

BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF INTENT

Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL)

DOBCEL and the Department of Education have today committed to working in partnership to deliver infrastructure for up to 178 funded kindergarten places by 2028 to support the roll-out of the Best Start, Best Start (BSBL) reform through to 2036.

To support this commitment, the state government has provided in-principle support to co-contribute up to \$5.47million for early childhood infrastructure over the course of the BSBL reform.

This commitment follows work between the department and DOBCEL to develop a Building Blocks Partnership, a forward plan for kindergarten infrastructure provision. This forward planning will help ensure that all children will have access to two years of funded Kindergarten from 2028 onwards.

This package includes support for 1 modular kindergarten infrastructure project providing up to 178 funded kindergarten places delivered in 2028 (Table 1). It also includes \$299,200 for 2 planning grants to support feasibility studies across 2 projects in Colac Otway Shire and Moyne Shire Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Table 1

Area (SA2) to benefit from projects	Local Government Area (LGA)	Operational year	Kindergarten Places
Swan Hill	Swan Hill Rural City	2028	178

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

- commit to working together to plan and deliver infrastructure to support 15 hours of funded kindergarten for all three-year-old children and 30 hours of funded kindergarten for all four-year-old children across Victoria out to 2036.
- supporting the creation of up to 178 funded kindergarten places through co-investment.
- an annual review of proposed projects, allowing project details (timings, scale, scope etc.) to be amended to reflect updated KISP data, enrolment data and local particulars.

This commitment is subject to:

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

Building Block Partnerships

Building Block Partnerships are a strategic, in-principle agreement between State Government and councils and NFPs to deliver funded kindergarten places via infrastructure investment projects. The primary objectives of Building Block Partnership Agreements are to:

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

Best Start, Best Life infrastructure funding

The state government has committed to rolling-out the Best Start, Best Life reform across Victoria, which will support 15 hours of funded kindergarten for all three-year-old children and 30 hours of funded kindergarten for all four-year-old children across Victoria by 2036.

\$14 billion has been committed to support the Best Start, Best Life reform. This funding is used to co-invest in infrastructure with local councils, NFP kindergarten providers and other asset owners.