

Introduction

The Victorian Government's \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms are the biggest changes to Victoria's early childhood education sector in a generation.

These reforms give Victorian children – regardless of their life circumstances, background or postcode – access to 2 years of quality early learning before they start primary school.

To find out more, go to

vic.gov.au/best-start-best-life-reforms



Benefits of 2 years of early childhood education

When children access 2 years of quality early learning before school, it has many benefits, especially for those who need additional support.

Between the ages of 3 and 5, children learn important social and emotional skills. Kindergarten is a safe place for children to build these skills, their independence and concentration while forming positive relationships and making friends.

Studies show that children who attended 2 years of kindergarten had better development in language, pre-reading, and early number concepts.

Cost of Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep, like Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, will be free for children enrolled at participating standalone (sessional) kindergarten services across Victoria. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.

Learn more about Pre-Prep at

vic.gov.au/pre-prep



**Best Start
Best Life**

Four-Year-Old Kinder is becoming Pre-Prep



Pre-Prep is rolling out

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep, with programs across Victoria gradually increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week.

By 2036, all 4-year-old children in Victoria will have access to 30 hours of Pre-Prep.

About Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep will be delivered in standalone (sessional) kindergartens and long day care services. Like Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Pre-Prep programs will be play-based and led by qualified teachers. The additional hours mean even greater access to the many benefits of early childhood education.

Benefits for children

Increased hours of learning in the year before school gives more time for children to deepen their learning and development.

More hours of play-based learning in Pre-Prep can lead to:

- improved learning and social outcomes
- increased literacy and numeracy
- positive self-regulation and social skills.



Pre-Prep roll-out schedule

Pre-Prep started in 6 local government areas (LGAs) in 2025, and will gradually roll out across the state. In 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee background, and children who have had contact with Child Protection services will be eligible for Pre-Prep, no matter where they live in Victoria. An additional 12 regional LGAs will also start Pre-Prep in 2026.

2025 launch LGAs	2026 launch LGAs and priority groups	
• Ararat Rural City • Gannawarra Shire • Hindmarsh Shire • Murrindindi Shire • Northern Grampians Shire • Yarriambiack Shire	• Benalla Rural City • Buloke Shire • Corangamite Shire • East Gippsland Shire • Horsham Rural City • Loddon Shire	• Mansfield Shire • Mitchell Shire • Pyrenees Shire • Strathbogie Shire • Wangaratta Rural City • Wodonga Rural City Pre-Prep becomes available across Victoria to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and children who have had contact with Child Protection services.
2027 launch LGAs	2028 launch LGAs and priority groups	
• Alpine Shire • Central Goldfields Shire • Colac-Otway Shire • Glenelg Shire • Indigo Shire • Moira Shire • Moorabool Shire • Moyne Shire • South Gippsland Shire • Southern Grampians Shire • Swan Hill Rural City • West Wimmera Shire	• Bass Coast Shire • Baw Baw Shire • Campaspe Shire • Golden Plains Shire • Greater Shepparton City • Hepburn Shire • Latrobe City • Macedon Ranges Shire • Mildura Rural City • Mount Alexander Shire • Queenscliff Borough • Surf Coast Shire • Towong Shire • Warrnambool City • Wellington Shire Pre-Prep becomes available across Victoria to children who have (or have a parent or guardian who has) a Commonwealth concession card and children from a multiple birth (triplets or more).	

Find out when your child is eligible

Use the Pre-Prep calculator to find out when your child is eligible to attend Pre-Prep at vic.gov.au/pre-prep-calculator



For launch LGAs from 2029 to 2036 and further information, please refer to vic.gov.au/pre-prep

