

# Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

Maroondah City

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# 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 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 Maroondah 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 Maroondah City relevant to early childhood education.
- **Section 4:** Unmet demand estimates in Maroondah City over the life of the reform.

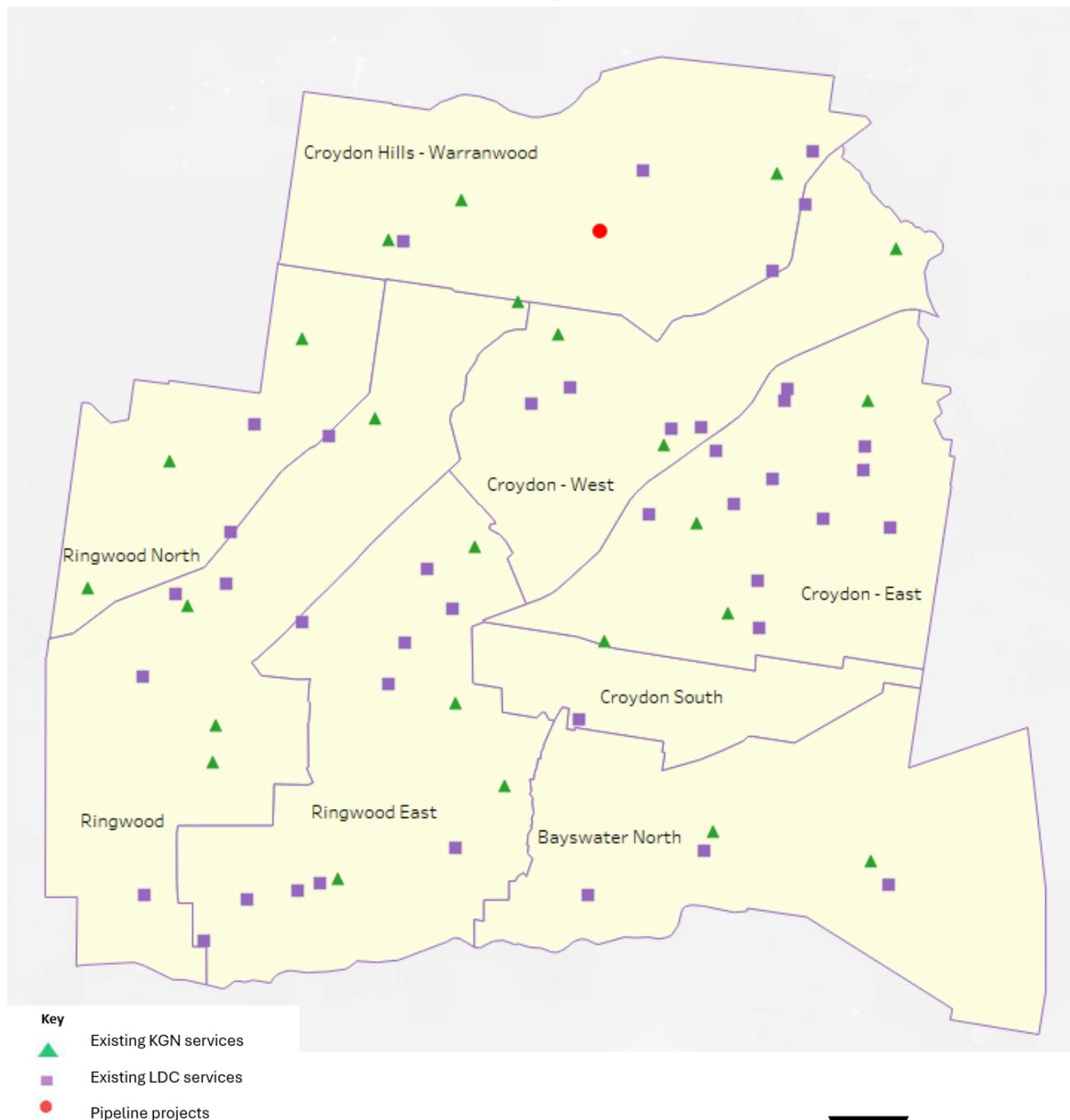
### 1.4. Disclaimer

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 Maroondah 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 Maroondah City

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



## 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

#### *Service variety*

There is a variety of kindergarten management types across different services within Maroondah. Currently the private for-profit sector operating long day care programs run over half of all services.

It is important to the Maroondah community that local families have access to affordable, high quality kindergarten services and options that suit their family's needs.

Care type	Service type	Facility owner	Provider management type	Number of services	% of total services
KGN	Standalone	Council	Community managed (CoM) - Private not for profit	9	15%
			Community managed (EYM) - Private not for profit	10	15%
		Private	Community managed (CoM) - Private not for profit	2	3%
	School ELC	Private	Independent school	3	4%
	<b>MAROONDAH KGN TOTAL</b>				<b>24</b>
LDC	LDC	Council	Community managed (CoM) - Private not for profit	2	3%
			Community managed (CoM) - Private not for profit	2	3%
		Private	Private not for profit - other organisation	5	7%
			Private for profit	33	50%
	<b>MAROONDAH LDC TOTAL</b>				<b>42</b>

#### *Role of Council and the Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme (CRES)*

Across Maroondah there are 22 facilities currently owned by Council which are leased to not-for-profit early childhood education and care providers. Council does not engage directly in the delivery of these services, however, plays a key supporting role as landlord through the asset management program. Council also continues to support the local sector through leadership support for Committees of Management and Early Years Managers, advocacy for local need,

formal kindergarten provider network meetings, and communication with families across Maroondah to support kindergarten participation.

Council is the auspice body of CRES funding from the Department of Education (DE) and has a service agreement with a third-party provider (Maroondah Integrated Kindergarten's Association Incorporated - MIKA) to deliver the CRES in Maroondah.

MIKA is a not-for-profit community-based organisation with 20 member kindergartens.

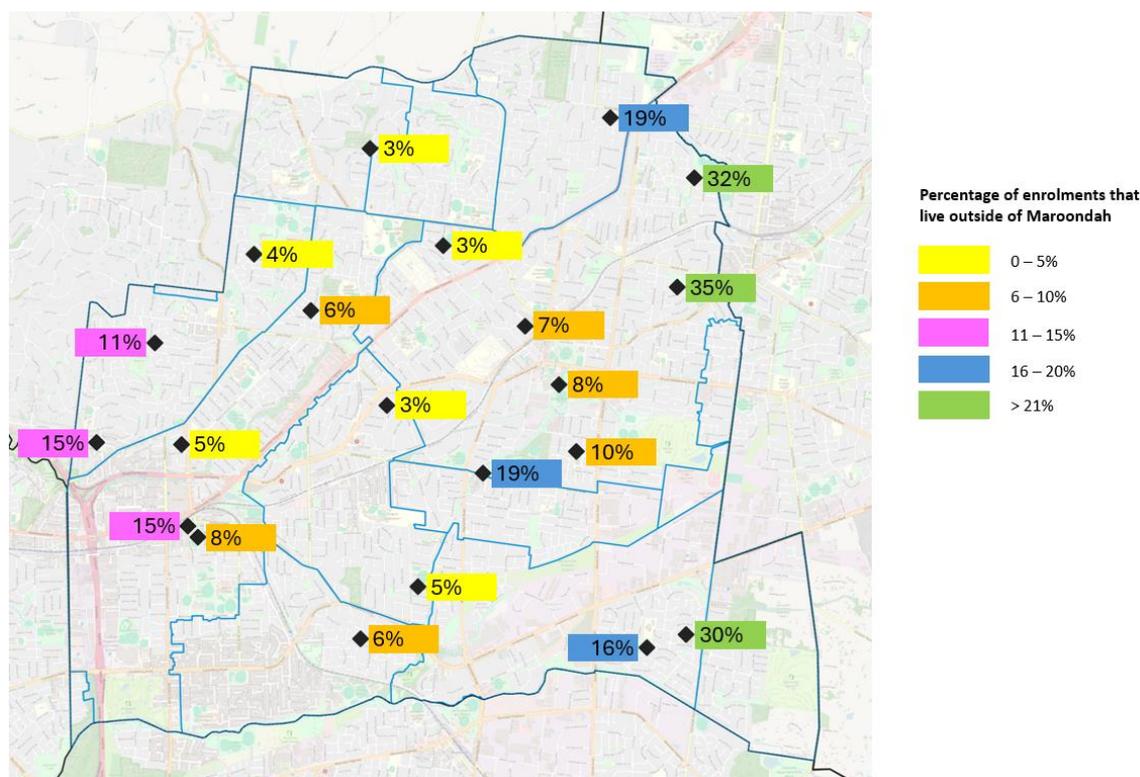
Council acts as landlord for 19 of these 20 member kindergartens, and, alongside its support for the local sector, has established an effective partnership with the CRES provider (MIKA).

Since 2021 MIKA has received an average of 1800 applications during the application period between March 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> in the year before attendance. This equates to around 60% of the current kindergarten population (3- and 4-year-olds) in Maroondah.

Enrolment numbers are typically lower than total applications due to change of start date, preference or families moving residential address. There are currently 1526 children enrolled across 20 MIKA services - 53% of the current total kindergarten population. Of the 1526 children, 1266 are residents of Maroondah - 44% of the current total kindergarten population.

There are a portion of children attending kindergarten in Maroondah that live outside the municipality. The distribution of these children is closely linked to the location of the service and its proximity to the Maroondah border, service capacity and popularity within the community

As kinder demand increases with extended program hours MIKA is experiencing growing pressure



as more families are unable to secure their preferred kindergarten. This creates administrative challenges for MIKA and may lead to frustration among families, highlighting the need for expanded capacity and improved service coordination.

Collectively MIKA services currently have a licensed capacity of 828 which equates to a reform supply of 1490 kindergarten places. This is lower than the number of children currently enrolled. It is anticipated that MIKA will get to a point where they are not able to offer families a place in any of their member services.

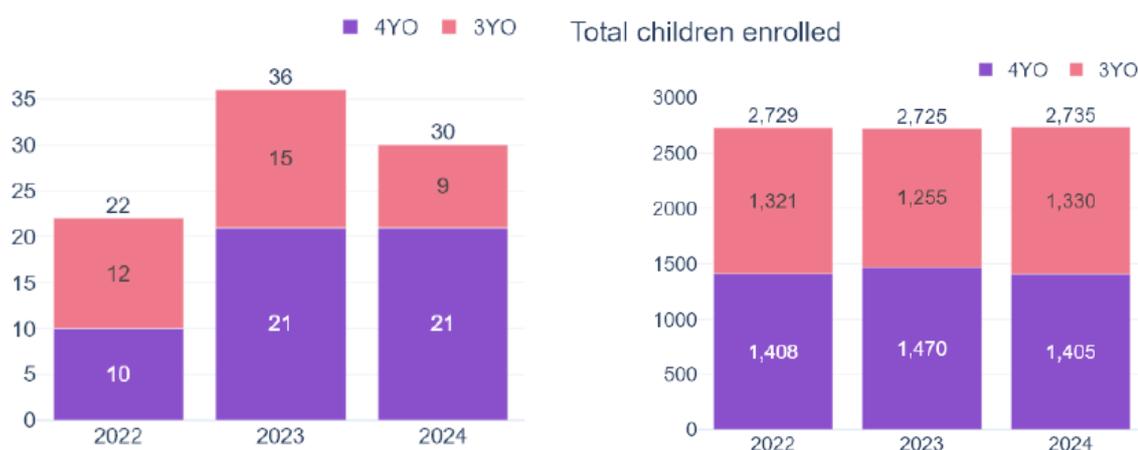
CRES is a best practice model for Local Government and other organisations to support families and carers to secure a kindergarten place for a child.<sup>1</sup> It is critical that the Maroondah community continues to have access to services that are part of the CRES and this is a priority for Council as they continue to plan for the future of kindergarten facilities whether Council-owned or not, across the municipality.

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

Currently there are no kindergarten services operated by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations within Maroondah.

Across the municipality there has been ongoing participation of Aboriginal children in kindergarten services, with enrolments more concentrated in the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program as shown in the graph below<sup>2</sup>.

#### Aboriginal children enrolled



In 2024, a total of 30 Aboriginal children were enrolled in kindergarten, representing approximately 1.1% of the total 2,735 enrolments. This reflects a decrease from 2023, when 36 Aboriginal children were enrolled (1.3%), although the overall proportion remains consistent relative to total enrolments.

Council supports Aboriginal self determination in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services and is committed to supporting all ECEC services to ensure they are culturally safe and lead to quality experiences and outcomes.

Actions listed in Council's *Children, Youth and Families Action Plan 2023-2025* include:

- Proactively acknowledge, respect and celebrate the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah, and demonstrate this through Council's services and facilities for children, young people and their families.
- Continue to partner with Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and other key First Peoples' organisations to create new opportunities for inclusion, connection and participation in the community, and explore ways to authentically recognise and embed First People's culture into Council services and facilities for children, young people and families.
- Provide cultural awareness and safety training for Council employees to support the establishment of culturally safe environments across Council, in which First People's diverse and unique identities and experiences are respected and valued, and the wellbeing and safety of First People's children and young people is promoted.

<sup>1</sup> [Kindergarten Central Registration and Enrolment | vic.gov.au](https://www.vic.gov.au/kindergarten-central-registration-and-enrolment)

<sup>2</sup> 2024 Maroondah (C) ECE Profile prepared by the Department of Education.

## Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten

### Population growth

The unmet demand data in this KISP document is based on an agreed mid-point between the population data set from Victoria in Future (VIF) and .id Informed Decisions (.id). .id projects a higher population than VIF and projections beyond 2036 show a steady increase in the predicted number of 3- and 4-year-olds between 2036 and 2046.<sup>3</sup>

This is significant for Council's understanding and planning beyond the Reform timeframe in line with the *Maroondah 2050 - Our future together* Community Vision.<sup>4</sup>

Some statistics taken from the *Maroondah Community Vision - Background Report*<sup>5</sup> that may influence the demand for kindergarten in the future:

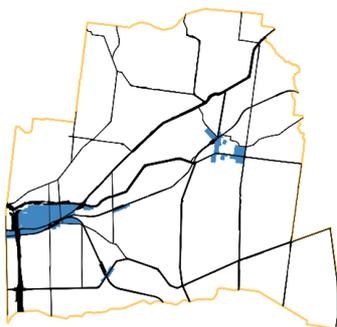
### Housing and neighbourhoods

- Development guided by local neighbourhood principles will shape where and how Maroondah's residents live, with the aim of increasing the number of residents able to meet their daily needs within a short walk of home by 2050.
- There will need to be an increase in the diversity of housing stock in Maroondah to meet the needs of its current and future community (factors include an aging population, gentrification and increasing cultural diversity).
- Areas with the lowest household incomes include Croydon, Kilsyth and Ringwood.
- Areas with the highest household incomes are Warranwood, Croydon Hills, Kilsyth South and Ringwood North.

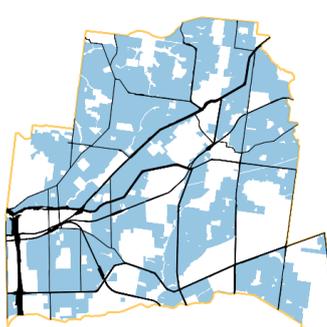
The *Maroondah Housing Strategy: 2022 Refresh* is Council's plan for housing in the municipality. Annual reports are prepared to show progress on Strategy actions and planning permits issued for additional dwellings.<sup>6</sup> The latest report identifies:

- Housing targets published in early 2025 indicate that, according to State government housing reform, Maroondah should plan for an additional 39,500 dwellings by 2053. This represents approximately 1,316 dwellings a year, compared with previous forecasts for 575 dwellings a year between 2021 and 2036.
- It is important to the Maroondah community that there is a balance between the need for housing growth with the need to protect the natural environment and Maroondah's leafy character.
- Three main areas of change have been identified across the municipality:

#### Significant change areas



#### Incremental change areas



#### Minimal change areas



- In 2024 there were 97 permits issued for a total of 547 additional dwellings in Maroondah.

<sup>3</sup> [Population and age structure map | City of Maroondah | Population forecast](#)

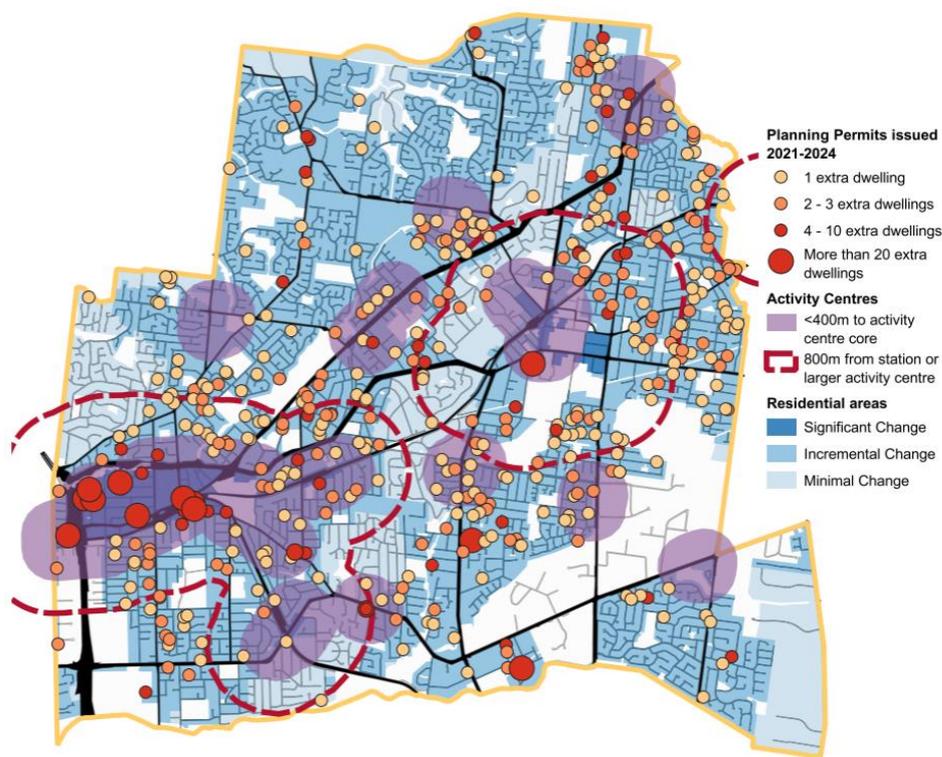
<sup>4</sup> [Maroondah 2050 Community Vision | Your Say Maroondah](#)

<sup>5</sup> *Maroondah Community Vision - Background Report*, Maroondah City Council, prepared by SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd 2023.

<sup>6</sup> [Maroondah Housing Strategy | Maroondah City Council](#)

- Most developments were within the Incremental Change areas.
- A smaller number of larger developments in the Significant Change areas resulted in an additional 360 dwellings being approved.

Annual housing report map:



### People and Wellbeing

- Cultural diversity in Maroondah has increased over the past three census periods.
- Maroondah's population is ageing in line with broader Australian population trends.
- Maroondah currently has several areas where residents are experiencing high levels of social and economic disadvantage, or high rental and housing stress. It is forecast that a higher number of people and families will require financial and social support. The two least advantaged areas are in the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre and the Croydon Metropolitan Activity Centre.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people made up 0.6% (735) of Maroondah's total population in 2021. Of this population 'parents and homebuilders' (35-49 years) were the most prominent population group (18.6%) followed by 'tertiary education and independence' age group (18-24 years) at 15.1%.
- Just over a quarter of residents were born overseas (25.3%), low compared to Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR) and Greater Melbourne. Three most common countries of birth in Maroondah are;
  - United Kingdom (4.4%)
  - China (3.7%)
  - India (2.2%)
- Maroondah has an increasing population of Burmese residents (currently 1.6%) compared to EMR (0.3%) and Greater Melbourne (0.3%).

<sup>7</sup> Maroondah Community Vision - Background Report, Maroondah City Council, prepared by SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd 2023.

- In 2021 16% of new arrivals to Maroondah came from Myanmar (second highest proportion after China at 22.3%).
- Many of the Burmese community have come to Maroondah through humanitarian migration streams.
- 2021 Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) revealed that Maroondah (1,041) is on average less advantaged than the EMR (1,051) but more advantaged than Greater Melbourne (1,018).

### *CALD Outreach initiative*

Due to increasing cultural diversity and the specific needs of these vulnerable communities, in 2022 Council accepted funding from DE to employ a full time Kindergarten Outreach Officer and a part time Bilingual Childrens Services Officer. These important roles have engaged with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) children and their families to build trusted relationships and provide much needed support.

The CALD Outreach initiative aims to address barriers and challenges that families of CALD backgrounds experience in accessing and participating in early childhood education (kindergarten and primary school).

In March 2013 Maroondah became a Refugee Welcome Zone and according to the Refugee Council of Australia Maroondah has the second highest number of refugees from Burma setting in Victoria.<sup>8</sup>

Since January 2023 the level of community involvement in the CALD Outreach initiative has increased significantly and the team are currently supporting 80 families with kindergarten applications, enrolments, transitions, orientations and attendance.

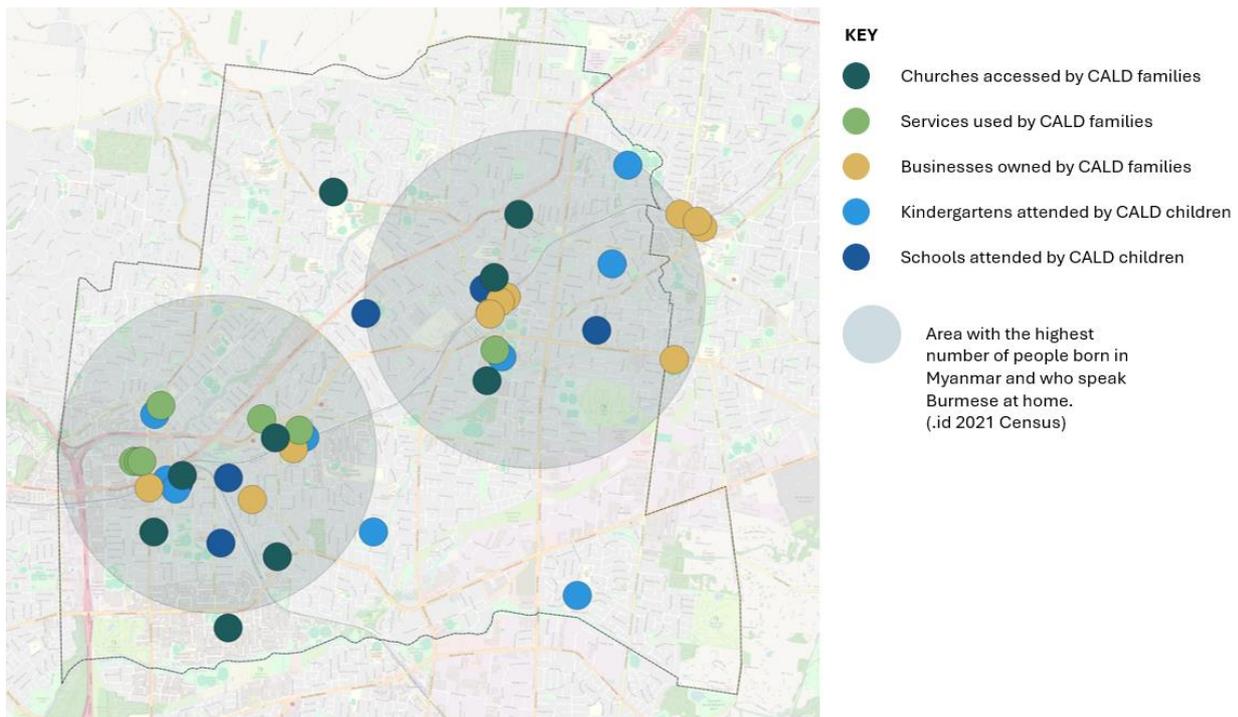
Most of these families are from Burma and are part of established Chin/Burmese communities in Maroondah including Hakha Chin, Falam Chin, Mizo, Zomi/Tedim and Karen.

New community members continue to arrive in Maroondah and settle where there are established church groups, high Burmese CALD attendance at kindergartens or schools and where there is access to important services.

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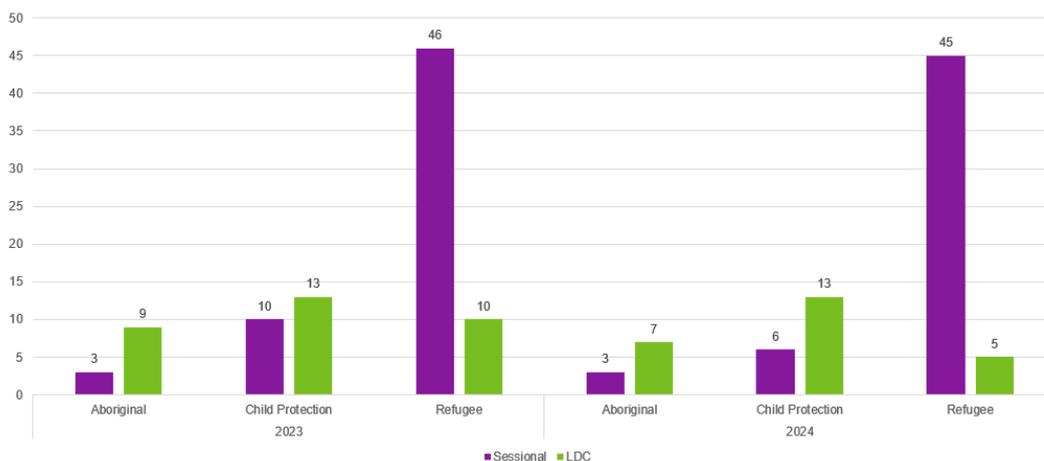
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/maroondah-city-council/>

As shown in the map below community members currently supported by Councils CALD Outreach team are concentrated around the areas of Ringwood and Croydon.



There is a high preference for standalone kindergarten services in these communities due to the hours on offer, affordability because there is no cost to families and connection with CALD community members. This is shown in the graph below.

### ESK Enrolments by Program Model and Funding Rate Type: 2023 vs 2024



#### Vulnerable children

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) collects national data on the developmental health and wellbeing of all children starting school and measures how well children and families are supported from conception through to school age.

For the 2024 data collection there were 1,183 Maroondah children measured from 93 schools.<sup>9</sup> The results describe children that are developmentally on track, developmentally at risk and developmentally vulnerable across five domains.

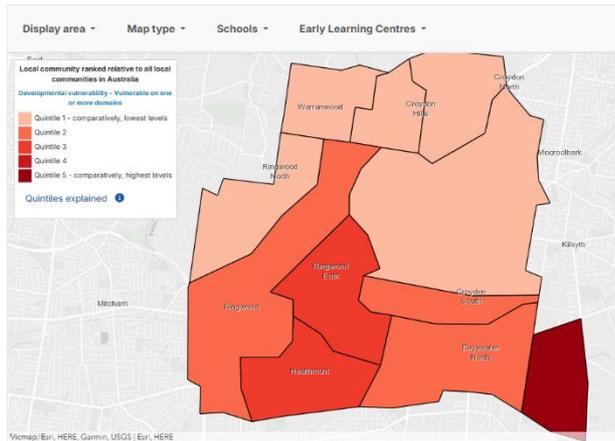
The AEDC has three summary indicators that collectively can be used to monitor trends in child development - developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains (DV1), developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains (DV2), and developmentally on track on five domains (OT5).

Current results for Maroondah show a higher number of vulnerable children in the southern part of the municipality.

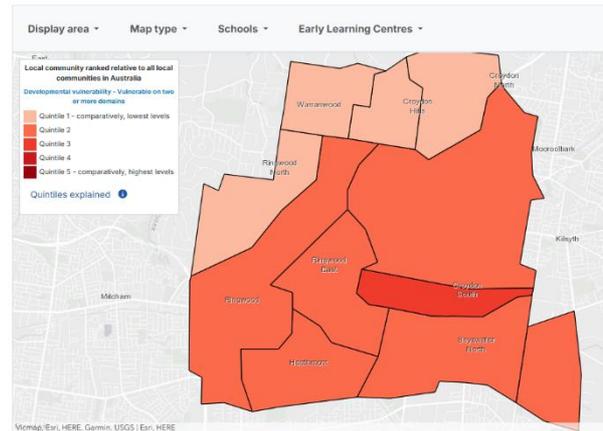
DV1 (14.7% of children surveyed)

DV2 (6.8% of children surveyed)

MAP Developmental vulnerability - Vulnerable on one or more domains in 2024



MAP Developmental vulnerability - Vulnerable on two or more domains in 2024



Tracking of data since 2009 shows results have been steady with no significant change from 2021 to 2024.

**DV1 DV2 OT5 Summary indicators (DV1, DV2 and OT5) –**

[Export graph](#)

Graph: Trends in summary indicators (DV1, DV2 and OT5) - Maroondah

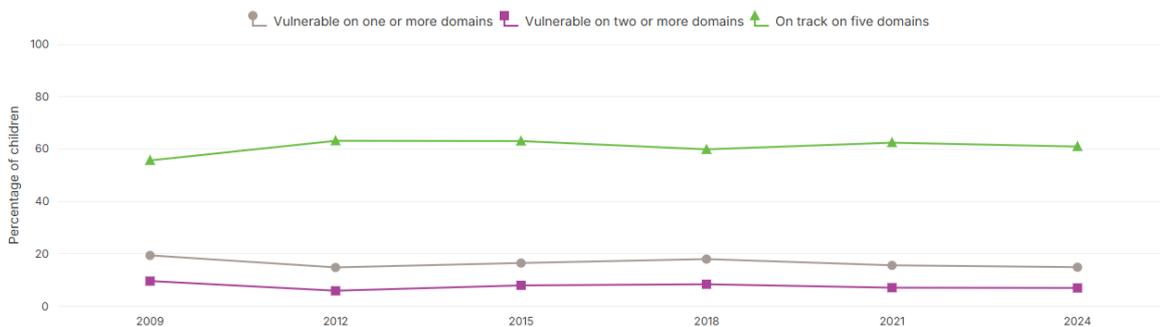


Table: Trends in summary indicators (DV1, DV2 and OT5)

	2009		2012		2015		2018		2021		2024		2024 vs 2021
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Significant change		
Vulnerable on one or more domains	212	19.2%	173	14.6%	203	16.3%	220	17.8%	184	15.4%	161	14.7%	-0.7% →
Vulnerable on two or more domains	104	9.4%	68	5.7%	97	7.8%	102	8.2%	83	6.9%	75	6.8%	-0.1% →
On track on five domains	614	55.5%	748	63.0%	784	62.9%	740	59.7%	747	62.3%	667	60.8%	-1.5% →

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.aedc.gov.au/community-data-explorer/?id=197>

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

### State Government projects

Across Maroondah there is currently one Kindergarten on School Site (KOSS) project due to open in 2026. This has been captured in the KISP data.

### Supply of kindergarten places in the KISP

The annual fees for most private schools are significantly higher than in standalone kindergartens or long day care services in Maroondah, and therefore not accessible to many members of the community. At the time of this document none had opted in to the Free Kinder initiative. Montessori services can also have a different enrolment structure with a very small intake of new students each year. These students often complete their foundation year at the service before moving to a Montessori primary school in year one.

The effects of these services on supply has been accounted for in the KISP modelling.

### Projected supply

Council is tracking applications for new child care facilities across the municipality on the assumption they will offer a funded kindergarten program.

Since the development of the first KISP in 2022 there have been 5 new child care services established, the majority in the Croydon area. There are four services currently in construction, the majority in the Heathmont area. Most applications are proposed along major roads or within proximity to an activity or neighbourhood centre.



Changes to existing services and impacts to supply are being monitored by Council and DE.

### Age and condition of kindergarten assets

Council's kindergarten assets are aging. Facilities range between 10 and 100 years old with the average age close to 50 years. Many sites have considerable constraints including challenging topography, difficult access and landlocked residential land etc.

75% of Council kindergarten buildings only have one main room that is shared between classes, educators and programs. Due to their age, many of Council's kindergarten facilities no longer reflect contemporary service standards or kindergarten operating models and the majority do not

meet mobility, and accessibility needs with no disabled toilet, no ramped access, limited hallway spaces etc.

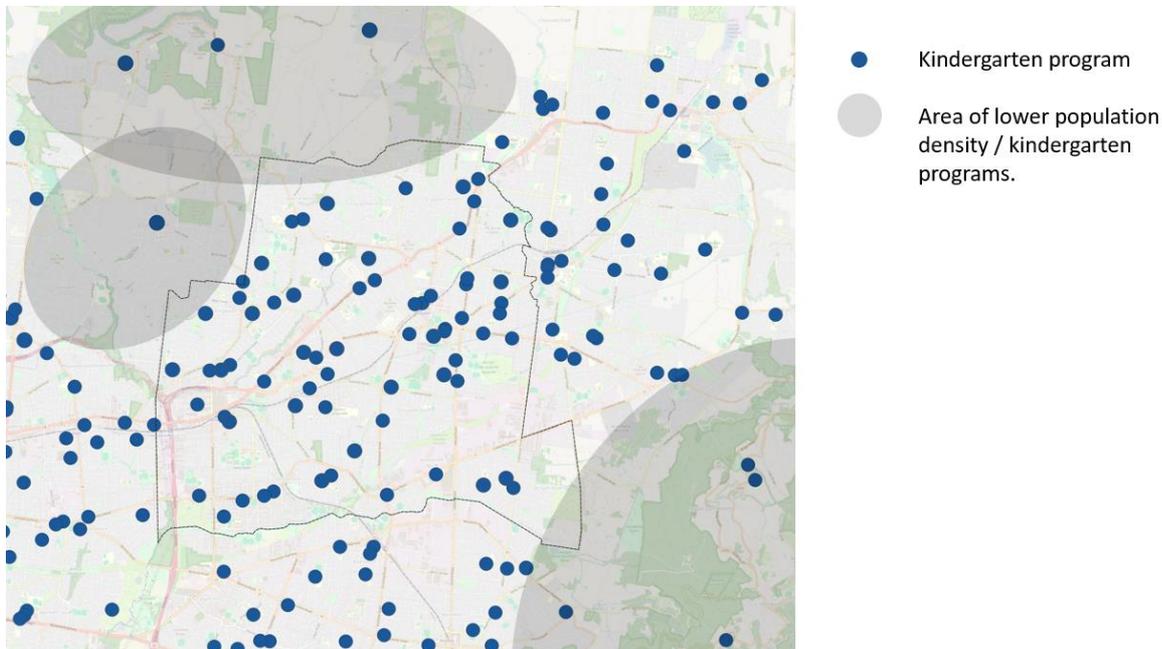
Service delivery is also impacted by a range of factors including lack of private meeting spaces, poor building configuration, inadequate administration space, poor staff amenities and limited storage space.

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

The City of Maroondah is predominantly a suburban residential area with some commercial, industrial, semi-rural areas and substantial parklands. Established residential areas are located along the major transport routes and railway lines.<sup>10</sup>

Distribution of kindergarten programs within the municipality is reasonably even except for some smaller pockets where higher commercial or industrial activity occurs or there is lower population density.

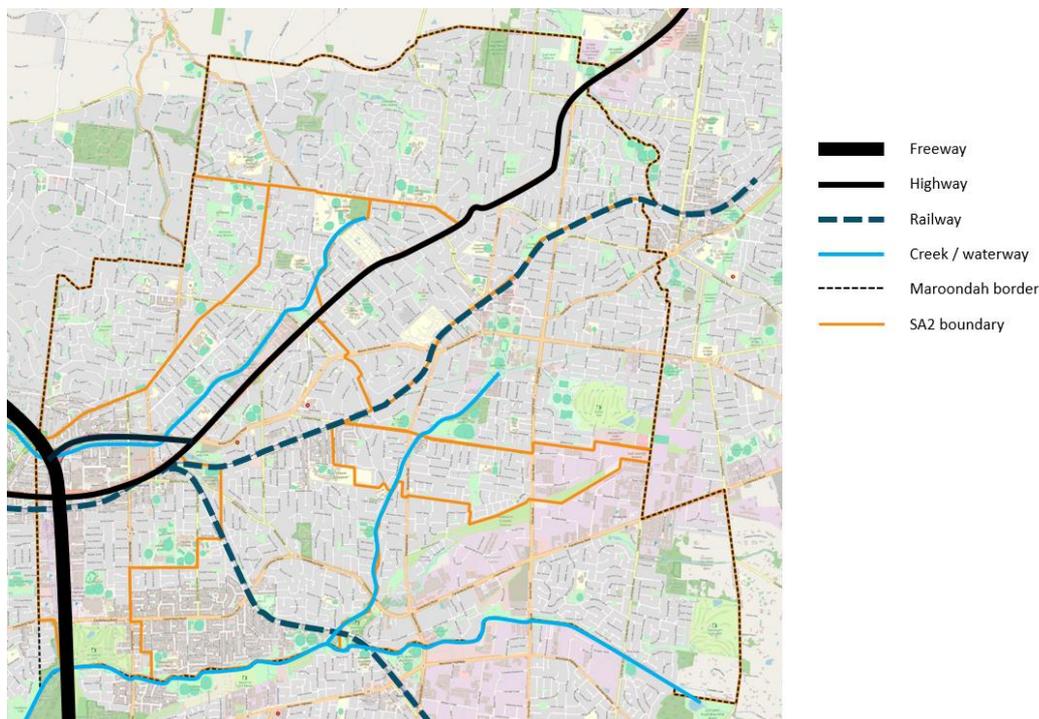
There are areas of low population density and low numbers of kindergarten programs to the north-east and south-east of the municipality which may impact travel patterns or demand for kindergarten at services located close to the border.



Infrastructure such as major roads (eg: Maroondah Highway, which cuts through the northern half of the LGA) and train lines (which run through the centre of the LGA and the suburbs of Ringwood and Heathmont) have had an impact on enrolments as families often prefer to walk to and from the service and see these as physical barriers.

<sup>10</sup> <https://profile.id.com.au/maroondah/about>

Natural barriers such as creeks and waterways also cut through the municipality which can be an opportunity to connect with bike paths and pedestrian routes but may also restrict access if there are limited crossings.



Children in vulnerable situations, families without a car (4.7% of Maroondah's households<sup>11</sup>) and our CALD communities will rely more heavily on services that are easily accessible, close to home and within walking distance.

### **Other information about the retention and/or expansion of early childhood services.**

#### *Council direction*

Councils' medium to long term strategic direction is to ensure that Council assets will be matched with future capability and capacity requirements of kindergartens.

Council will optimise kindergarten assets to suit the current and future needs of Three- and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten programs.

Without external funding it will not be possible to maintain all existing assets nor improve Council-owned kindergarten infrastructure across the municipality which provides Maroondah families with choice to access to local, high quality, free kindergarten programs.

Council fully supports and advocates for kindergarten developments on school sites (KOSS program), kindergartens on department land, and/or land owned by other organisations who have a desire to provide free kindergarten programs and become members of the CRES to maximise the benefit to our local community members.

<sup>11</sup> [Social atlas | City of Maroondah | atlas.id](#)

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

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## 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 Maroondah City, Maroondah City Council and the department have developed:

1. a summary of the current provision of kindergarten within Maroondah 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 Maroondah 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 Maroondah 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](#).

### Supply contributed by pipeline projects

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

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

Number of services by service type (NQAITS)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	24
Long day care centres (including services not currently delivering funded kindergarten)	42

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITS)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	0%
Private not for profit	45%
Private for profit	50%
Other	5%

Current kindergarten offering in Maroondah City	
Three-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	89%
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (KIMS):	94%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (KIMS):	64

### 4.4 Agreed estimates of demand for kindergarten places

The below estimates (**Table 1** onwards) have been developed by Maroondah 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 Maroondah City**

Maroondah City estimates	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten places	2860	3022	3184	3211	3216	3213	3212	3214	3541	3878	4458
Unmet demand	37	58	96	95	87	79	72	67	170	295	773

### Community estimates

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

Bayswater North estimates	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	216	222	232	231	228	225	222	221	248	277	327
Kindergarten supply	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228
Unmet demand	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	19	49	99

**Table 2-B: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Croydon - East**

Croydon - East estimates	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	441	458	490	496	499	500	501	504	552	602	689
Kindergarten supply	752	752	752	752	752	752	752	752	752	752	752
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 2-C: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Croydon - West**

<b>Croydon - West 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	342	358	381	386	388	390	389	389	427	466	534
Kindergarten supply	468	468	468	468	468	468	468	468	468	468	468
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66

**Table 2-D: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Croydon Hills - Warranwood**

<b>Croydon Hills - Warranwood 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	423	449	468	467	463	456	451	447	491	537	617
Kindergarten supply	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	448	448
Unmet demand	0	1	21	20	15	9	3	0	44	89	170

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

<b>Croydon South 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	77	79	88	89	90	91	92	92	107	122	148
Kindergarten supply	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Unmet demand	26	29	37	39	40	40	41	41	57	72	97

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

<b>Ringwood 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	483	522	550	561	568	576	585	591	654	721	828
Kindergarten supply	734	734	734	734	734	734	734	734	734	734	734
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94

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

<b>Ringwood East 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	623	663	697	704	704	702	701	702	768	837	956
Kindergarten supply	825	825	825	825	825	825	825	825	825	825	825
Unmet demand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	131

**Table 2-H: Estimated kindergarten places required between 2026 - 2036 in Ringwood North**

<b>Ringwood 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	254	272	278	278	275	273	271	269	293	316	358
Kindergarten supply	243	243	243	243	243	243	243	243	243	243	243
Unmet demand	11	28	35	35	32	30	28	26	50	73	115

## 5. Authorisation

The Outer East Area Executive Director, Clayton Sturzaker, of the Department of Education and the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Fuaux of Maroondah City Council endorse this Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for Maroondah City Council by signing on ...13.../...10..../...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 Maroondah City Council.



.....  
Signature

Name: Andrew Fuaux .....

Title: Acting Chief Executive Officer .....

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



.....  
Signature

Name: Clayton Sturzaker.

Title: Executive Director, Outer East, Department of Education.