



BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF INTENT

DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL

Darebin City Council and the Department of Education have today committed to working in partnership to deliver infrastructure for up to 77 funded kindergarten places by 2026 to support the roll out of the Best Start, Best Start (BSBL) reform. This follows agreement of the Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (KISP) for Darebin City Council, available [here](#).

To support this commitment, the state government has provided in-principle support to co-contribute up to \$1.95 million for early childhood infrastructure over the course of the BSBL reform through to 2036. Council will contribute an estimated \$1.5 million towards the projects.

This commitment follows work between the department and Darebin City Council to develop a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement, 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 2023 onwards.

The first part of this package will see the state government contribute up to \$1.95 million across two major kindergarten infrastructure projects providing up to 77 funded kindergarten places delivered for the 2024 - 2026 kindergarten years. These projects include expanded early learning centres.

Area (SA2) to benefit from projects	Operational	Funded kindergarten places (at 15 hours provision)
Kingsbury	2026	68
Thornbury	2024	9

As part of the development of a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement, the Department and Council 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 77 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:

- Darebin City Council submitting projects to the Building Blocks grants program to confirm project scope and readiness to access the agreed Victorian 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 Partnership Agreements

Building Block Partnership Agreements are a strategic, in-principle agreement between State Government and councils and NFPs to deliver funded kindergarten places via infrastructure investment projects. A Building Blocks Partnership Agreement may only be signed once the associated KISP is signed and published. 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.

The Building Blocks Partnership Agreements form part of the Victorian Government's BSBL Infrastructure Strategy.

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.