un-serviced areas.

This area consists of five council operated kindergartens, one childcare offering sessional kindergarten and one non-Council (early years managed) within the Central Registration Service (CRS). The demand experienced by services within this area varies service by service, however on average, and as a result of adding additional sessional places within an existing childcare centre, the area is now able to meet first round demand as per the table below.

*Table 5 - CRS Demand for Essendon – Aberfeldie at Round 1*

CRS Demand	Three-Year-Old Kindergarten				Four-Year-Old Kindergarten			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Places Offered	132	154	176	183	246	242	253	253
Demand (1st Pref)	138	155	161	141	258	250	239	239
Demand vs. Availability	-6	-1	15	42	-12	-8	14	14

CRS kindergartens within Essendon – Aberfeldie provide enough places for 52% of the areas three-year-old population (compared to Council’s average of 35%) and 71% of the four-year-old population (compared to Council’s average of 69%). Both of these figures are higher than the MV average, however three-year-old provision is 17% more than the average figure.

Pockets of Essendon – Aberfeldie create greater risk to Council and DET with continued provision not guaranteed in Aberfeldie due to circumstances out of the control of both parties. The Aberfeldie suburb has a very small individual population, and it is currently serviced by one Council kindergarten, one CRS partner non-council (BPA) kindergarten and one committee non-council operated service not on the CRS or within Council’s influence. At the moment, provision within Aberfeldie appears at extraordinary rates of on average 194% of the three-year-old population, and 371% of the four-year-old population, with many children coming from nearby areas such as Niddrie, and Moonee Ponds that do not have a sessional kindergarten program.

Both non-Council services are delivered on church owned properties and offer more places than the council owned site. Neither service has a long-term commitment and as such continued provision of kindergarten at these locations may be at risk.

In 2021, 296 children accessed kindergarten from one of the three mentioned Aberfeldie services. On average, 34% of attending children reside in Essendon, 14% Niddrie and 13% from the suburb of Aberfeldie. Reduction in the delivery of either service would have a significant impact on demand in this SA2, rapidly shifting the supply and demand.

The recently conducted Early Years Survey (July 2021) identified some parent preferences, behaviours and expectations with regard to attending early childhood services within Essendon - Aberfeldie including:

- Cost is a factor for families when choosing what service to send their 3–5-year-old child, with a portion of families choosing to attend sessional instead of integrated as it is more cost effective.
- A high portion of families are currently using sessional kindergarten, and will need sessional kindergarten in the next few years.

In addition to the above, CRS data provides further insight to the vulnerability experienced within the area for 2021 attending families. Essendon – Aberfeldie presents with the following:

- Essendon has the second highest number of funded second year children (when compared to all other suburbs).
- Essendon has equal second highest number of applications submitted with referral support (behind Flemington and Ascot Vale, alongside Airport West).
- Essendon has the third highest number of children known to child protection (behind Flemington and Ascot Vale).

The inclusion of the newly agreed Essendon-Keilor Kindergarten in partnership between Council and the VSBA will provide some support to the immediate area, however if either of the above kindergartens cease to operate, the new site will simply absorb the previously existing demand, limiting its ability to cater for community growth and support those in the community experiencing vulnerability.

### **SA2 - 21226 - Airport West**

*Contains Airport West Kindergarten – within the Airport West neighbourhood, in the Rose Hill Ward*

The KISP forecast data identifies unmet demand in the Airport West SA2 from 2028. CRS data, which takes account the preferences of families accessing the service indicates that sessional kindergarten services within the area are already unable to meet the demand of the community. This is evident the table below.

*Table 5 - CRS Demand Airport West at Round 1*

CRS Demand	Three-Year-Old Kindergarten				Four-Year-Old Kindergarten			
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021
Places Offered	22	22	22	29	60	60	60	66
Demand (1st Pref)	31	28	25	28	69	62	81	75
Demand vs. Availability	-9	-6	-3	1	-9	-2	-21	-9

Airport West Kindergarten provides enough places for only 19% of the of the area’s three-year-old population (compared to Council’s average of 35%) and 57% of the four-year-old population (compared to Council’s average of 69%).

This kindergarten provides for a small portion of the total of Niddrie residents who attend a CRS kindergarten, with 4% of three-year old, and 12% of four-year-old applications allocated to this service.

The recently conducted Early Years Survey (July 2021) identified some parent preferences, behaviours and expectations with regard to attending early childhood services within Airport West including:

- Airport West had the highest number of families with three or more children responding to the survey.
- A high portion of responding families is currently using sessional 4yo kindergarten, with the main reason being how close this is to the family home and close to their school.
- Half of the responding families indicated that they moved their child from childcare to attend a sessional kindergarten program, identifying cost as a primary reason for this decision.

In addition to the above, CRS data provides further insight to the vulnerability experienced within the area for 2021 attending families. Airport West presents with the following:

- Third highest of children with an identified vulnerability (when compared to all other suburbs).
- Highest number of children with additional needs.
- Equal second highest number of applications submitted with referral support (behind Flemington and Ascot Vale, alongside Essendon).

- Equal second highest number of children requiring assistance to attend (Avondale Heights and Strathmore higher, sharing second place with Ascot Vale).

Without additional places to address the existing immediate need identified within table 5, and continued growth expected, Airport West will continue to experience long waiting lists, and services will be full long before the kindergarten year commences. This could significantly impact on families experiencing vulnerability within the community who may not submit an application in the first round.

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

### ***Workforce Planning***

Moonee Valley currently employs 65 permanent educators who support the delivery of Kindergarten within Council operated services. This equates to 36.19 FTE. There are a number of casuals also employed, with most currently filling existing temporary vacancies, therefore not available for sick leave coverage. Across the sector, services consistently raise the issue of volume and quality of educators available to fill vacant shifts. This issue is also being experienced more broadly, with hiring agencies also unable to meet requests to fill vacancies on an increasing occurrence.

The sector is currently experiencing workforce challenges, including the impact of COVID-19, staff burnout, increased coverage requirements due to School Readiness Funding, and vaccine requirements. It is expected that many of these issues will continue into the near future, particularly School Readiness Funding which will increase for many services with the introduction of funding for three-year-old kindergarten.

Extending existing kindergartens, or building new sites, will require Council to recruit additional educators.

Educators continue to prefer to work within four-year-old kindergarten groups, largely due to the lack of funding supports available over the past few years when compared to three-year-old kindergarten. This situation will improve over time, with the introduction of KIS funding and PSFO support for three-year olds, however the challenge remains significant in the interim. A Communities of Practice was established to provide support to educators and to understand their needs into the future.

# 4. FUNDED KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT ESTIMATES BETWEEN 2021-29 FOR CITY OF MOONEE VALLEY

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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 Moonee Valley, Moonee Valley 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 Moonee Valley 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 Moonee Valley 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	21
Long day care centres	29

### Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITs, 2021)

<i>Type</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Local Government	34%
Private not for profit	22%
Private for profit	40%
Other	4%

### Current kindergarten offering

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018):	96%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	42
Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	21

#### 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.

Moonee Valley 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.

Moonee Valley 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*	2,792	2,792	2,824	2,824	2,824	2,824	2,824	2,824	2,824

\*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 Moonee Valley 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, Moonee Valley 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)	1,525	1,968	2,189	2,400	2,585	2,877	3,059	3,244	3,474
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	10	28	58	82	188	348	486	717

## Community estimates

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

<b>Airport 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)	90	117	131	144	156	171	178	188	200
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	19

<b>Ascot Vale 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)	205	273	299	315	328	384	429	454	485
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	15	30	44	99	144	169	200

<b>Essendon - Aberfeldie 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)	559	654	712	768	820	888	896	939	989
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	60

<b>Essendon Airport 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)	14	15	16	19	23	28	14	14	14
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Flemington 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)	183	227	255	284	312	349	351	373	399
Total kindergarten places that cannot be	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	25	51

accommodated by existing services									
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<b>Keilor East 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)	269	364	406	446	478	509	564	599	643
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	16	71	105	149

<b>Moonee Ponds 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)	74	143	176	213	246	292	313	343	381
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	58

<b>Niddrie - Essendon 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)	0	10	13	17	21	45	74	83	94
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	10	13	17	21	45	74	83	94

<b>Strathmore 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)	131	164	180	195	202	211	240	252	268
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	10	18	27	55	68	84

# 5. AUTHORISATION

The A/Area Executive Director, Western Melbourne of the Department of Education and Training and the Chief Executive of Moonee Valley City Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for City of Moonee Valley by signing on 12 / 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 Moonee Valley City Council



.....  
Signature



.....  
Witness Signature

Name: Helen Sui

Kelly Pound  
.....

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Manager Family and Children's Services  
.....

Address: 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds, VIC  
.....

Signed by A/ Area Executive Director, Western Melbourne, Department of Education and Training



.....  
Signature



.....  
Witness Signature

Name: Nick Beckingsale

Title: Acting Area Executive Director, Western Melbourne

Address: Level 9, 1 McNab Avenue, Footscray 3011  
.....

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- <sup>i</sup> Early Years Survey Question – What ages are the children in your family who are 6 years old or under?
  - <sup>ii</sup> Early Years Survey Question – What is the employment status of your child(ren)'s carer(s)?
  - <sup>iii</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Do you have a Health Care Card issued by the Australian Government?
  - <sup>iv</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Do you currently have a child accessing funded 4-year old kindergarten?
  - <sup>v</sup> Early Years Survey Question – If you use childcare as well as sessional kindergarten, please indicate how many days per week you typically use this service?
  - <sup>vi</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Area you intending to access a funded 4yo kindergarten within the next three years?
  - <sup>vii</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Are you intending to access a funded 3yo kindergarten within the next three years?
  - <sup>viii</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Funding changes: 3yo kindergarten will be subsidised by the government for the first time in 2022. As a result, sessional kindergarten fees will be reduced.
  - <sup>ix</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Would you consider a kindergarten program that offered a session on a Saturday?
  - <sup>x</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Why was sessional kindergarten your preferred option?
  - <sup>xi</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Did you move from childcare to sessional service for your child's funded 4yo kindergarten year?
  - <sup>xii</sup> Early Years Survey Question – Why did you move from childcare to a sessional service for your child's funded 4yo kindergarten year?
  - <sup>xiii</sup> Early Years Survey Question – What factors have you or would you consider when choosing to send your child to a kindergarten?
  - <sup>xiv</sup> Early Years Survey Question – What factors have you or would you consider when choosing to send your child to a kindergarten?