# Free Kinder in Term 4 2022

## Flooding in Victoria

Some early childhood education and care (ECEC) services have had to close due to the Victorian floods, and many families have been forced to temporarily move out of their homes. The department recognises that this is a difficult time for children and their families who are affected by the floods across Victoria.

The Victorian Government has announced Free Kinder for eligible children for Term 4 and grants to affected sessional kindergarten services, as part of a package of support for flood impacted communities.

Free Kinder for Term 4 will help families that have experienced physical damage to their homes and/or possessions.

## Eligible families will receive Free Kinder in Term 4

Eligible families with a child attending a participating sessional kindergarten program will have fees waived in Term 4. Any fees that have already been paid will be refunded by your kindergarten service.

Eligible families with a child receiving their kindergarten program in a long day care service will receive up to $550 directly offset from fees.

If your child is enrolled in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program of less than 15 hours a week, a pro-rata payment will be made according to the number of hours of the program.

## Who is eligible for Free Kinder in Term 4

Any family that has a child attending a three or four-year funded kindergarten program whose home (primary residence) has been directly impacted by the floods through:

* damage to family home or
* loss or damage of home contents/belongings.

If you needed to leave home temporarily, but your home has not been physically affected by flooding, then you are not eligible for Free Kinder in Term 4.

Families already receiving a free kindergarten program through the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy or Early Start Kindergarten will not be eligible for this additional funding.

Families with children enrolled in a kindergarten program in a long day care service who access the Additional Child Care Subsidy – Temporary Financial Hardship are also not eligible for this additional funding.

## How to access Free Kinder for Term 4

Free Kinder funding for eligible families will be provided directly to the kindergarten service and not directly to the families.

Families that are eligible will need to confirm in writing that they meet the eligibility criteria to receive a Free Kinder program in Term 4. You should provide your name, child’s name, address and signature [via this simple form](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/childhood/providers/funding/Free-Kinder-Flood-Relief-forms-for-families.docx). Your service needs to reasonably believe that you meet the eligibility criteria, in order to apply for the funding on your behalf and refund your fees once this is approved.

If it is not practical for you to confirm your eligibility in writing you should contact your kindergarten service directly.

**For more information on Flood Recovery supports please visit**

**vic.gov.au/october-2022-flood-recovery**