

BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT OF INTENT

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Early Years Education (MACSEYE)

MACSEYE and the Department of Education have committed to working in partnership to deliver infrastructure for up to 2,138 funded kindergarten places by 2029 to support the roll-out of the Best Start, Best Start (BSBL) reform through to 2036.

To support this commitment, the state government has provided in-principle support to co-contribute up to \$81.338 million for early childhood infrastructure over the course of the BSBL reform. MACSEYE will contribute up to \$7.5 million towards the projects.

This includes funding for planning support to undertake feasibility studies and pre-construction work in 14 locations. This will assist in determining future tranches of projects to deliver kindergarten infrastructure in areas of unmet demand. This might include designing, developing the scope, or calculating construction costs of the project.

This commitment follows work between the department and MACSEYE to develop a Building Blocks Partnership, a forward plan for kindergarten infrastructure provision. This forward planning will help ensure that all children will have access to two years of funded Kindergarten from 2023 onwards.

The package will see the state government contribute up to \$81.338 million across twelve major kindergarten infrastructure projects providing up to 2,138 funded kindergarten places delivered for the 2026, 2028 and 2029 kindergarten years across ten Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s) of six LGAs (Table 1), as well as funding to plan for future projects. All projects will be Integrated Children Centres (ICCs).

Table 1: Capacity Building Projects in SA2s

Area (SA2) to benefit from projects	LGA	Operational	Funded kindergarten places (at 15 hours provision)
Mickleham - Yuroke	Hume City	2026	178
Craigieburn - West	Hume City	2026	178
Melton South - Weir Views	Melton City	2026	178
Rockbank - Mount Cottrell	Melton City	2026	356
Wallan	Mitchell Shire	2026	178
Wollert	Whittlesea City	2026	356
Tarneit - North	Wyndham City	2026	178
Grovedale - Mount Duneed	Greater Geelong City	2028	178
Tarneit - Central	Wyndham City	2028	178
Truganina - South West	Wyndham City	2029	178

As part of the development of a Building Blocks Partnership, the Department and MACSEYE have signed a Building Blocks Partnership Memorandum of Understanding, which commits both parties, in-principle, to:

- commit to working together to plan and deliver infrastructure to support 15 hours of funded kindergarten for all three-year-old children and 30 hours of funded kindergarten for all four-year-old children across Victoria out to 2036.
- supporting the creation of up to 2,138 funded kindergarten places through co-investment.
- an annual review of proposed projects, allowing project details (timings, scale, scope, etc) to be amended to reflect updated KISP data, enrolment data and local particulars.

This commitment is subject to:

- MACSEYE submitting projects to Building Blocks grants program to confirm project scope and readiness to access the agreed state government funding contribution.
- changing requirements as a result of altered market conditions/supply and demand patterns over time, which parties will monitor together as part of the annual Building Blocks Partnership Project Schedule review.

Building Block Partnerships

Building Block Partnerships are a strategic, in-principle agreement between State Government and councils and NFPs to deliver funded kindergarten places via infrastructure investment projects. The primary objectives of Building Block Partnerships are to:

1. Provide greater funding certainty for both state government and partners about co-investment intentions in a forward pipeline of kindergarten infrastructure.
2. Support state government and partners to forward plan their infrastructure budgets and deliver facilities in-line with kindergarten enrolment growth.
3. Support the successful roll-out of the reform by identifying projects that will facilitate the delivery of additional kindergarten capacity over a multi-year period.

Best Start, Best Life infrastructure funding

The state government has committed to rolling-out the Best Start, Best Life reform across Victoria, which will support 15 hours of funded kindergarten for all three-year-old children and 30 hours of funded kindergarten for all four-year-old children across Victoria by 2036.

\$14 billion has been committed to support the Best Start, Best Life reform. This funding is used to co-invest in infrastructure with local councils, NFP kindergarten providers and other asset owners.