

Koorie Early Childhood Education Program

Supporting access to and
participation in kindergarten



Department of Human Services
in partnership with
Victorian Aboriginal Education
Association Inc (VAEAI)



Koorie Early Childhood Education Program

A year in kindergarten gives your child a great start to formal education. Research shows that children who have been to kindergarten are generally better prepared to start school.

The Koorie Early Childhood Education Program (KECEP) works with Koorie communities and organisations to support Koorie children and their families to access and participate in kindergarten. The program is within kindergartens to promote the understanding of Koorie culture.

The program is jointly funded by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

The KECEP is implemented in partnership with local Koorie communities who employ and administer the Koorie Pre-school Assistant (KPSA) program.

The KECEP consists of three components:

- statewide coordinator
- Koorie Early Childhood Field Officers (KECFOs)
- Koorie Preschool Assistants (KPSA) Program

Koorie Early Childhood Field Officers

Koorie Early Childhood Field Officers work with kindergarten programs and other Early Years services to encourage Koorie cultural programs

They aim to:

- increase and enhance the participation of Koorie children in kindergarten;
- promote the value of kindergarten programs within Koorie families and communities;
- promote cultural awareness and provide access to resources for mainstream kindergarten programs;
- liaise between Koorie families and mainstream kindergarten programs;
- support the Koorie Pre-school Assistant (KPSA) program;
- provide information and support within the Department of Human Services.

Koorie Pre-school Assistants Program

The Koorie Pre-school Assistants Program is auspiced by community-based organisations.

KPSAs work within kindergarten programs and Koorie communities to:

- enhance the access and participation of Koorie children in kindergarten programs;
- promote and assist in the delivery of Koorie inclusive programs;
- provide information and support to Koorie families and communities;
- support the attendance of Koorie children in kindergarten programs;
- encourage the involvement and participation of Koorie parent/families/carers in the development of kindergarten programs;
- assist in the development of kindergarten programs that embrace Koorie culture.

Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) Funding

The Indigenous Education Program (IEP)

An Australian Government funded program which provides Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA) financial assistance to providers of kindergarten programs.

Aims:

- Improving Indigenous literacy
- Improving Indigenous numeracy
- Increasing the employment of Indigenous Australians in education and training
- Improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students
- Increasing Indigenous enrolments
- Increasing the involvement of Indigenous parents/community members in educational decision making
- Increasing professional development for staff involved in Indigenous education and expanding culturally inclusive curricula.

All kindergarten programs receiving SRA funds will be required to report to DEST on all the above areas.

Telephone DEST Indigenous Education Program on (03) 9920 4639

(DEST, SRA Policy and Procedures manual 2004)

For Further Resources and Information

VAEAI	(03) 9416 3833
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	(03) 9208 3333
Koorie Heritage Trust	(03) 8622 2600
Badjilaka - Melbourne Museum	(03) 9318 3544

Department of Human Services

KECEP Coordinator:	(03) 9616 8715
North & West Metropolitan	(03) 9412 5333
Southern Metropolitan	(03) 9767 8777
Eastern Metropolitan	(03) 9843 6000
Hume	(03) 5832 1500
Barwon South West	(03) 5226 4540
Grampians	(03) 5333 6669
Loddon Mallee	(03) 5022 3111
Gippsland	(03) 5144 4166

Your Regional Contact is:



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