

# Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

Nillumbik Shire

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. REFORM CONTEXT

In an Australian first, the Victorian Government has committed to implement Three-Year-Old Kindergarten for all children over a 10-year roll-out with a total investment of almost \$5 billion, including \$1.68 billion to support the infrastructure expansion required for the reform. This reform will add another year of universal funded kindergarten so that, by 2029, all children in Victoria will have access to two years of play-based learning through a funded kindergarten program.

## 1.2. PURPOSE OF KISPS

Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will require a large expansion of kindergarten across the State. The Government has invited all 79 Victorian Local Governments to discuss and agree upon a Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) for their Local Government Area (LGA).

Each KISP has been jointly developed with Local Government and published to estimate the growth in demand for kindergarten within the LGA. The KISPs will help all kindergarten providers meet demand and provide a clear picture of infrastructure need across the State.

While a KISP is not a funding document and does not define required infrastructure projects or commit any party to funding specific projects, it is expected that future investment requests through Building Blocks and funding decisions about Local Government and not-for-profit projects would align with the relevant KISP.

## 1.3. HOW TO USE THE KISP

Each KISP contains estimates of future kindergarten supply of, and demand for, Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places against existing enrolment capacity. Not-for-profit and for-profit providers can use these estimates to inform their plans to expand kindergarten programs, establish new services or invest in new or extended facilities.

For example, KISPs provide demand estimates in terms of where, when and how much demand for kindergarten places will grow in an LGA. KISPs also estimate where and how many kindergarten places providers can accommodate in existing facilities before an area needs new infrastructure to meet demand. The estimates can be used to inform decisions about where and when expansions of kindergarten program capacity and the construction of new or extended facilities are needed to meet demand growth.

Where there is an agreed KISP for the LGA, the Local Government and not-for-profit kindergarten providers seeking co-investments through the Building Blocks Capacity Building stream must refer to, and align their proposed project with, the infrastructure need identified in the KISP.

## 1.4. STRUCTURE OF THE KISP

Each KISP consists of the following sections:

- **Section 1:** A short introduction to the Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform and the KISP.

- **Section 2:** A map of existing and planned Early Childhood Education and Care service locations.
- **Section 3:** Local knowledge and context relevant to the expansion of kindergarten services.
- **Section 4:** Funded kindergarten demand estimates.

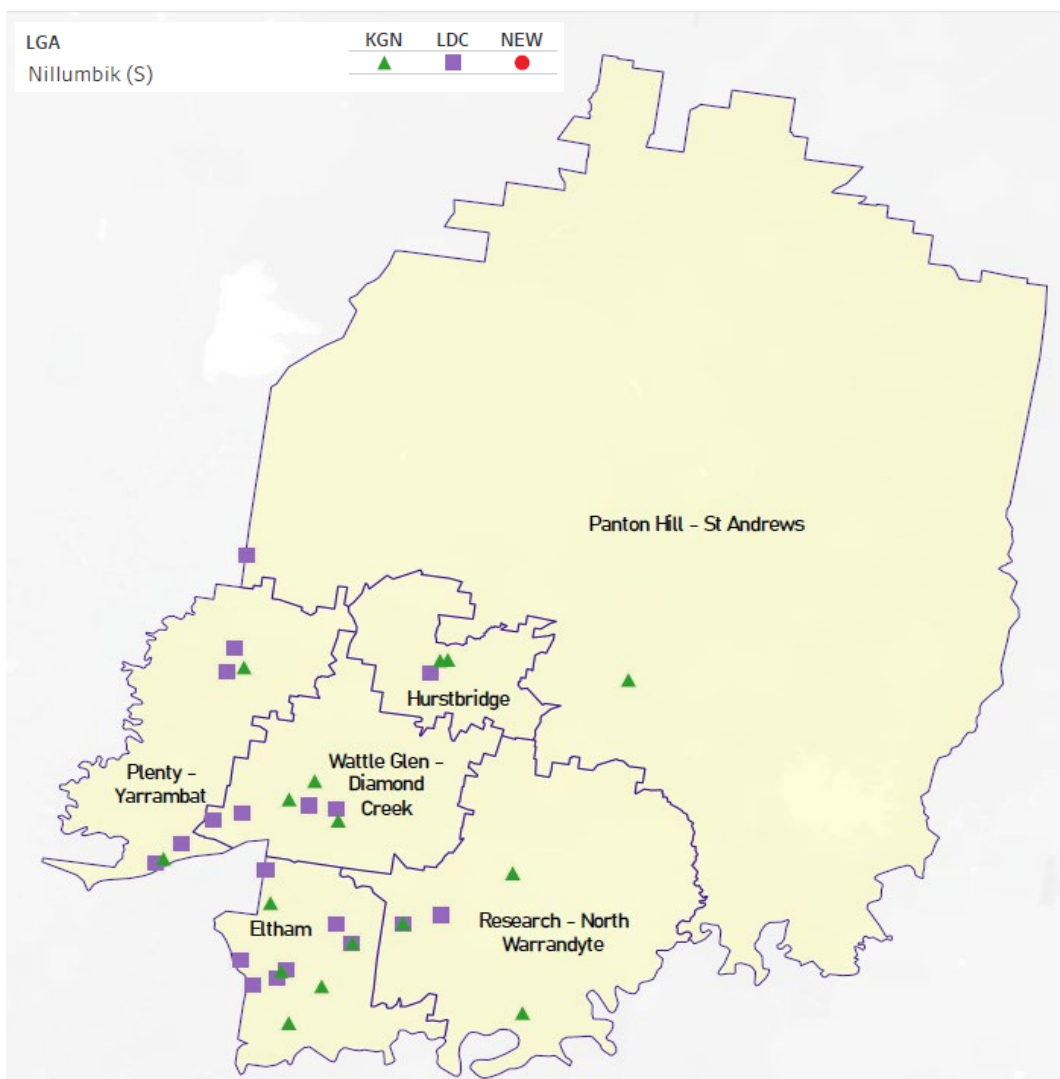
## 1.5. DISCLAIMER

All data presented in this document are estimates only and are based on the best information available to the Department and Local Government at the time. They are published on an as-is basis and are for informational purposes only. They are subject to adjustment in response to market forces and as new data and other relevant information becomes available. The data may under- or over-estimate both total demand in a given location or year and the capacity for new demand to be met by providers. As a result, operational and business decisions should not be made solely based on this document. Any use of this data is solely at the risk of the user. The Department and Local Government accept no responsibility for any loss or damage, either direct or incidental, that may result from the use of the data.

## 2. MAP OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES IN NILLUMBIK SHIRE

The map below shows the distribution of currently operating and new services that are planned to open in the future in the LGA and across its communities.

This map has been prepared using Departmental data, from both the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS) and the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA). Where applicable, this map has been refined by the Nillumbik Shire Council and the Department to capture other services that are planned to open in the future.



*Note: In some instances, SA2s overlap multiple LGAs. Where this occurs, the SA2 and any services within it, are allocated to the LGA that it has the greater land area in. As a result, services that sit within these SA2s have been excluded from the above diagram as they are represented on the neighbouring LGA's map.*

## 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 Three-Year-Old Kindergarten across Victoria. This section of the KISP documents this knowledge and context.

When assessing a Building Blocks capacity grant project proposal in a local government area where there is an agreed KISP, DET will consider the entire KISP so as to fully understand the data regarding demand for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and the local context of service delivery, demographics and geography. This information is included in this 'Local Context' section of the KISP may be referenced by the applicant when addressing criteria as part of a Building Blocks grant application.

### 3.2 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

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

The Shire of Nillumbik covers an area of 432 square kilometres. It is an interface Local Government area with a mix of semi-rural and urban areas. Eighty percent of Nillumbik's population resides in 20% of land.

Nillumbik as a Shire is characterised by a collection of urban and semi-rural townships. Even within the three main urban townships, all have very different population and demographic features.

Nillumbik is one of Victoria's 12 Green Wedge Shires, which are protected by State Government legislation and policy. The Green Wedge covers 91% of the Shire and its land usage includes agriculture, conservation, tourism and rural living. Over 60% of the land is covered by an environmental significance overlay. The low density zoning of this land impacts on development potential and service accessibility.

The composition of Nillumbik Shire's urban and rural areas create unique challenges in terms of service provision, and when referring to early years services, unique needs for those accessing these services.

Residents accessing kindergarten in the Shire typically attend services within their township due to the distance between townships and the road networks that link these townships.

The townships of Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Yarrambat border on the growth corridor of Whittlesea. This has had an impact on both the demand for kindergarten services in these Nillumbik townships as well as the transport network in and around the Shire. In many of these border kindergartens, a high proportion of families attending Nillumbik kindergartens are residents of Whittlesea.

#### **Considerations for demand pressures in specific SA2s**

As outlined in the methodology section 4.2, the supply and demand estimates are presented in this report at SA2 level. Council notes that for some townships the data alone, at this level does not give a full picture of the needs of families and local communities and needs to be read in the

context of the key considerations outlined here. These considerations are also informed by council's own modelling of kindergarten needs that it conducted with specialist consultant support during preparation of the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP).

The KISP forecasts that there will be no unmet demand in the Plenty – Yarrambat SA2. This SA2 area borders the City of Whittlesea and services near the border experience high demand from Whittlesea residents.

There is consistently high demand for Diamond Hills Preschool, and this service has historically been operating close to maximum capacity for many years. The Preschool is located beside Diamond Valley Special Development School and Melbourne Polytechnic and within walking distance of a Primary School, which increases demand for the service from other areas within Nillumbik and from neighbouring LGAs. This preschool is located in the path of travel for many Whittlesea and Banyule residents.

Over the last five years, an average of 23% of enrolments at Diamond Hills Preschool were filled by non-residents of Nillumbik Shire, with this increasing to an average of 26% of enrolments made up of residents from another Local Government Area, across 2020 and 2021. When Diamond Hills Preschool introduces 15 hours of funded three-year-old kindergarten, this service will have a reduced capacity for four-year-old kindergarten, of almost 33 per cent. Over the last five years 68% of enrolments at Yarrambat Plenty Preschool have been filled by non- residents of Nillumbik Shire.

Nillumbik Shire Council determines that these factors indicate there may be a stronger demand for places in Plenty – Yarrambat SA2 than indicated by the KISP estimates, and this needs to be considered as the reform is rolled out.

While the KISP forecasts a potential small undersupply for the Panton Hill – St Andrews SA2 by 2029, this may be mitigated due to family travel patterns. While many local families will need to access the kindergarten in Panton Hill, others may choose to use services in their direction of travel to work. Families in other parts of the Shire, do not generally travel backwards in a northerly direction away from their homes and metropolitan Melbourne to attend Panton Hill.

Although the KISP estimates of existing supply include Hurstbridge Preschool, Nillumbik Shire Council has been recently notified by the Early Years Manager, that they will not be operating this preschool in 2022. As a result, funded kindergarten programs will not be available at this site during 2022. Council will be working with Department of Education to pursue options for it to recommence operations in 2023 but if a new provider is not found, this will impact significantly on the supply and demand in this SA2.

### **Major Activity Centres (MACS) - Diamond Creek and Eltham**

The Victorian State Government's Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050 strategy identifies Eltham and Diamond Creek as Major Activity Centres. The aim of this plan is to encourage the development of hubs linked by public transport that deliver more housing closer to jobs and public transport. It is predicted that the development of these townships, in particular Eltham, is likely to have an impact on future population estimates and demand for kindergarten.

**Eltham** is one of the primary community and commercial focal points in the Shire of Nillumbik. It is already linked to a public transport network – accessible via Hurstbridge Railway line and well connected bus services to Greensborough, Hurstbridge and Diamond Creek.

Increasing medium density housing is planned for Eltham, including three to five storey residential development for the first time. It is anticipated that in the next three to five years, 200 – 300 additional apartments will be constructed. With more families with young children choosing to live

in apartments in other parts of Melbourne, this increase in availability of medium density housing is likely to have significant impact on the population of 0 -5 year olds in Eltham.

Nillumbik Shire Council also notes that for Eltham, regardless of the impact of developments associated with being a MAC, there may be unmet demand in Eltham, at some point during the 2022-2029 rollout period. The KISP forecasts a combined demand for three and four year old places by 2022, which is less than actual enrolments for 3 and 4 year olds recorded for the year 2019.

Council understands that this is because three-year-old demand has been calculated based on population estimates and does not account for enrolments of children by three year olds who live in other parts of the Shire. The difference is indicative of possible under-estimation of demand.

Data sourced from Council's central registration program identifies that, for the standalone preschools in Eltham alone, 8% of enrolments are made up of residents from other Local Government Areas.

Nillumbik Shire Council suggests that these factors may indicate a stronger demand for places in Eltham than indicated by the KISP estimates, which needs to be considered as the reform is rolled out.

**Diamond Creek** is considered a small MAC with more limited development potential, due to much of the catchment area falling in Green Wedge, low density zoned areas. It has high rates of car use and poor public transport access. There is an expected increase in medium density housing in key locations planned for Diamond Creek. In addition to this, Council notes that families from a number of SA2s seek to access kindergarten programs in this township.

Nillumbik Shire Council notes that similar to Eltham, regardless of the impact of developments associated with being a MAC, there may be unmet demand in Diamond Creek, at some point during the 2022-2029 rollout period. The KISP forecasts a combined demand for three and four year old places in Wattle Glen – Diamond Creek, by 2022, which is less than actual enrolments for three and four year olds recorded for the year 2019. Council understands that this is because three-year-old demand has been calculated based on population estimates and does not account for enrolments of children by three year olds who live in other parts of the Shire. The difference is indicative of possible under-estimation of demand.

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

Nillumbik is a relatively advantaged socio-economic area. With a SEIFA score of 1093, in 2016 it was ranked 76 highest SEIFA score out of 80 LGAs in the state. Almost all (99%) Nillumbik residents fall within decile 10, which is the highest 10% of SEIFA scores.

There is a high proportion of people employed in professional occupations (26%) and in the education and training sector (11%).

Nillumbik has a high proportion of families with two working parents. For Nillumbik's working families, the cost of accessing a kindergarten program in a Long Day Care setting is higher than in a standalone, sessional setting. This has an influence of family's' choice of early years settings.

Key considerations in relation to work patterns include:

- 72 % of people who live in Nillumbik, travel to areas outside of the Shire to their work with the highest instances of travel occurring in residents from Greensborough (81%) and North Warrandyte (76%). The direction of travel to outside of the Shire is predominantly to the west and south-west



- The highest instances of residents who work within the municipality occur amongst residents who reside in:
  - St Andrews (35%)
  - Nillumbik Rural East and North West (32%)
  - Panton Hill (31%)

Nillumbik has experienced approximately 0.4% population growth annually. In 2020-2021, a spike in birth rates has been experienced. It is yet to be seen if this is a once off increase or if it is indicative of higher population growth than forecasted by VIF and Forecast ID.

### **Impact of COVID- 19**

The impact of COVID 19 on population, employment rates and work patterns is, at this stage unknown and will need to be considered in reviewing the KISP. Nillumbik has traditionally had a high proportion of families with two working parents and high numbers of residents who work, working outside of the shire. Anecdotally we know some families have lost employment and many have greater flexibility to work from home and vary hours to suit family needs. It is possible that this increased flexibility will encourage more families to choose a sessional model for kindergarten. The flow on effect of how the pandemic influences birth rates, families' preferences and capacity to pay for different models of kindergarten delivery will need to be monitored.

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

Historically, Nillumbik's four year old kindergarten participation rates have been high, across the Shire and as a whole. The Shire also has a strong history of participation in three year old early learning in education and care services across Nillumbik. All standalone preschools already offer unfunded three year old kindergarten for anywhere between three to ten hours per week. Most preschools in Nillumbik have been doing this for many years with several running three year old programs since at least the 1990s. Services report that the three year old programs have always been in high demand with very few vacancies existing in some areas.

It is anticipated that this demand will continue for funded three year old kindergarten. Several services are expecting there will be demand for an immediate increase to 15 hours from 2023 and are planning for this now.

In the last 10 years and due to the high level of working parents in the Shire, standalone kindergartens have moved towards program models that offer longer hours (including 7.5 hour sessions) and / or offer access to extended hours care. Services that offer longer hours programs (7.5hour sessions) and access to extended hours care experience high demand. A pattern is often evident of children moving out of the long day care sector and into standalone kindergarten for their year before school.

### **Other information about the expansion of early childhood services**

#### Provision of Infrastructure

There are no new services currently under construction in the Shire but a new planning permit for a Child Care Centre in Diamond Creek was approved by Council.

Nillumbik's [Early Years Infrastructure Plan \(EYIP\) 2020-2026](#) was endorsed by Council in 2020 and addresses long term supply/demand, functionality and quality solutions for the infrastructure stock. The KISP should be read in conjunction with the EYIP.

The EYIP plans for the roll out of three year old kindergarten and was developed with extensive analysis and community and service consultation from 2017-2020 at both a Shire-wide and a township level.

The EYIP considers population and demand and the ability to deliver funded three year old kindergarten to the local township.

The following services have been listed in the EYIP for a facility extension by 2026 to ensure their supply of funded four year old places is maintained whilst enabling them to deliver funded three year old kindergarten:

- Diamond Hills Preschool
- Eltham Woods Family Centre – additional rooms for both Eltham Woods Preschool and Eltham Woods Child Care Cooperative
- Eltham Child Care Cooperative
- Meruka Child Care Cooperative

Also critical to the implementation of the three year old reform is the issue of Nillumbik's ageing infrastructure with over 50% of the buildings being almost 50 years or older. With an assumed asset life of 50 years, Nillumbik has a very high proportion of buildings that are either past this date or approaching it.

Ageing infrastructure not only impacts the condition of the facility but more critically, its functionality and ability to meet contemporary standards of education and care. Several buildings were constructed in the 1970s with room sizes and designs that do not easily accommodate changes to regulations and expectations of quality educational program delivery. Floor space does not align with child: staff ratios and some facilities have challenges with running indoor/ outdoor programs, transitions and supervision.

Many of Nillumbik's standalone kindergarten facilities have license approval for between 25-27 places which leads to financial viability threats and therefore services capping their capacity at 22 places.

### Quality

There is a range of perspectives from service providers in Nillumbik about the impact of group sizes on quality educational outcomes for children. Many kindergartens set a capacity lower than their approved places for the reason of financial viability as mentioned previously, however for many services, this choice reflects the service's professional assessment that high group sizes impact on the quality of children's experiences and interactions.

Services are also reporting that an increasing amount of children who commence at services have undisclosed/unidentified higher needs and Services face challenges in providing a quality educational program to this child and the group when group numbers are high and facilities are not contemporary to adapt to the group needs.

Quality is also assessed and factored into the decision making when Nillumbik residents are selecting their education and care service. Consultation with community identified that Nillumbik families are proactive in seeking this information.

Nillumbik Shire Council notes that Victorian State Government policy and the modelling in this report is service type agnostic. This means that it assumes that existing spare capacity in both Long Day Care settings and Sessional Kindergarten settings is fully utilised, which may result in a change in the relative proportion of kindergarten enrolments in each of these settings.

In 2018 (the most recent data available), 64% of children in the Shire, accessed a kindergarten program in a sessional stand-alone preschool as compared with 36% in LDC. For the KISP modelling to play out, the split by 2029 would need to shift to be 49% in sessional preschools and 51% in LDC. While different settings meet the needs of different families, council anticipates that this is likely to create unmet demand for sessional preschool.

Based on data gathered in April 2021, in Nillumbik, 73% of sessional preschools and 86% of all services (preschool and LDC) which are run by volunteer management committees are rated as Exceeding. Strong performance in assessment and rating is reflected in the demand for these services. Excluding new services with provisional ratings, 25% of all private LDC services in Nillumbik are rated Exceeding. This reflects the trends documented by ACECQA NQF Snapshots, for preschools and community managed services to achieve strong assessment and ratings results.

### Service Management Structures

In 2021, Nillumbik has a total of 35 Education and Care Services across the Shire:

- Twenty one of these are community/not for profit services, operating out of council owned facilities, delivering funded kindergarten across the Shire:
  - Sixteen standalone preschools
  - Five Long Day Care/Occasional Care ServicesOf these, 16 are managed by volunteer Committees of Management and five are managed by Early Years Managers.
- 10 are privately owned and operated LDC services
- 4 are LDC services operated by other entities

Whilst Nillumbik Shire Council does not operate any of these services, it has supported and continues to support, the delivery of community managed education and care in the shire. It does this through the provision and maintenance of facilities and through training and direct support to the not- for- profit providers, operating services from council buildings. These services have been a valued part of Nillumbik communities. Council believes families should continue to have the choice to access community managed kindergarten programs, and that the assumption that future demand can be met through uptake of unused capacity in private long day care settings will not allow for this for all families.

Council has worked for many years building partnerships and supporting these volunteer management models and has recently implemented a service level agreement that sits with the lease agreements. Whilst this provides an opportunity for Council to have some influence over operational matters, decisions relating to critical financial and quality matters are made by the Committee of Management as the approved provider.

### **Review Date**

Nillumbik Shire Council and DET are committed to a review of the KISP in 2024. This will be important given the complexity of local issues and supply and demand variables highlighted in this local context section.

## 4. FUNDED KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT ESTIMATES BETWEEN 2021-29 FOR NILLUMBİK SHIRE COUNCIL

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### 4.1 PURPOSE

As Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is rolled-out and Victoria's population grows, demand for both Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten 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 over the roll-out in Nillumbik Shire, Nillumbik Shire Council and the Department have agreed to:

1. A summary of the current provision of kindergarten within the LGA (**Section 4.3**).
2. An approach to optimising the utilisation of existing services and infrastructure through 'change management' strategies that the Department, with the support of Nillumbik Shire Council, will undertake to help meet additional demand in the LGA (**Section 4.4**).
3. An estimate of the Three and Four-Year-Old kindergarten places that cannot be met through existing services for the 2021-29 period, taking into account the additional demand that can be accommodated by optimising utilisation of existing services and infrastructure through point 2, above (**Section 4.5**).

Local Government and providers can use this KISP Report 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 10-year roll-out.

### 4.2 METHODOLOGY

The estimated Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places used in the following sections have been agreed between Nillumbik Shire Council and the Department, and were informed by:

- Estimates developed by the Department which draw on a range of inputs, including population forecasts, current enrolments and results from the Kindergarten Capacity Assessment Program (KCAP), conducted in 2019.
- The estimated capacity of new services that are planned to open in the LGA (Section 2)
- Local knowledge and context provided by the Local Government (Section 3) that explains particular issues and trends in their area.
- The approach to optimising utilisation of existing services in the LGA (Section 4.4), and
- Other sources, such as modelling undertaken by Local Governments and local data.

The KISP measures a service's capacity to deliver funded kindergarten in terms of the number of children it could enrol in Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten. The number of funded 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.

Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places have been presented as 15-hour places so they can be easily compared to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places. Moreover, when Three-Year-Old Kindergarten is fully rolled-out in 2029, every three-year-old child will have access to 15-hours of kindergarten.

From 2023 all providers will have flexibility to determine how many hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten they deliver per week, with a minimum of five hours and a maximum of 15-hours funded pro-rata. It is expected that hours offered will vary. Given this variation, **it is important to be aware that during the transition to all three-year-old children receiving 15-hours of funded kindergarten per week in 2029, the 15-hour places presented in this report may represent multiple three-year-old places that individually receive less than 15-hours of kindergarten per week.**

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, which is medium-sized areas which represent a community that interacts socially and economically, with a population range of 3,000 to 25,000 people, and an average population of about 10,000 people. In Nillumbik the SA2 data needs to be considered in the light of the Shire's unique features including the relationship between each township and the rest of the Shire and the patterns and direction of travel for families accessing work and other services.

#### 4.3 SUMMARY OF CURRENT KINDERGARTEN PROVISION

The figures below provide a summary of 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 Kindergarten Capacity Assessment Program (KCAP), collected between June and October 2019.
- The Department's Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS), as at 2019.
- The Department's Quality and Regulatory Division (QARD) monitoring data, as at 2019.
- The National Quality Agenda IT System (NQAITS), as at April 2020.
- The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS), as at 2018.

Please note that, because these sources were collected at different points, this may result in slight variations to current service provision and different totals appearing in the below data.

Number of services by service type (NQAITs, 2020)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	15
Long day care centres	19

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITs, 2020)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	0%
Private not for profit	65%
Private for profit	29%
Other	6%

Current kindergarten offering	
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018):	95%
Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	31
Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	19



## 4.4 APPROACH TO OPTIMISING THE USE OF EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Change management strategies to optimise existing services and infrastructure

Children can often be accommodated through existing spare places and by services ‘unlocking’ unused capacity. As the experience of providers in the 2020 Three-Year-Old Kindergarten roll-out LGAs shows, while the optimisation of existing services can be challenging, it is highly time- and cost-effective compared to building new capacity through infrastructure projects. It also helps target infrastructure investment to the places that need it most and avoids over-supplying the local market.



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Nillumbik Shire Council and the Department will support providers and services to maximise their kindergarten places through the following change management activities and practices:

- Increasing the capacity of any Local Government operated services by:
  - Running additional programs.
  - Using different timetables, including running 7.5-hour days.
  - Changing the delivery model, such as introducing rotational models or mixed-age groups.
  - Having degree-qualified kindergarten teachers leading integrated kindergarten programs in long day care settings.
- Encouraging and supporting other providers and services in the LGA to undertake change management appropriate to their service and community needs.

Nillumbik Shire Council and the Department have estimated how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places can be accommodated through existing services in the LGA (**Table 1**). The LGA and community level estimates below (**Table 2** onwards), assume that demand will be met first through existing services and second through additional infrastructure. Note that in some cases the number of kindergarten places that can be offered through existing services may exceed demand for kindergarten places.

**Table 1: Total estimated funded kindergarten places that can be offered by optimising existing services and infrastructure across the LGA, between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Estimated existing supply of kindergarten places*	1,679	1,679	1,679	1,679	1,679	1,679	1,679	1,679	1,679

\*This may be higher than current three and four-year-old enrolments as it includes any spare places that are currently available or could be generated by making some minor adjustments to programming approaches.

#### 4.5 AGREED ESTIMATES OF DEMAND FOR FUNDED KINDERGARTEN PLACES THAT CANNOT BE MET THROUGH EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The below estimates (**Table 2** onwards) have been developed by the Department to illustrate the estimated:

1. Total number of Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places expected over the roll-out period.
2. Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by optimising existing services and infrastructure in both long day care and sessional preschools over the roll-out period.

These estimates have been developed to reflect that the increase in demand for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten places will be gradual. Nillumbik Shire Council notes it is likely that a number of preschools will offer 15 hours from 2023 and it will be important review these estimates in 2024.

In estimating how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places cannot be accommodated by existing services and infrastructure,

These estimates do not, however, 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.

Infrastructure need in the LGA and its local communities is indicated by the bottom rows of the tables in this section (**Table 2** onwards): 'Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services'. For example, if the number of kindergarten places for the LGA or a community is above zero in this row, it means that the area is estimated to need additional infrastructure (noting that further optimisation which avoids the need for additional infrastructure may be possible). Any type of provider – Local Government, not-for-profit or for-profit – can build this additional infrastructure. If this row shows all zeros, it means that there is no estimated need for additional infrastructure in the area.

Local Government and not-for-profit kindergarten providers must refer to the estimates in this section and the local context section of this report, when applying through the Building Blocks Capacity Building Grants stream for Government funding. Under this stream, projects must be in a community where there is infrastructure need as identified in this report. Projects in LGAs or communities where demand can be met through existing services are not eligible for funding under this stream.

### LGA estimates

**Table 2: Total estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

<b>LGA level estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	910	1,071	1,195	1,275	1,342	1,453	1,519	1,585	1,669
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26

### Community estimates

**Table 3-8: Total estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)**

<b>Eltham estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	294	355	400	429	453	494	517	541	568
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



<b>Hurstbridge estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	59	71	79	84	88	95	100	105	111
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Panton Hill - St Andrews estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	23	35	43	50	55	65	69	69	79
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

<b>Plenty – Yarrambat estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	197	219	239	250	260	276	286	299	314
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Research - North Warrandyte estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	179	195	211	220	228	241	250	259	270
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Wattle Glen - Diamond Creek estimates</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	159	195	223	241	257	284	298	313	326
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	15

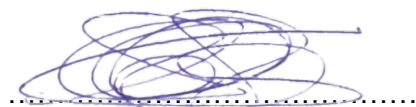
## 5. AUTHORISATION

The A/Area Executive Director (North East Melbourne) of the Department of Education and Training and the Chief Executive of Nillumbik Shire Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for Nillumbik Shire by signing on 06/ 10 / 2021.

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 2024 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

An out-of-cycle review may be triggered if both parties agree that there has been a change in relevant data, information or the local early childhood sector that significantly affects the reliability of a KISP's estimates for planning purposes.

### Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Nillumbik Shire Council



Signature



Witness Signature

Name: Carl Cowie

Title: Chief Executive Officer

Address: PO Box 476, Greensborough VIC 3088

### Signed by Acting Area Executive Director (North East Melbourne), Department of Education and Training



Signature



Witness Signature

Name: David Kilmartin

Title: A/Area Executive Director (North East Melbourne)

Address: PO Box 71, Greensborough, VIC 3088