

# BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNERSHIP (BBP)

## STATEMENT OF INTENT

### Edmund Rice Education Australia Victoria Schools Ltd (EREA)

EREA and the Department of Education have today committed to working in partnership to deliver infrastructure for up to 47 funded kindergarten places by 2029 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 contribute up to \$6.75 million for early childhood infrastructure over the course of the BSBL reform through to 2036. EREA will co-contribute up to \$1.05 million, plus land, towards the projects.

This commitment follows work between the department and EREA to develop a Building Blocks Partnership (BBP), 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 package will see the State Government contribute up to \$6.75 million towards a major kindergarten infrastructure project providing up to 47 funded kindergarten places delivered from 2027 to 2029 kindergarten years in the Melbourne City Council local government area.

**Table 1: Projects in SA2s**

Area (SA2) to benefit from projects	LGA	Operational year (staged room release)	Funded kindergarten places by year (at 15 hours provision)	Total funded kindergarten places (at 15 hours provision)
North Melbourne	Melbourne City Council	2027	15	47
		2028	16	
		2029	16	

As part of the development of a Building Blocks Partnership, the department and EREA have signed a Building Blocks Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), 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 47 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:

- EREA 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, non-government and NFP providers to deliver funded kindergarten places via infrastructure investment projects. A Building Blocks Partnership may only be signed once the associated KISP is signed and published. The primary objectives of Building Block Partnerships 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 form part of the Victorian Government's BSBL Infrastructure Strategy.

## Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) infrastructure funding

The State Government has committed to rolling out the BSBL 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.

In November 2022 as part of the BSBL reform announcement, the Victorian Government made an election commitment for \$250 million to commence construction to build or upgrade 60 kindergartens at "low-fee paying Catholic or independent schools".