Kindergarten Infrastructure and

Services Plan

City of Ballarat

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# Introduction

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Map of Early Childhood Education services in the City of Ballarat

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service Name** | **Project type** | **Suburb** | **Licensed capacity** |
| BADAC Aboriginal Kindergarten | New project | Ballarat - South | 38 |



Note: In some instances, SA2s overlap multiple LGAs. Where this occurs, the SA2 and any services within it, are allocated to the LGA that it has the greater land area in. As a result, services that sit within these SA2s have been excluded from the above diagram as they are represented on the neighbouring LGA’s map.

# 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 Ballarat is located in central Victoria, just over an hour from Melbourne and bordered by Golden Plains Shire, Hepburn Shire, Pyrenees Shire, and Moorabool Shire. At the time of the 2016 Census, the population of the municipality was approximately 103,827.

Between 2016 and 2036, the population is expected to grow by approximately 40,000 people, with an additional 10,000 people added to the population every four years. In 2036, the estimated population is projected to reach 144,108, a 27% growth rate.

**Population growth**

Knowledge of population growth including within specific service cohorts is essential for planning facilities and services. The City of Ballarat uses id. Forecast to anticipate population growth across the municipality. Id. Forecast anticipates the number of three and four-year-old children will grow by 12% from 3021 in 2021 to 3396 in 2029, an increase of 375 children requiring funded kindergarten places. However, there are a number of factors that indicate this growth rate may be higher.

* Growth areas in Ballarat are experiencing growth at a faster rate than anticipated. The Ballarat Wests DCP is designed to be a 40-year development plan. As of the end of FY21, 25% of lots have been released. Revised forecast estimates indicate 50% of lots will be released by the end of FY23 (10 years into the development). This faster than anticipated growth for Ballarat and surrounding areas and will need to be monitored carefully in terms of impact on demand for kindergarten.
* While population data is not yet available for the pandemic period, there is an emerging narrative that a rush to the regions has occurred and regional housing is seeing increased demand. This observation is based on rental indicators and property sector reports and the official ABS estimates in the future will determine the extent of this trend.
* Maternal and Child Health birth rate data has shown a steady increase over the last 5 years. 20/21 had a 4% increase in births from the previous year and birth rates for first quarter of 21/22 indicate this will be even higher this financial year. The potential effect of a pandemic baby boom will need to be monitored over the next few years.

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

The recent legislation changes and the need to provide every three-year-old with access to 15 hours of subsidised kindergarten by 2029, combined with the existing strategic challenges of growth, asset renewal, funding and service capacity means that it will be important for the City of Ballarat to work with other levels of government, service providers and users to understand the implications and demands on services and infrastructure now and into the future. The changes will have a flow on effect to workforce planning, which will require a well-considered and strategic response in addition to infrastructure investment and service modelling changes. A review of existing kindergarten leases to draft terms which will ensure best use of facilities will also be progressed and implemented.

**Higher participation in sessional kindergarten - parental choice**

73% of four-year-old children in the municipality were registered to attend sessional kindergarten at a stand-alone kindergarten service in 2020. This is as high as 88% in some suburbs. The preference of families to choose a sessional kindergarten program is a trend which has been consistently demonstrated over time within the Ballarat community. Given the increasing number of stand-alone services that are tailoring kindergarten programs to meet the needs of working families, the City of Ballarat expects this proportion of demand for stand-alone services will continue with the introduction of three-year-old funded kindergarten. Market share and family choice and behaviours need to be continually monitored to ensure infrastructure provision reflects needs of residents. In addition, session flexibility and adaptability will need to be considered across all suburbs together with local area data and community demands.

**Regional Centre**

A large number of children from outside the municipality attend kindergarten in Ballarat. There are several reasons for this including:

* location (it is the nearest or most easily accessible kindergarten service);
* the proximity of the kindergarten to the primary school the child is likely to attend; and,
* convenience in terms of proximity to work or other activities being undertaken in the municipality.

This trend has been fairly consistent over time and 2019 service census data indicated that 9.3% of children who attended kindergarten in Ballarat were from other municipalities. At Buninyong, 27% and Bonshaw 17% of families attending the services in 2021 were from outside the municipality.

**Ageing infrastructure**

In order to ensure equitable delivery of high-quality early education infrastructure across the municipality, and to increase utilisation and capacity of the existing facilities, it is important that older facilities which are no longer fit for purpose or reaching end of lifecycle are considered for asset renewal or refurbishment. The aging portfolio of the City of Ballarat early years infrastructure in existing communities combined with changes in service needs is placing additional pressure on the need to increase investment in asset renewal, redevelopment and maintenance during the KISP period. Significant investment may be required to maintain service capacity at existing facilities and appropriate funding sources to enable service continuity. Equitable provision and standard of facilities within the municipality is a key consideration in Council’s Community Infrastructure Planning Policy 2020. To ensure Council’s kindergarten facilities are maintained to the highest standard maintenance and renewal programs exist.

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

There are areas within the municipality which experience higher levels of disadvantage and particular attention is required to ensure that vulnerable families within these suburbs can easily access high quality kindergarten programs and facilities. The suburbs of Ballarat which are identified as having higher proportions of households with low incomes and who are single parent families, lower levels of education, higher levels of housing stress and unemployment, transport accessibility issues and lower SEIFA scores are:

* Wendouree
* Sebastopol – Redan
* Delacombe
* Ballarat East – Eureka- Warrenheip
* Golden Point – Mount Pleasant – Canadian.

Wendouree, Sebastopol –Redan and Delacombe also have a higher proportion of people who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander when compared to the rest of the municipality. It is a priority of the City of Ballarat to ensure accessible, high quality education opportunities for vulnerable communities.

**Relative cost of services**

While the plethora of early learning centres in the Ballarat municipality offers a range of choices to families, the price differential between sessional kindergarten programs and services that charge a long-day childcare rate is relevant when considering the accessibility of these services for all families.  The number of young families in Ballarat is growing, 22% of households in Ballarat live on less than $650 per week and 33% of renters experience rental stress. Ballarat has higher than average rates of teenage pregnancy, single parents, and disengagement with education. The AEDC reported 1 in 5 Ballarat children begin school ‘developmentally vulnerable’ in at least one domain. The financial impact of Covid-19 on families may mean lower cost services are sought. Access to affordable kindergarten programs is essential. The higher participation rate in sessional kindergarten could be due to the cost.

**Participation rates in 3 year old kindergarten**

Due to the lack of historic enrolment data the KISP modelled demand for three year old kindergarten is based on population estimates and assumptions around the proportion of three-year-olds that will participate in three-year-old kindergarten. City of Ballarat CKR data indicates that 408 three year olds participated in fee for service 3 year old kindergarten programs in 2020. Some services are currently experiencing a higher demand for kindergarten places than modelled in the KISP. The actual level of demand for funded three-year-old kindergarten will become apparent once official enrolment data becomes available for the first roll-out year in 2022. Until accurate data is available local modelling needs to inform decision making and the review period will provide an opportune time to update data based on observed enrolments.

**Geographical considerations at the SA2 level**

The Ballarat SA3 area consists of eight SA2 areas:   Alfredton, Ballarat, Ballarat North, Ballarat South, Buninyong, Delacombe, Wendouree-Miners Rest and Smythes-Creek.  Due to overlaps between SA2 and municipal boundaries, Smythes Creek has been excluded from the draft City of Ballarat Kindergarten Infrastructure Services Plan (and included in the Golden Plains Shire KISP) while part of the northern SA2 Creswick-Clunes has been included (the majority of this SA2 sits in Hepburn Shire).  Historically there are only a small number of residents from the Creswick-Clunes area with children attending a CKR member kindergarten in the Ballarat municipality (a total of 10 children for 2021).  Due to travel patterns, regional centre, school etc the number of children from the areas of Smythes Creek, Smythesdale, Snake Valley, Haddon and Ross Creek (all located within Golden Plains Shire) attending kindergarten in the Ballarat municipality is higher (28 children in 2021). Given the close proximity of Smythes Creek and Ross Creek to newly established services in Delacombe and housing growth close to the municipal boundary, it is anticipated many of the three and four-year-olds from the Smythes Creek SA2 (with an anticipated population of 100 three and four-year-old children by 2029) will attend kindergarten in Ballarat with the remaining attending kindergarten service in Golden Plains shire. It is also worth noting that the SA2 areas of Golden Plains-North and Gordon also have overlap with the City of Ballarat municipal boundary, and as a result of few service providers in those rural areas there are 40 children registered for kindergarten within Ballarat kindergartens from these areas in 2021.

**Alfredton SA2**

While the majority of children from the suburb of Alfredton attend kindergarten within the Alfredton SA2, there is some demand to attend kindergartens in adjacent suburbs (Redan, Ballarat Central, Lake Wendouree for example) outside of the SA2 area.  However, of the 37 children based in the suburb of Lucas registering to attend a stand-alone kindergarten in 2021, only 3 will be attending a kindergarten outside of the Alfredton SA2.  This suggests as the population of Alfredton SA2 grows (concentrated around the Lucas and Cardigan area) the percentage of demand to attend kindergarten within the area will grow.  The City of Ballarat considers that this SA2 area will require further infrastructure investment in the near future to meet population demands which are occurring rapidly in the Ballarat West Growth Area.  Future demand may be higher and unmet demand experienced earlier than currently indicated.

**Ballarat SA2**

Demand for four-year-old kindergarten places in the Ballarat SA2 is greater than the area population. This reflects the popularity of central Ballarat as a location for childcare (close to workplaces), the location of two kindergartens close to the area boundary that service demand in neighbouring areas and the inclusion of a private school kindergarten in the SA2 that is likely to attract children from across the municipality and beyond.  Additionally, the area contains kindergartens that have tended to be popular for reasons other than location.  For example, the strong historical connection.

**Ballarat North SA2**

Kindergartens within this SA2 tend to attract families from outside of the area.  Some of the reasons for this include: many children who attend Black Hill Kindergarten go on to attend the adjacent primary school (one of the largest in Ballarat) and innovative programs such as Bush kinder at Brown Hill Kindergarten. Population growth is also occurring in this SA2 area with a significant number of smaller developments occurring in the north of Brown Hill. Many of these developments are attracting young families which is seeing increased enrolments at the Brown Hill Kindergarten.  In recent years, enrolments in Ballarat North have been strong and this trend will need to be monitored in future years to ensure there is sufficient capacity in this area.

**Ballarat South SA2**

Given the close proximity to the municipal boundaries some kindergartens within this SA2 area attract families from outside the municipal boundaries.  For those living in the municipality the majority of families come from the suburb or adjacent suburb to where the kindergarten is located. Due to the high level of vulnerability experienced in this suburb locally accessible kindergarten programs are important.

**Buninyong SA2**

For the last few years Buninyong Preschool has operated at capacity. This popular kindergarten is situated convenient to many families located outside the municipality. Of the 2021 enrolments 27% of these are to families living outside of the municipal boundaries or in a suburb that is partially within the municipal boundary.  It is anticipated this high level of demand will continue and future demand may be higher than currently indicated.

It is also important to acknowledge that there is a trend for families to attend kindergarten services that feed into their preferred primary school. The capacity of services to support a funded three-year-old program, especially when located near a large primary school needs to be considered. Buninyong Primary School has 600 students.

**Delacombe SA2**

The SA2 area is on municipal boundary and there are a number of children from Golden Plains Shire who attend services in this SA2.  Population of neighbouring Smythes Creek SA2 will need to be monitored when assessing demand for kindergarten provision in the Delacombe SA2. The City of Ballarat considers that this SA2 area will require further infrastructure investment in the near future to meet population demands which are occurring rapidly in the Ballarat West Growth Area.  Unmet demand may be experienced earlier and in larger amounts than forecast and will need to be monitored.

**Wendouree – Miners Rest**

The majority of families come from the suburb or adjacent suburb to where the kindergarten is located. The City of Ballarat anticipates demand for three-year-old kindergarten will reflect demand for four-year-old kindergarten at these services.  Due to the high level of vulnerability experienced in some suburbs in this SA2 area locally accessible high-quality services are extremely important.

**School sites**

The Ballarat West growth zone identifies four sites to locate early years facilities with adjacent land identified as a potential school site. These are located across the Alfredton, Delacombe and Ballarat South SA2 areas. Due to land sales and growth area demand it is highly likely Council will be building integrated facilities in accordance with timelines identified in growth areas plans. One facility has already been constructed. With the state government commitment for every new Victorian primary school set to open from 2021 to have kindergarten on-site or next door, the impact of kindergarten on future primary school sites on supply and demand will also require ongoing consideration.

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

City of Ballarat supports access to Kindergarten and other Early Years Services through its role as an early years approved provider, owner of community infrastructure, municipal planner and advocate. Council also manages a Central Registration System for kindergartens.

The City of Ballarat is currently developing a 15-year Community Infrastructure Plan to ensure families across the municipality have a city-wide equitable ability to self-determination and choice in the settings that they place their children in for early education and development experience. This plan will include planned early years capital projects to provide capacity for 70% of kindergarten places within sessional facilities based on current projected growth.

To accommodate the needs of new communities, development contribution plans have been established to partially fund new infrastructure provision, however council need to budget for the balance places continued pressure on the overall resources and budgets. Grant opportunities are continually explored to help offset the cost to council. Rate capping and reduced grant funding continues to be a challenge, and like many other LGA’s we are continually managing competing needs, demands and expectations.

# Funded kindergarten enrolment estimates between 2021-29 for the City of Ballarat

## 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 Ballarat, Ballarat 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 Ballarat 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 Ballarat 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 | 28 |
| Long day care centres  | 32 |

|  |
| --- |
| Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITs, 2021) |
| ***Type*** | ***Percentage***  |
| Local Government | 3% |
| Private not for profit | 57% |
| Private for profit | 32% |
| Other | 8% |

|  |
| --- |
| Current kindergarten offering |
| Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018): | 100% |
| Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2019): | 47 |
| Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019): | 18 |



## 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.

Ballarat 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.

Ballarat 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\* | 4288 | 4528 | 4528 | 4528 | 4528 | 4528 | 4528 | 4528 | 4528 |

*\**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 Ballarat 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, Ballarat 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) | 1644 | 2072 | 2252 | 2453 | 2622 | 2902 | 3073 | 3252 | 3481 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 33 | 86 |

**Community estimates**

**Table 3-10: Estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Alfredton estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 191 | 260 | 295 | 334 | 371 | 428 | 468 | 510 | 560 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 66 |
| **Ballarat estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 306 | 344 | 359 | 373 | 385 | 406 | 416 | 427 | 441 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ballarat North estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 291 | 377 | 408 | 442 | 469 | 518 | 543 | 569 | 603 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ballarat South estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 293 | 400 | 442 | 489 | 527 | 592 | 628 | 666 | 714 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Buninyong estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 158 | 178 | 188 | 198 | 206 | 221 | 231 | 241 | 255 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Creswick – Clunes \*Residual estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 0 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 20 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 17 | 20 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Delacombe estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 119 | 165 | 189 | 220 | 248 | 289 | 319 | 352 | 393 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Wendouree – Miners Rest estimates**  | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **2029** |
| Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children) | 288 | 343 | 364 | 386 | 404 | 435 | 453 | 471 | 494 |
| Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

# Authorisation

The Area Executive Director, Central Highlands of the Department of Education and Training and the Chief Executive of Ballarat City Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for the City of Ballarat] by signing on 23 March 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.

