

# Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

Hobsons Bay City

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Department of Education

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Reform context

The Victorian Government's \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms are the most significant change to Victoria's early childhood sector in a generation.

The BSBL reforms include:

- **Free Kinder:** Free Kinder is now available for Victorian 3- and 4-year-old children at participating services in standalone (sessional) kindergartens and long day care centres – a saving for families of up to \$2,500 per child, every year.
- **Pre-Prep:** Four-Year-Old Kindergarten will gradually transition to 'Pre-Prep' – increasing to a universal 30-hour-a-week program of play-based learning for 4-year-old children in Victoria by 2036.
- **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten:** the continued roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, with programs increasing to 15 hours a week across the state by 2029.
- **Early learning and childcare centres:** the establishment of 50 Victorian government-owned and operated early learning and childcare centres. These centres will be built in areas with the greatest need and will make it easier for families to access early childhood education and childcare. The first of the centres opened in 2025.

These initiatives demonstrate a clear commitment to improving early learning outcomes for Victorian children, workforce participation and access for families, and present the most significant change to Victoria's early childhood sector in a generation.

Pre-Prep will roll-out in Hobsons Bay City in 2034. Statewide, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background, and children who have had contact with Child Protection services, will be able to access up to 25 hours of Pre-Prep in 2026, increasing to up to 30 hours from 2028. Children who have (or have a parent or guardian who has) a Commonwealth concession card and children who are a multiple birth child (triplets or more) across the state will be able to access up to 25 hours of Pre-Prep in 2028, increasing to up to 30 hours from 2030.

## 1.2. Purpose of Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans (KISPs)

New and expanded infrastructure is key to delivering the BSBL reforms and will require a large expansion of kindergarten facilities across the State. KISPs, which are jointly developed with Local Governments, indicate where and when new infrastructure will be required to support both reform implementation and population growth in each of Victoria's 79 local government areas (LGAs). KISPs help all kindergarten providers meet demand and collectively provide a clear picture of infrastructure need across the State.

KISPs support planning for services and future capital works and include detailed information about:

- Current capacity and demand for funded kindergarten

- Capacity to be delivered for planned infrastructure projects and future demand for kindergarten
- Forecast 'unmet demand' for kindergarten – that is, the kindergarten places needed that cannot be met by current or planned capacity
- Information specific to each local government area and its early childhood education and care landscape.

KISPs were initially developed to support the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and have now been updated to incorporate Pre-Prep.

KISPs are intended to support planning. They are not funding documents and do not commit any party to addressing the unmet demand identified.

**However, it is expected that future investment requests through Building Blocks and funding decisions about Local Government, not-for-profit projects (including non-government schools) would align with the relevant KISP (including Section 3: Local Context).**

### 1.3. Structure of the KISP

Each KISP consists of the following sections:

- **Section 1:** A short introduction to the Best Start, Best Life reform and the KISP.
- **Section 2:** A map of existing and planned Early Childhood Education and Care services.
- **Section 3:** Local context and knowledge of key information in Hobsons Bay City relevant to early childhood education.
- **Section 4:** Unmet demand estimates in Hobsons Bay City over the life of the reform.

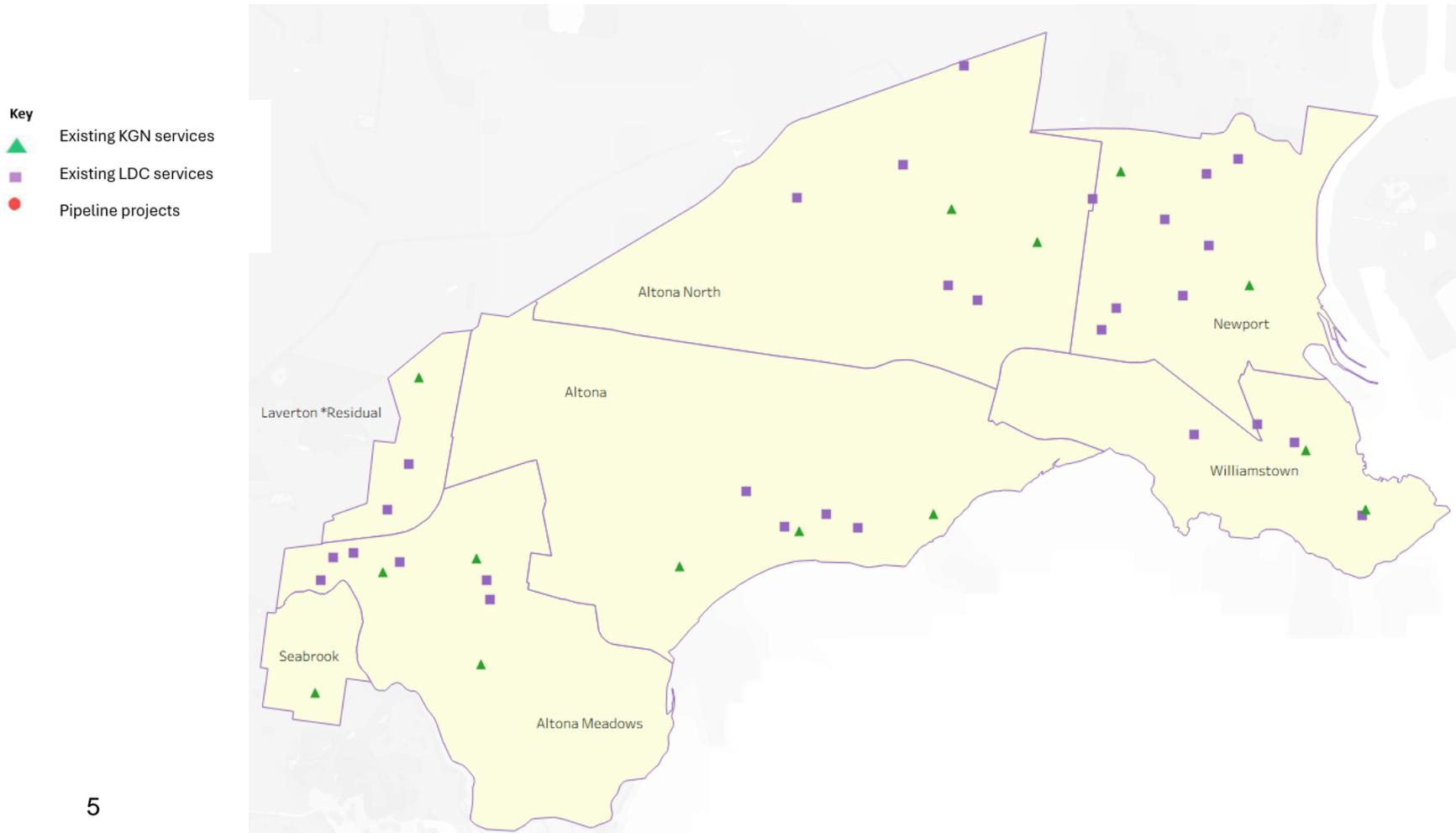
### 1.4. Disclaimer

All data presented in this document is published for information purposes only. Operational and business decisions should not be based solely on this document. Neither the Department nor Hobsons Bay City Council warrants, guarantees, makes any representation or assumes any duty of care in relation to the data, including as to its suitability, completeness, accuracy or adequacy.

## 2. Map of Early Childhood Education services in Hobsons Bay City

The map below shows the distribution of currently operating and new State-supported services that are planned to open in the future in Hobsons Bay City. Planned services by the private sector are not included.

This map has been prepared using departmental data, from both the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA). The Geographic boundaries are shown at an SA2 level.



## 3. Local context

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### 3.1 Purpose

Local, place-based knowledge and context play an important role in supporting the implementation of the BSBL reforms across Victoria. This section of the KISP documents this knowledge and context and should be considered alongside the kindergarten demand estimates in Section 4.

Information provided as local context may support applications through the Building Blocks Capacity Building and Planning Grants streams.

### 3.2 Key considerations

#### **Hobsons Bay overview**

Hobsons Bay is an inner-city coastal municipality in Victoria, positioned at the northern end of Port Phillip Bay, about 10 km west of Melbourne's CBD. It includes the suburbs of Altona, Altona Meadows, Altona North, Brooklyn, Laverton, Newport, Seabrook, Seaholme, South Kingsville, Spotswood, Williamstown, and Williamstown North. Each suburb has its own distinct character, ranging from the historic seaport of Williamstown to the more recent residential developments in Altona Meadows and Seabrook.

As of 2024, Hobsons Bay had an estimated resident population of 95,633, with projections indicating growth to approximately 113,134 by 2046. Hobsons Bay is expected to have moderate growth over the coming years however is bordered by Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Wyndham which have significantly higher rates of forecast population growth over the next 20 years.<sup>1</sup> Although the municipality spans around 66 square kilometres, substantial portions of land in Altona and Altona North are zoned for industrial use, resulting in a significant proportion of the area being non-residential.

Hobsons Bay is a diverse municipality, with 30% of the population born overseas. Overseas born ranges across the suburbs, and one in two residents of Laverton were born overseas (49%). Disadvantage is also spread unevenly across the municipality, with Laverton and Altona Meadows some of the most disadvantaged in the state.

#### **The role of Hobsons Bay Council in Kindergarten provision**

##### *Kindergarten advocate*

Council's integrated social policy framework, A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28, recognises the early years as a key social determinant of health. The first eight years of life is when children develop many capabilities and competencies, and inequities experienced during early childhood have a major role in shaping outcomes in later life. Early childhood education lays the essential foundation for lifelong learning, social development, and future success, and Council is committed to ensuring that every child can benefit from these opportunities.

##### *Manager of kindergarten facilities*

Council is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and development of Council-owned or leased kindergarten facilities, which make up 46 per cent of all kindergarten/long daycare centres in Hobsons Bay. This includes ensuring that facilities meet safety standards and comply with relevant legislation and provide a safe and positive learning environment for children and educators.

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<sup>1</sup> .id Consulting, Population Forecasts for selected areas.

Council has a partnership approach with kindergarten providers that occupy Council-maintained facilities, including community/parent-based volunteer committees and not-for-profit organisations.

Since 2020, with funding from the state government, Council has:

- increased kindergarten capacity at two facilities
- redeveloped and rebuilt two additional kindergarten facilities, and
- established a new modular building in Altona North.

*Kindergarten Central Registration Manager*

Council administers the Kindergarten Central Registration scheme for sessional kindergartens across 19 services, providing a streamlined and equitable enrolment process for local families. This centralised system enhances transparency, efficiency, and accessibility, ensuring that the most vulnerable children are prioritised and supported in accessing sessional kindergarten in Council facilities.

**Aboriginal Self Determination in Early Childhood Education and Care**

Hobsons Bay Council is committed to Aboriginal Self-Determination and First Nation residents have been identified as a priority group in Council’s integrated social policy framework, A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28.

Data from the 2021 Census shows there are 628 First Nations people in Hobsons Bay, representing 0.7 per cent of the population (the same proportion as for Greater Melbourne). Since the 2016 Census, the number of First Nations people in Hobsons Bay has increased by 138 people. In addition to births, this increase may be reflected by several other factors, including migration and increased knowledge of Aboriginality and engagement with the Census.

First Nations people in Hobsons Bay are diverse, with people representing the heritage of many Nations from all over Australia. Originally part of the Greater Kulin Nation, the First Peoples of this area were the Bunurong (Boon wurung language), with the Yalukit-Willam clan known to have lived in this area.

The table below summaries the counts of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children from the Census and Council service data.

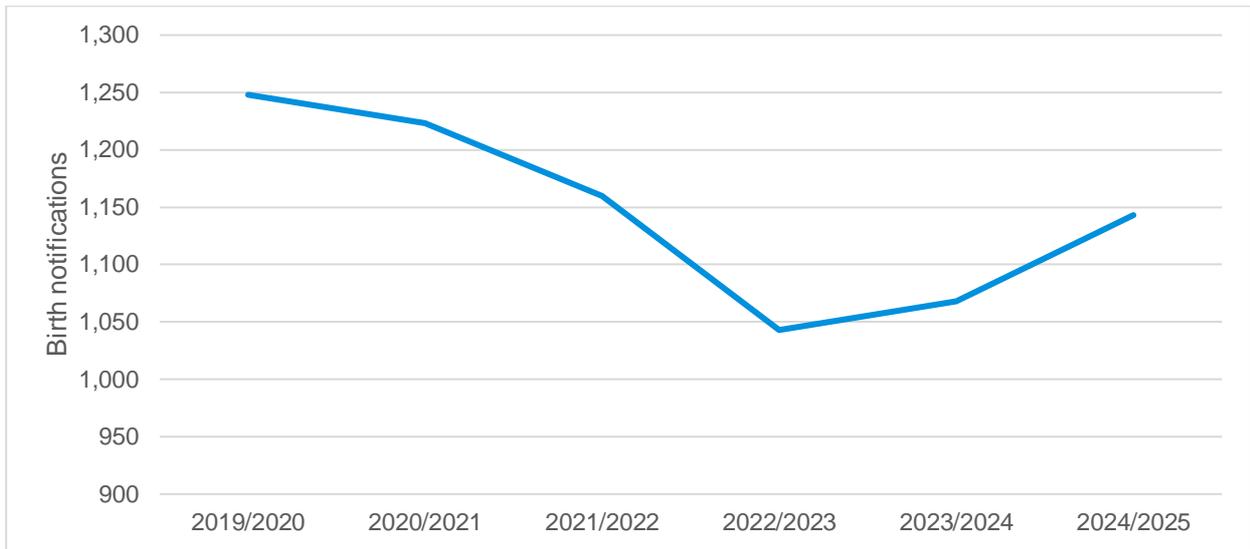
**Table.** Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Data source	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
No. of 0-4 years who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander (Census 2021)	45 (4.1%)
Number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children who attended the MCH service at least once in the 2024-25 (Hobsons Bay MCH)	88 identified

**Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten**

*Birth notifications*

Local birth notifications are a major determining factor in population growth, alongside migration. Birth notifications in Hobsons Bay declined during Covid, however, have been trending upwards since 2022-23.



**Figure.** Birth notifications in Hobsons Bay, 2019/20 to 2024/25 (City of Hobsons Bay, MCH data)

*Disadvantage*

In 2021, Hobsons Bay’s score on the Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (1,020.7) placed it amongst the 40 per cent least disadvantaged local government areas in Victoria.<sup>2</sup> However, social and economic disadvantages do exist in Hobsons Bay, with almost one-third (32.8%) of the population living in areas of higher disadvantage. Statewide data indicates that people living in the most disadvantaged areas are significantly more likely to experience unemployment, overcrowded housing, and exposure to family violence.

Disadvantages are spread unevenly across the municipality. The table below shows the distribution of socioeconomic disadvantage in Hobsons Bay. In 2021, the SA2s of Altona North and Altona Meadows had SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage scores that placed them in the 30 per cent most disadvantaged SA2s in Victoria. The SA2 of Laverton (which includes the suburbs of Laverton, Laverton North and Williams Landing) had a SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage score that places it among the 40 per cent of most disadvantaged suburbs in Victoria. However, the suburb of Laverton has a SEIFA Index of Disadvantage score of 905, placing it in the four per cent of most disadvantaged suburbs in Victoria.

The SA2s of Altona Meadows, Altona North, Laverton and Newport have a high concentration of residents with a Health Care Card. Families with kinder aged children will have access to increased hours of Pre-Prep from 2028, increasing demand in these areas. Additionally, while Williamstown SA2 has relatively low disadvantage overall, it also has the highest proportion of social housing in the municipality (3.2%), with people living around the Nelson Place public housing tower among the most disadvantaged in Australia.

Other factors also vary across the municipality, including air quality and access to public transport. These ‘locational barriers’ highlight the need to fairly plan, deliver and advocate for services, facilities, and other activities across the municipality.<sup>3</sup>

**Table.** Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage, 2021<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021

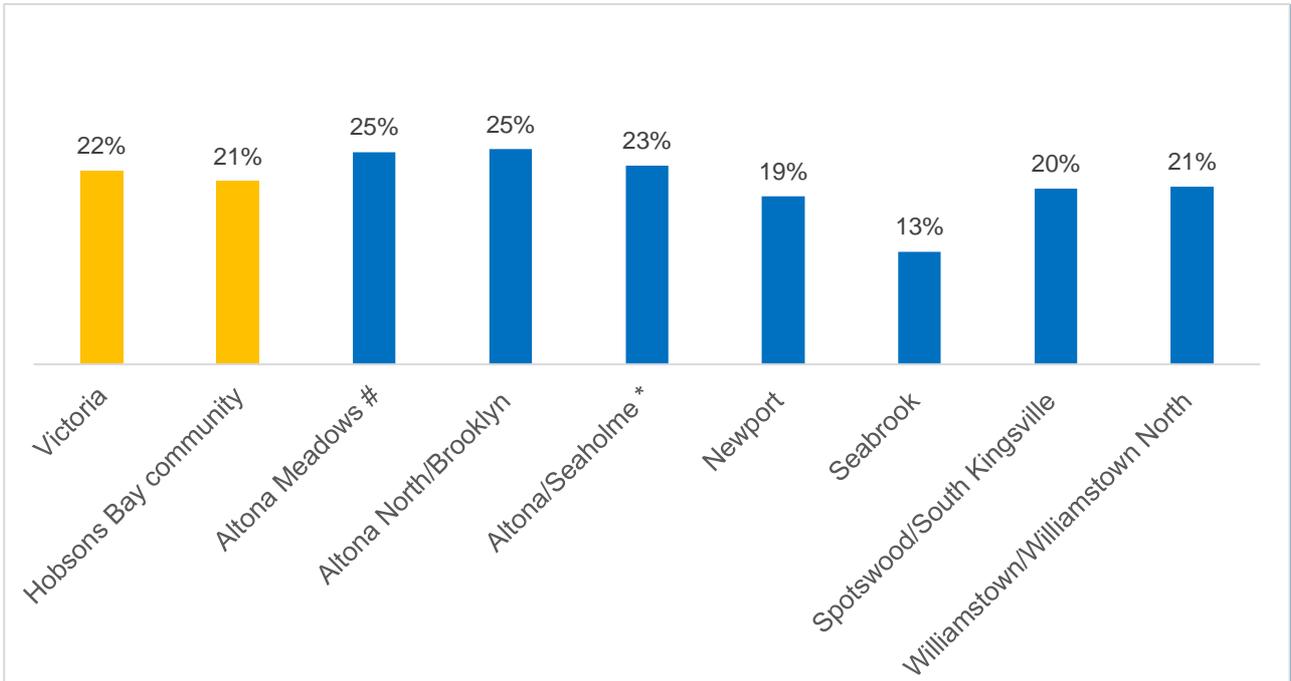
<sup>3</sup> Hobsons Bay City Council 2024, A Fair Hobsons Bay for All

<sup>4</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021.

2021 SA2s	SEIFA Disadvantage Score	Percentile 1 is in the 1% most disadvantaged in Vic.	Decile 1 is in the 10% most disadvantaged in Vic.	Rank out of 513 SA2s where 1 is the most disadvantaged area
Altona	1040	62	7	314
Altona Meadows	983	30	3	150
Altona North	968	23	3	114
Laverton	993	35	4	176
Newport	1075	86	9	442
Seabrook	1024	51	6	258
Williamstown	1067	80	8	409

*Developmental vulnerability*

The results of the latest Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)<sup>5</sup> show that children in Altona Meadows, Altona North/Brooklyn, and Altona/Seaholme are more likely to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more of the key developmental domains compared to the Victorian and the Hobsons Bay average.



**Note:** Laverton not included as it has too few teachers or children to display

# AEDC data collection is greater than or equal to 60% and less than 80% of the ABS five-year-old population; interpret with caution

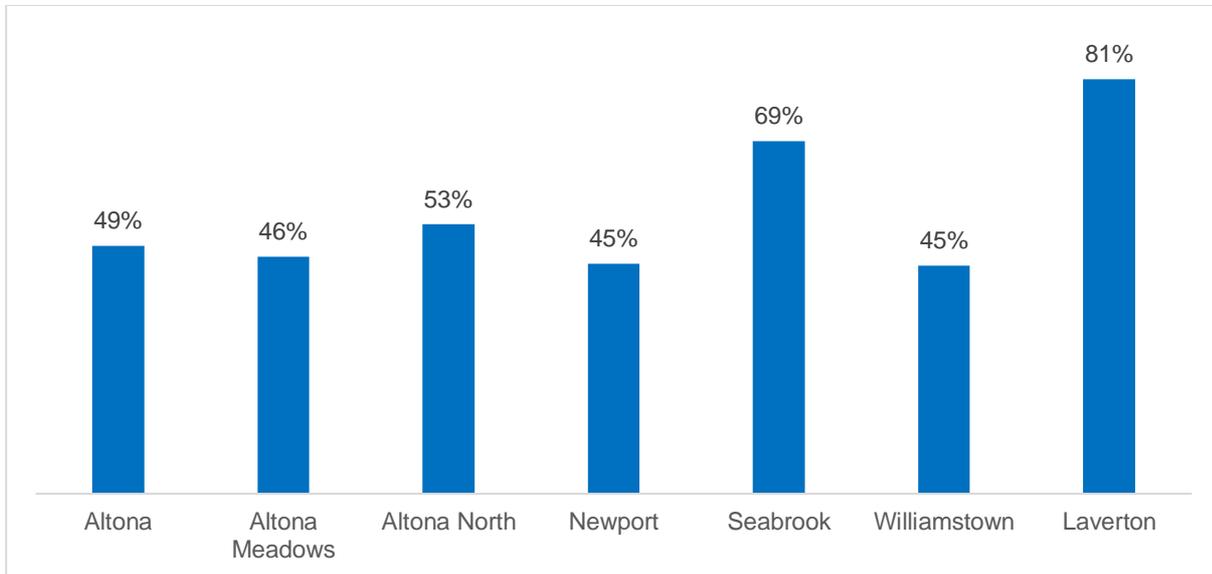
\* AEDC data collection is less than 60% of the ABS five-year-old population. The AEDC may not accurately reflect the population of children; interpret with caution.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Education 2025, The Australian Early Development Census.

**Figure.** % of children starting prep who are vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDC

*Cultural diversity*

Cultural diversity is high among the early years population. Eight in 10 children aged 0-4 years in Laverton (SA2) have at least one parent who was born overseas (81 per cent). In Seabrook, seven in 10 children 0-4 years have at least one parent who was born overseas.<sup>6</sup>



**Figure.** % of children aged 0-4 years with at least one parent born overseas, SA2

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

Hobsons Bay, being an inner-city coastal municipality, faces a unique set of challenges when it comes to planning and delivering early years infrastructure and services. Council must balance the limitations of land availability, infrastructure condition, and financial constraints with the need to deliver accessible, affordable, and well-located early years services for the community.

*Demand for sessional kindergarten*

Based on local demand and community feedback, sessional kindergarten programs appear to better meet the specific needs of local families compared to the integrated kindergarten model. The introduction of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, Free Kinder, and the roll out of Pre-Prep, has made sessional kindergarten more attractive and more attainable for more families.

In 2023, a total of 1,186 children were enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten programs in Hobsons Bay. Of these, 930 children (78%) were enrolled through the Council’s Central Registration Scheme, indicating a strong preference for sessional kindergarten compared to integrated kindergarten. In comparison, 1,033 children were enrolled in Three-Year-Old Kindergarten programs, with 651 (63%) enrolled via the same scheme. The remaining children in both cohorts likely attended integrated kindergarten programs within long day care settings, offered by either not-for-profit or for-profit providers.<sup>7</sup>

This data highlights clear parental preference, particularly for four-year-old programs, for sessional kindergarten. If this trend continues and demand for sessional kindergarten increases, combined with the increasing Pre-Prep hours, existing infrastructure will become inadequate. To meet future demand, long day care providers need to adapt their service model to include sessional free kindergarten, or new sessional kindergarten facilities will need to be developed.

<sup>6</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Department of Education, 2023 Hobsons Bay (C) ECE Profile.

### *Affordability of integrated kindergarten*

In 2021, there were 1,464 children living in low-income households in Hobsons Bay<sup>8</sup> and the rising cost of living is placing additional strain on low-income families and the broader community. Research from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) found that childcare fees are rising faster than inflation and wage growth, and that low-income households, even with government subsidies, are spending a greater share of their income on childcare fees than households in higher income brackets.<sup>9</sup>

The option of integrated kindergarten in Long Day Services is not affordable for financially disadvantaged families, especially those who cannot access the Child Care Subsidy or Additional Child Care Subsidy. Many families who are disadvantaged cannot afford to access Long Day Care.

The importance of engaging children in early education in a way that is affordable is a challenge. Provision of free sessional kindergarten programs is particularly important for those families who are unable to access enough Child Care Subsidy hours, are ineligible for Child Care Subsidy or have difficulty completing the appropriate paperwork due to vulnerability, capacity or language barriers.

### *State Government housing targets*

Population forecasts for Hobsons Bay do not currently include new housing targets introduced by the Victorian government. Under the statewide housing targets set for Victoria, Hobsons Bay is set to have an additional 22,500 dwellings by 2052<sup>10</sup>. Current housing forecasts prepared for Hobsons Bay by .id Consulting, indicate an additional 10,000 dwellings by 2046.<sup>11</sup>

The difference between Council housing forecasts and the Victorian government housing targets is a difference of 12,000 dwellings. Based on the current household size of 2.49, this will mean an additional 30,000 residents (on top of current projections) by 2052 when housing targets from the Victorian Government are incorporated into the Hobsons Bay planning scheme, and Hobsons Bay forecasted populations are updated.

### *Cost of maintaining and expanding infrastructure*

Many Council-owned facilities are aging and located within established residential, landlocked areas. These locations provide limited opportunities for expansion or redevelopment, constraining the capacity to meet growing demand for early years services.

In addition, Council must carefully consider the lifetime cost of maintaining new early years infrastructure. Ensuring that investment decisions are both financially responsible and sustainable over the long term remains a key priority.

## **Key local geographic considerations or information relevant to Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and Pre-Prep**

A high proportion of Hobson Bay families indicate a preference to access a kindergarten program within their neighbourhood or neighbouring suburb. Additionally, while some families may travel

<sup>8</sup> Low-income households are defined as households in the bottom 20 per cent of equivalised income across Australia. Equivalised income adjusts income to allow for different household size and composition, i.e. number of adults and children. In 2021, low-income households were defined as those with an equivalised income under \$500 per week.

<sup>9</sup> Australian Competition and Consumer Commission 2023, [Childcare inquiry interim report](#), Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>10</sup> Department of Transport and Planning 2025, [Plan for Victoria, Statewide Housing Targets](#).

<sup>11</sup> .id Consulting, [Population Forecasts for Hobsons Bay](#).

across neighbourhoods to access a kindergarten program, most CALD communities within Altona North and Laverton areas may be challenged to connect and access kindergarten services outside their local precincts. This is due to cost-of-living pressures and poor transport network links.

Hobsons Bay experiences a net inflow of children into the municipality. While there are approximately 2050 children living in Hobsons Bay, approximately 2220 children access their kindergarten program here. Approx. 6% of children living in Hobsons Bay leave the City to access their kindergarten program. However, children living in Hobsons Bay only make up approximately 88% of children accessing kindergarten in the LGA.

Approximately 200 children travel in from Wyndham City, representing around 10% of all children who receive care in Hobsons Bay. Approximately 80 children travel from Hobsons Bay into Wyndham. There is no other LGA with meaningful travel patterns with Hobsons Bay.

### *SA2 Considerations*

#### **Altona SA2 (includes the suburbs of Altona and Seaholme)**

- Limited transport access including the road network and public transport.
- In recent years many of the older homes have been replaced by units and townhouses. High density development is increasing, mainly in the activity centre around Pier Street.

#### **Altona Meadows SA2 (includes the suburb of Altona Meadows)**

- There is a lack of public transport options in Altona Meadows.

#### **Altona North SA2 (includes the suburbs of Altona North and Brooklyn)**

- The largest redevelopment site in Hobsons Bay is in Altona North (the former Dons Small Goods site), and there are plans for approximately 3,000 dwellings and 7,000 people.
- There is a lack of public transport in Altona North.
- Altona North suburb is one of the most disadvantaged in Hobsons Bay, with SEIFA index score of 961.2.
- Housing regeneration and extensive residential development will occur over the next 10 years on former industrial land in Altona North, which is expected to attract young families and an increase in the number of children aged 0-4 years.

#### **Newport SA2 (includes the suburbs of Spotswood, South Kingsville, and Newport)**

- Newport has the highest number of integrated kindergarten/long daycare services.
- The Westgate Freeway runs along the northern border, and the area is bisected by Melbourne Road, the Williamstown/Werribee railway line and the Newport-Sunshine freight line. These present major impediments to walkability and accessibility of services.
- Spotswood and South Kingsville are older suburbs that have gentrified in recent years.
- Housing regeneration and extensive residential development (up to 1,653 dwellings) will occur over the next 10 years on former industrial land in South Kingsville and Spotswood which are expected to attract young families with an increase in the number of children aged 0-4 years.

#### **Seabrook SA2 (includes the suburb of Seabrook)**

- Seabrook has limited public transport options and no shopping centres or strips.
- The local school zone (Seabrook Primary School) goes beyond Seabrook into Point Cook, in Wyndham. This means Point Cook residents are applying for Seabrook Kindergarten. Given this is the only sessional kindergarten in this part of the municipality, there can be a significant number of non-residents on the waiting list.

### **Williamstown SA2 (includes the suburbs of Williamstown and Williamstown North)**

- The suburb of Williamstown is bordered by the coast. Compared to other suburbs, Williamstown residents are more restricted in the options for attending a kindergarten service outside of the neighbourhood.
- The Williamstown community have expressed a desire for choice with many parents preferring a sessional kindergarten program demonstrated by registrations already received at the Range Children's Centre and Robina Scott Kindergarten for 2026.
- For people experiencing high levels of vulnerability, living among affluence is a recognised barrier to accessing services, such as kindergarten, within their local community. Studies suggest that while many recent social and economic changes have been beneficial for most families, they have been accompanied by a widening gap between the rich and the poor.

### **Laverton SA2 (includes the suburb of Laverton shared between Hobsons Bay and Wyndham City Councils, and Williams Landing and Laverton North, suburbs of Wyndham City Council)**

- Laverton experiences significant physical barriers to walkability with both the freeway and the Werribee train line dividing the suburb.
- There is a lack of public transport into the northern section of the suburb.
- Laverton has the highest rate of rental tenancies in Hobsons Bay (42.2%), higher than the Victorian average of 24.9%. This indicates a more transient population.
- Laverton is the most disadvantaged suburb in Hobsons Bay and has a SEIFA Index of Disadvantage score that places it into the four per cent of most disadvantaged suburbs in Victoria.
- Laverton has the highest proportion of residents born overseas and who speak a language other than English at home.
- Laverton shares a northern border with the City of Wyndham, one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia. Wyndham have identified a shortfall of kindergartens in their municipality as population and demand grows, which impacts Hobsons Bay. Data from the 2023 Hobsons Bay ECE profile showing that there are 174 children from Wyndham who are enrolled in a Hobsons Bay kindergarten, the highest inwards flow from any LGA.

## 4. Unmet demand estimates between 2026 - 2036 for Hobsons Bay City

### 4.1 Purpose

As the BSBL reforms are rolled out and Victoria's population grows, demand for kindergarten and Pre-Prep 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 to be required over the roll-out in Hobsons Bay City, Hobsons Bay City Council and the department have developed:

1. a summary of the current provision of kindergarten within Hobsons Bay City (**Section 4.3**).
2. an estimate of kindergarten places that cannot be met through existing services for the 2026 - 2036 period, taking into account the additional demand that can be accommodated by optimising utilisation of existing services and infrastructure (**Section 4.4**).

Local governments 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 roll-out.

### 4.2 Methodology

The estimated kindergarten places used in the following sections have been agreed between Hobsons Bay City Council and the department, and were informed by:

- demand projections developed by the department which draw on a range of inputs, including population forecasts and current enrolments
- the estimated capacity of existing and planned services in the LGA (Section 2)
- where applicable, modelling undertaken by Hobsons Bay City and service level information; and
- local knowledge and context provided by the local government (Section 3) that explains particular issues and trends in their area.

#### Kindergarten places explainer

The KISP measures a service's capacity to deliver funded kindergarten in terms of the number of **15-hour places** (referred to as "kindergarten places") available for Three-Year-Old kindergarten and Pre-Prep (noting that, by 2036, two kindergarten places will be required for one Pre-Prep enrolment). The number of 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.

Kindergarten places have been presented as 15-hour places so that new Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places and the additional 15-hour places required for Pre-Prep can be easily compared to existing 15-hour Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places. This is because, when Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is fully rolled out in 2029, three-year-old children will have access to 15-hours of kindergarten. When Pre-Prep is fully rolled out in 2036, four-year-old children will have access to up to 30-hours of kindergarten, an increase of the current offering of 15-hours per week.

It is important to note that enrolments are not equivalent to 15-hour places. One 15-hour place can support a total of 15 hours of delivery per week split between one or more children, including but not limited to the following examples:

One 15-hour place (15 hours of delivery)		
<b>Example 1</b>	1 child	1 x 3YO attending 15 hours per week
<b>Example 2</b>	1 child	1 x 4YO attending 15 hours per week
<b>Example 3</b>	2 children	2 x 3YOs attending 7.5 hours per week
<b>Example 4</b>	3 children	3 x 3YOs attending 5 hours per week

Two 15-hour places can support a total of 30 hours of delivery per week split between one or more children, including but not limited to the following examples:

Two 15-hour places (30 hours of delivery)		
<b>Example 1</b>	1 child	1 x 4YO attending 30 hours per week
<b>Example 2</b>	2 children	2 x 3YOs attending 15 hours per week
<b>Example 3</b>	2 children	1 x 3YO, and 1 x 4YO both attending 15 hours per week
<b>Example 4</b>	3 children	2 x 3YOs attending 7.5 hours per week, and 1 x 4YO attending 15 hours per week

### Geographic boundaries used in the KISP

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 (SA2), which is a medium-sized area which represents a community that interacts socially and economically, with an approximate population range of 3,000 to 25,000 people, and an average population of about 10,000 people. The KISP uses 2021 SA2 boundaries. More information is available at the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](https://www.abs.gov.au).

### Supply contributed by pipeline projects

Hobsons Bay City Council and the department have added 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 projects being delivered by not-for-profit providers (including non-government schools) with support from the Victorian Government, planned Kindergartens on School Sites, and government-owned and operated early learning and childcare centres.

The KISP does not 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.

### 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 4.4. The data included in this section are largely drawn from:

- the department’s Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), as of 2024.
- the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS), as of August 2025.

Number of services by service type (NQAITS)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	14
Long day care centres (including one service not currently delivering funded kindergarten)	29

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITS)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	0%
Private not for profit	51%
Private for profit	49%
Other	0%

Current kindergarten offering in Hobsons Bay City	
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	91%
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	90%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (KIMS):	42

### 4.4 Agreed estimates of demand for kindergarten places

The below estimates (Table 1 onwards) have been developed by Hobsons Bay City Council and the department to illustrate the estimated:

1. Demand – the total number of kindergarten places expected to be required over the roll-out period to support the current provision of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, the BSBL reforms, and population growth
2. Supply – the total number of kindergarten places that can be accommodated by existing services and infrastructure, and planned, State-supported services which are yet to open.
3. Unmet demand – kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by optimising existing services and infrastructure (i.e. the shortfall between demand and supply).

### Interpreting the estimates

Infrastructure need in the LGA and its local communities is indicated by the bottom rows of the tables in this section (**Table 1** onwards): *Unmet demand*. If the number of kindergarten places in this row is above zero, it means that the area is estimated to need additional infrastructure capacity. Any type of provider – local government, not-for-profit (including non-government schools) or for-profit – can build this additional infrastructure.

Sub-SA2 factors may need to be considered to give a holistic picture of unmet demand. For example, in rural communities, one SA2 may contain several small towns, some with excess supply and some with unmet demand. At the SA2-level, demand may appear to be met because all supply and demand is considered in aggregate; however, it is not feasible to for families to drive long distances to access kindergarten capacity in another town. Sub-SA2 factors are covered in **Section 3: Local context**.

**Table 1: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Hobsons Bay City**

Hobsons Bay City estimates	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten places	2274	2345	2575	2630	2746	2781	2804	2827	3110	3395	3888
Unmet demand	0	0	29	68	156	190	95	118	270	508	956

### Community estimates

**Table 2-A: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Altona**

Altona estimates	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	360	371	405	410	423	424	423	423	461	499	565
Kindergarten supply	388	388	394	394	394	394	394	394	404	404	404
Unmet demand	0	0	11	17	29	30	30	30	57	95	161

**Table 2-B: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Altona Meadows**

Altona Meadows estimates	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	375	381	411	415	427	426	424	421	457	492	559
Kindergarten supply	508	508	517	517	517	517	517	517	533	533	533
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26

**Table 2-C: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Altona North**

<b>Altona North estimates</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2036</b>
Demand for kindergarten	379	412	483	515	563	593	619	643	735	832	980
Kindergarten supply	472	472	481	481	481	481	600	600	619	619	619
Unmet demand	0	0	1	34	82	112	19	43	116	213	361

**Table 2-D: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Laverton  
\*Residual**

<b>Laverton *Residual estimates</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2036</b>
Demand for kindergarten	141	145	159	163	169	171	173	176	194	211	240
Kindergarten supply	182	182	186	186	186	186	186	186	194	194	194
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	46

**Table 2-E: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Newport**

<b>Newport estimates</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2036</b>
Demand for kindergarten	523	537	584	593	616	620	623	626	684	742	848
Kindergarten supply	595	595	602	602	602	602	602	602	627	627	627
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	14	18	22	25	57	115	221

**Table 2-F: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Seabrook**

<b>Seabrook estimates</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2036</b>
Demand for kindergarten	113	113	123	124	128	128	128	128	140	152	174
Kindergarten supply	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	157	157	157
Unmet demand	0	0	6	7	11	11	11	11	0	0	18

**Table 2-G: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Williamstown**

<b>Williamstown estimates</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2036</b>
Demand for kindergarten	383	386	411	410	419	418	414	410	439	467	523
Kindergarten supply	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
Unmet demand	0	0	11	10	19	18	14	11	40	68	123

## 5. Authorisation

The Western Melbourne Area Executive Director, Silvana Sena, of the Department of Education and the Director of Sustainable Communities of Hobsons Bay City endorse this Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for Hobsons Bay City Council by signing on ..... / ..... / .....

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 2029 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Hobsons Bay City Council.



.....  
Signature 23 February 2026

Name: Hector Gaston

Title: Director Sustainable Communities

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of the Department of Education



.....  
Signature 25 February 2026

Name: Silvana Sena .....

Title: Executive Director, Western Melbourne Area, Dep of Education .....