

Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

Strathbogie Shire

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
1.1. Reform context	3
1.2. Purpose of Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans (KISPs)	3
1.3. Structure of the KISP	4
1.4. Disclaimer	4
2. Map of Early Childhood Education services in Strathbogrie Shire	5
3. Local context	6
3.1 Purpose	6
3.2 Key considerations	6
4. Unmet demand estimates between 2025 - 2036 for Strathbogrie Shire	6
4.1 Purpose	13
4.2 Methodology	13
4.3 Summary of current kindergarten provision	15
4.4 Agreed estimates of demand for kindergarten places	16
5. Authorisation	18

© State of Victoria (Department of Education) 2024



Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan Strathbogrie Shire is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria (Department of Education), indicate if changes were made and comply with the other licence terms, see: [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

The licence does not apply to:

- any images, photographs, trademarks or branding, including the Victorian Government logo and the DE logo; and
- content supplied by third parties.

Copyright queries may be directed to copyright@education.vic.gov.au



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 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 will open 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 Strathbogie Shire in 2026. 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 Strathbogie Shire relevant to early childhood education.
- **Section 4:** Unmet demand estimates in Strathbogie Shire over the life of the reform.

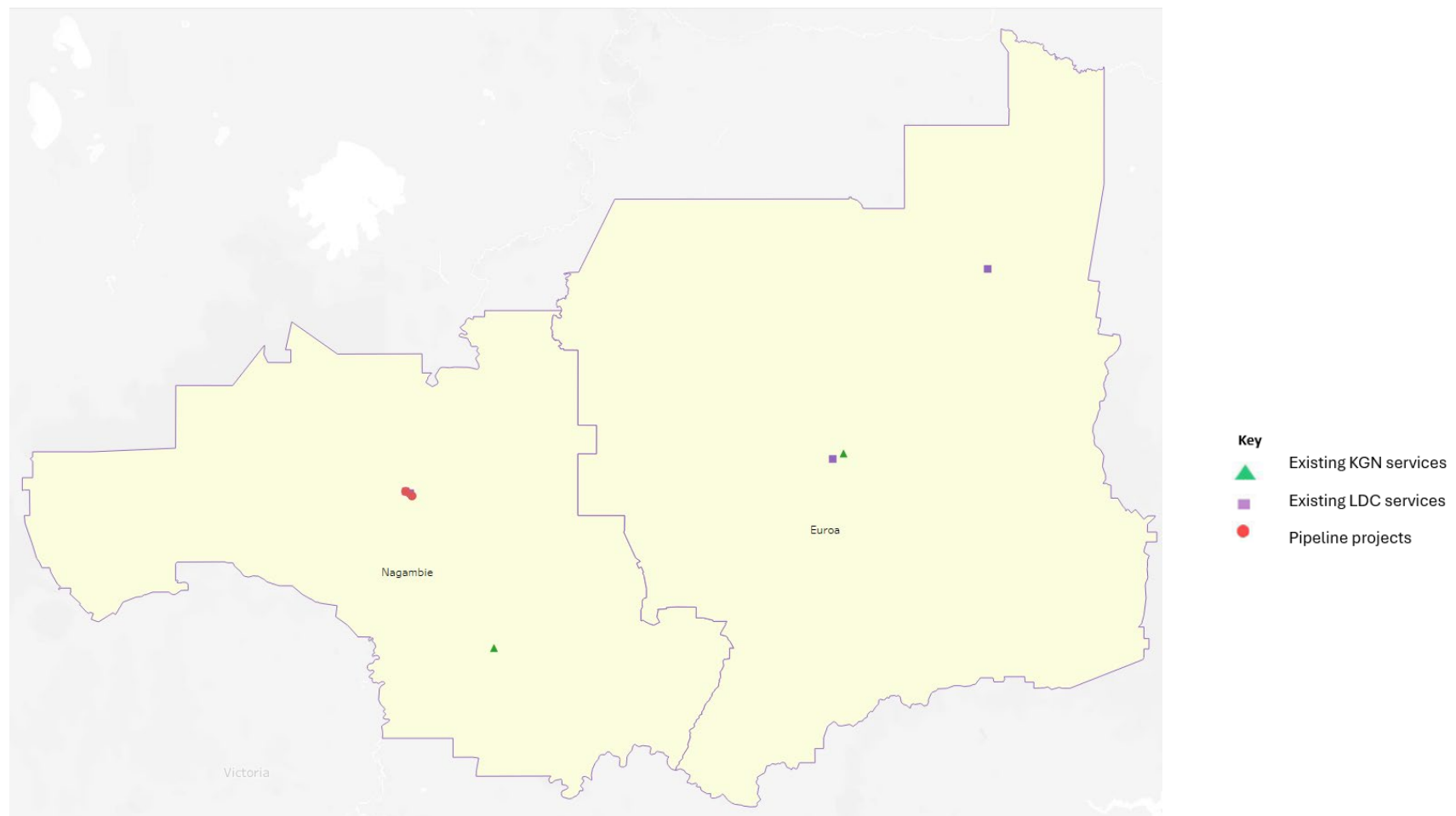
1.4. Disclaimer

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 Strathbogie Shire 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 Strathbogie Shire

The map below shows the distribution of currently operating and new State-supported services that are planned to open in the future in Strathbogie Shire. 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).



3. Local context

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

The Strathbogie Shire Council, in collaboration with the Department of Education and local kindergarten providers, is strategically planning for future infrastructure needs in the region, recognising the pivotal role of early years education in shaping the community's future.

Recognising the importance of local context and data is crucial in informing future kindergarten infrastructure needs. Utilising local data and information will ensure that infrastructure planning closely aligns with the unique requirements of the Strathbogie Shire.

Aboriginal Self Determination in Early Childhood Education and Care

The 2021 ABS Census reveals that 1.8% of Strathbogie Shire's population identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which is almost twice the proportion seen across Victoria. In 2021 the ABS Census captured that there were 35 children identified as being from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. In 2024 there were nine children identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent enrolled in funded Kindergarten programs across Strathbogie Shire.

The Marrung: Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026 recognises that improving outcomes for Aboriginal children hinges on strengthening the connection between universal services and Koorie families. Addressing early childhood inequalities is crucial, as these disparities often set the stage for lifelong gaps in health, education, and wellbeing.

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) providers in the Strathbogie Shire understand the vital role that kindergarten plays in closing the developmental gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children. In alignment with the goals of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan, these providers are committed to supporting the educational journey of Koorie children by:

- Prioritising Koorie children for access to kindergarten placements
- Creating culturally safe and inclusive learning environments where Koorie children feel a sense of belonging
- Encouraging and empowering Koorie parents and caregivers to be actively involved in their child's education
- Connecting Koorie children and families to relevant services and supports through Koorie-specific and universal programs; and
- Integrating and celebrating Koorie culture within each child's learning journey, while fostering an appreciation for Aboriginal culture in the classroom setting.

There are no kindergarten services in the Strathbogie Shire operated by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). However, ECEC providers remain dedicated to collaborating

with Koorie communities and ensuring that Aboriginal culture and values are meaningfully reflected and respected within their programs.

Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten

Compared to Victoria the picture of disadvantage for the Strathbogie Shire remains less favourable across almost all indicators presented. Only one trend was worsening, three showed improvement and five indicators showed a trend of no change between 2016 and 2021.

Indicator <i>*TREND shown in green indicates improving over time, red is worsening and yellow is no change.</i>	Strathbogie Shire 2016	Strathbogie Shire 2021	Victoria 2021	Data Source
Single parent families with children aged less than 15 years (2021) TREND	25.0%	24.8%	18.2%	Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2021.
Jobless families with children aged less than 15 years (2021) TREND	13.5%	11.5%	9.9%	Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2021.
Children in families where the mother has low educational attainment (2021) TREND	15.6%	13.7%	10.8%	Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2021 (unpublished) data.
Low income, welfare-dependant families - with children (2022) TREND	8.9%	3.7%	4.2%	Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the Department of Social Services, June 2022; Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing, August 2021 (families), and ABS Estimated Resident Population 30 June 2021
Social housing -rented dwellings (2021) TREND	1.3%	1.4%	2.1%	Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2021 (unpublished) data.
Low income households (bottom 40% of income distribution) (2021) TREND	50.3%	53.2%	39.5%	Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2016 (unpublished data).
Dwellings with no motor vehicle (2021) TREND	3.8%	3.7%	7.5%	Compiled by PHIDU based on the ABS Census of Population and Housing, August 2021.
People receiving an unemployment benefit long-term (2022) TREND	5.2%	5.9%	4.2%	Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the Department of Social Services, June 2022; and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2021

Health care card holders (2022) TREND	9.0%	8.6%	6.6%	Compiled by PHIDU based on data from the DSS Payment Demographic Data, June 2022, and Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2021
SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSED)-2006-2021	2021: 982 2016: 974 2011: 970 2006: 968 <i>*In 2021, the Strathbogie Shire was ranked as the 25th most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.</i> <i>SEIFA data shows increasing socio-economic advantage over time at an LGA level.</i>			ABS Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021 data.

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

Economic Development and Housing Development

The Strathbogie Shire Council is actively planning for attracting growth and economic development. The Shire is strategically located on the Melbourne to Sydney freight route which adds strength to attracting new industry.

A ring of growth is occurring around Avenel and Nagambie; most growth however is being directed to the townships of Nagambie, Avenel and Euroa. From 2011 to 2021, the total number of dwellings across the Shire increased from 5,008 to 6,153 (23 per cent increase). During this time, the proportion of dwellings in urban areas fell from 62.5 per cent to 60.1 per cent, while conversely, rural areas saw stronger growth in development activity. The total dwelling stock across the urban area (six townships) has grown by 15 per cent in the past decade, while the dwelling stock across rural areas surrounding the six townships has increased by 24 per cent. The dwelling stock across the remaining rural areas in the shire (excluding rural areas surrounding six townships) has increased by 47 per cent. The majority of development activity over this time period occurred in Nagambie – Urban (+317 dwellings), Euroa – Urban (+141 dwellings), Nagambie – Rural (+115 dwellings), and Avenel – Rural (+90 dwellings).

Conservative 2036 forecasts see 1,309 new dwellings being built in Strathbogie by 2036. Using those forecasts REMPLAN estimates that the additional housing capacity would support an increase in the Strathbogie (S) population estimated at 264 persons across the following age cohorts:

Strathbogie (S)

Age Groups	Persons	%
0-4 years	134	4.74%
5-9 years	130	4.60%
Sub-Total	264	9.34%
Other	2,562	90.66%
Total	2,826	100.00%

Tree-change and working from home

The evidence suggests that the trend of tree changing from metropolitan to rural areas continues to be notable in Victoria. Data indicates a steady flow of both individuals and families relocating to rural regions seeking a simpler lifestyle, affordable housing, and a closer connection to nature.

Factors driving this migration include the desire for a quieter environment, better work-life balance, and the appeal of rural communities.

The Great Australian Population Shift white paper captured the three underpinning reasons why the pandemic could influence people's preferred lifestyle and living location into the future, people:

- are now far more willing to work from home
- favour larger properties, with room to form a home base, grow veggies and spend time with the kids; and
- may be happy to live further from key CBD locations because we are not commuting every day (Ripehouse Advisory 2020)

The Victoria in Future (VIF) 2023 shows that Victoria will remain the fastest-growing state in the country with its population expected to reach 10.3 million by 2051.

Strathbogie Shire population from 2012 to 2022, grew quite rapidly with an AAGR of 1.7 per cent. COVID-19 lockdowns in Greater Melbourne shifted migration patterns to regional Victoria boosting population growth in regional Victoria and the Shire. However, the growth seen in regional locations through the pandemic will not necessarily be sustained over the long term, with growth slowing as of 2022.

The option to work from home can shift how people make decisions about the physical location of their home and workplace. For example, with employees working from home, the distance, time, and cost of a commute may no longer feature so heavily when deciding where to work or live (Doling and Arundel 2020). This may create opportunities for people to move further away from metro areas.

The results from the Taking the Pulse of the Nation Survey (TTPN) from July 2022 suggest that 88% of Australian workers would like to work from home at least partially, and 60% would prefer a hybrid work arrangement with days in both the office and at home. Adding to this 60% of workers surveyed indicated that their employers would permit hybrid work (Melbourne Institute Applied Economic and Social Research 2022a).

The continued roll-out and upgrades to the NBN network further support the attractiveness of Strathbogie as a place to live and work from home. While the pandemic caused a surge in remote working and allowed professionally mobile workers to move away from cities to regional areas, as a result, net internal migration increased during 2020 and 2021. As of 2022 there was a normalisation of migration patterns back to pre-pandemic levels, with net internal migration and net overseas migration being the main drivers of growth in the Shire.

The municipality of Strathbogie Shire is within the 'golden circle' of two hours travel north of Melbourne via the Hume Highway or by train. Nagambie, Avenel, Violet Town and Euroa's proximity to Melbourne is attracting families seeking a quieter and more affordable lifestyle.

The liveability of Strathbogie is another draw card with:

- Great people
- Natural amenity, lakes, trails and tracks
- Goulburn River

- Heritage and character of towns
- Proximity to Melbourne; and
- Freeways and rail nearby.

The substantial residential planning and development that is underway in Strathbogie will both encourage and support tree change migration

Source: Melbourne Institute: Applied Economic and Social Research (2022b). The Household, Income and Labor Dynamics in Australia survey: Selected findings from waves 1 to 20.

Protection of Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land

The Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land Action Plan 2024 sets out twenty actions for safeguarding green wedges and agricultural land. The action plan report defines Melbourne's green wedge and peri-urban areas (within 100km of central Melbourne) as non-urban areas outside the urban growth boundary.

The surge in urban development, fuelled by the demand for housing, has intensified pressure on Melbourne's green wedges and agricultural zones. In response, the action plan reinforces safeguards for these vital areas, championing the preservation of farming rights and the maintenance of the open ambiance in peri-urban regions.

With Planning Victoria's recent policy shifts aimed at safeguarding peri-urban areas, there's a strong likelihood that urban expansion will extend into the "golden circle," the two-hour travel radius from Melbourne. This is expected to spur further population growth in the Strathbogie Shire.

Kinder on School Site (KOSS)

A KOSS building project (Nagambie Early Learning Centre)- a 66 place two room modular is in the final project stages for St. Josephs Primary School in Nagambie forecast to open 01/02/2025. Whilst this may ease some pressure, families seeking childcare may seek to enrol where they can receive an integrated program.

Proposed New Early Years' Service

Nagambie Primary Kindergarten and Children's Service is forecast to open on 1/02/2026 at the Nagambie Primary School site. This new service will offer 33 licensed places and will be managed by GRPSA.

Kiddie Cove Early Years Learning Centre is forecast to open in 2025 at 18 Centenary Crescent, Nagambie. Initially providing long day care services with 4 year old kindergarten to commence in 2026 and 3 year old kindergarten to commence in 2027. It is not yet known the number of licensed places this centre will provide.

There is also a new Early Years Learning centre being built at a new site in Lewis St, Euroa. Construction of this centre has commenced with 87 licensed places proposed.

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

Geographic Distances

Funded kindergarten services are spread across the Strathbogie Shire with locations in Avenel, Euroa, Nagambie and Violet Town.

Whilst offering an even spread across the Shire, it is important to note that long travel distances between towns may deter families from accessing services beyond their own community.

- Avenel to Euroa is 38 kilometres, 76 return
- Nagambie to Euroa is 48 kilometres, 96 return
- Violet town to Euroa is 20 kilometres, 40 return
- Nagambie to Violet town is 61 kilometres, 122 return

Families from smaller townships where ECEC services are not available such as Longwood, Ruffy and Strathbogie regularly travel into larger centres to access both kindergartens and childcare services.

Family preferences have shown however that if local kindergarten places are not available in larger centres where services exist, families are unlikely to travel to access a kindergarten program in another town. With this in mind it is critical that ECEC infrastructure caters for the unique needs of Nagambie, Avenel, Violet Town and Euroa communities. Expecting centres to accommodate excess need from other larger townships where kindergartens already operate will not be successful.

Demand for Kindergarten and Childcare (ECEC)

Three of the six kindergarten services have indicated that they are operating at full licensed capacity: Nagambie, Violet Town, Euroa (one service).

In 2024 demand for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) exceeds what can be offered by the existing local provider in Violet Town. Conversations to explore a kinder on school site (KOSS) are currently occurring.

There is one long daycare provider in Nagambie. This service has had to cap numbers to accommodate kinder children. Kiddie Cover Early Years Learning Centre providing long day care from 2025 will help to accommodate long day care shortages in Nagambie. The introduction of the Nagambie Primary School kindergarten and Children's service due to open in 2026 should see additional long daycare places open up with kids moving to the new kindergarten site.

The new ECEC build in Lewis St Euroa will provide additional options for families and meet current market demand for long day care for Euroa.

Other information about the expansion of early childhood services

Three-Year Old Kindergarten

In 2024 all services are offering 15 hours of three year old kindergarten.

Infrastructure Suitability, Age and Condition

An audit of Kindergarten buildings was conducted to understand age, suitability and condition of current buildings.

Age of Buildings (as at 2025)

Avenel (Council Owned): 43 years

Euroa (Council Owned): 53 years

Euroa (Privately Owned) :18 years

Nagambie (Council Owned): 45 years

Nagambie (KOSS): New

Violet Town (Council Owned): 45 years

Of the six centres, the four Council owned centres do not have room for expansion. Two centres indicated that their current infrastructure would not meet anticipated demand for kindergarten when 30 hours of pre-prep is rolled out.

Additional kinder on school sites (KOSS) at Nagambie Primary School and Peranbin Primary School would ensure all children can access kindergarten and allow for existing buildings to cater for long daycare needs.

Workforce

Early childhood education and care workforce challenges continue to impact on service delivery with services facing difficulties recruiting educators.

Service providers rated how well their current services infrastructure supports their workforce:

- three centres rated how well the infrastructure supports their workforce as poor
- one centre rated how well the infrastructure supports their workforce as good
- one centre rated how well the infrastructure supports their workforce as excellent; and
- one centre rated how well the infrastructure supports their workforce as zero- 'not at all' supporting their workforce.

It is imperative that infrastructure not only provides for a quality learning environment but also provides a conducive atmosphere that supports employee well-being and productivity.

Supply of Childcare Places

There is concern amongst the community that the introduction of Pre-Prep will cause long day care services to increase their kindergarten enrolments and offer fewer childcare places. Without adequate childcare places critical community level impacts could be experienced including employment shortages, reduced liveability, population decline and socioeconomic impacts. It is vital that childcare accessibility is not decreased as a result of the Best Start, Best Life reforms.

The evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds show the greatest gains from attending high-quality childcare (Elliott 2006; Moore 2006). Children experiencing vulnerability could experience further developmental challenges should childcare not be available.

Accessible Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) is critical to children, families and communities and nowhere is this more so than in our rural communities.

Sources: Elliott A 2006. *Early childhood education: pathways to quality and equity for all children*. Victoria: Australian Council for Educational Research.

Moore T 2006. *Early childhood and long term development: The Importance of the Early Years*. Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

4. Unmet demand estimates between 2025 - 2036 for Strathbogie Shire

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 Strathbogie Shire, Strathbogie Shire Council and the department have developed:

1. a summary of the current provision of kindergarten within Strathbogie Shire (**Section 4.3**).
2. an estimate of kindergarten places that cannot be met through existing services for the 2025 - 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 Strathbogie Shire 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 Strathbogie Shire 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)		
Example 1	1 child	1 x 3YO attending 15 hours per week
Example 2	1 child	1 x 4YO attending 15 hours per week
Example 3	2 children	2 x 3YOs attending 7.5 hours per week
Example 4	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)		
Example 1	1 child	1 x 4YO attending 30 hours per week
Example 2	2 children	2 x 3YOs attending 15 hours per week
Example 3	2 children	1 x 3YO, and 1 x 4YO both attending 15 hours per week
Example 4	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](#).

Supply contributed by pipeline projects

Strathbogie Shire 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 4.5. The data included in this section are largely drawn from:

- the department's Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), as at 2023.
- the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS), as at February 2025.

Number of services by service type (NQAITS)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	2
Long day care centres (including services not currently delivering funded kindergarten)	4

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITS)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	0%
Private not for profit	100%
Private for profit	0%
Other	0%

Current kindergarten offering in Strathbogie Shire	
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	68%
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	88%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (KIMS):	5

4.4 Agreed estimates of demand for kindergarten places

The below estimates (**Table 1** onwards) have been developed by Strathbogie Shire 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 2025 - 2036 in Strathbogie Shire

Strathbogie Shire estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	209	244	242	257	276	288	321	324	327	330	332	334
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Community estimates

Table 2-A: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Euroa

Euroa estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	106	124	121	129	139	146	164	166	168	169	170	171
Kindergarten supply	165	176	176	179	179	182	182	182	182	182	182	182

Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
--------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Table 2-B: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2025 - 2036 in Nagambie

Nagambie estimates	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	103	120	121	128	137	142	157	158	160	161	161	162
Kindergarten supply	294	364	364	367	367	370	370	370	370	370	370	370
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5. Authorisation

The Area Executive Director – Goulburn, of the Department of Education and the Director Community and Planning, Rachael Frampton of Strathbogie Shire endorse this Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for Strathbogie Shire Council by signing on 10/4/2025

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 2028 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Strathbogie Shire Council.



.....
Signature

Name: Rachel Frampton

Title: Director Community and Planning

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



.....
Signature

Name: Sharon Hensgen-Smith..

Title: Executive Director Area, Goulburn, North East Victoria Region