



Education
and Training

Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan

City of Maroondah

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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

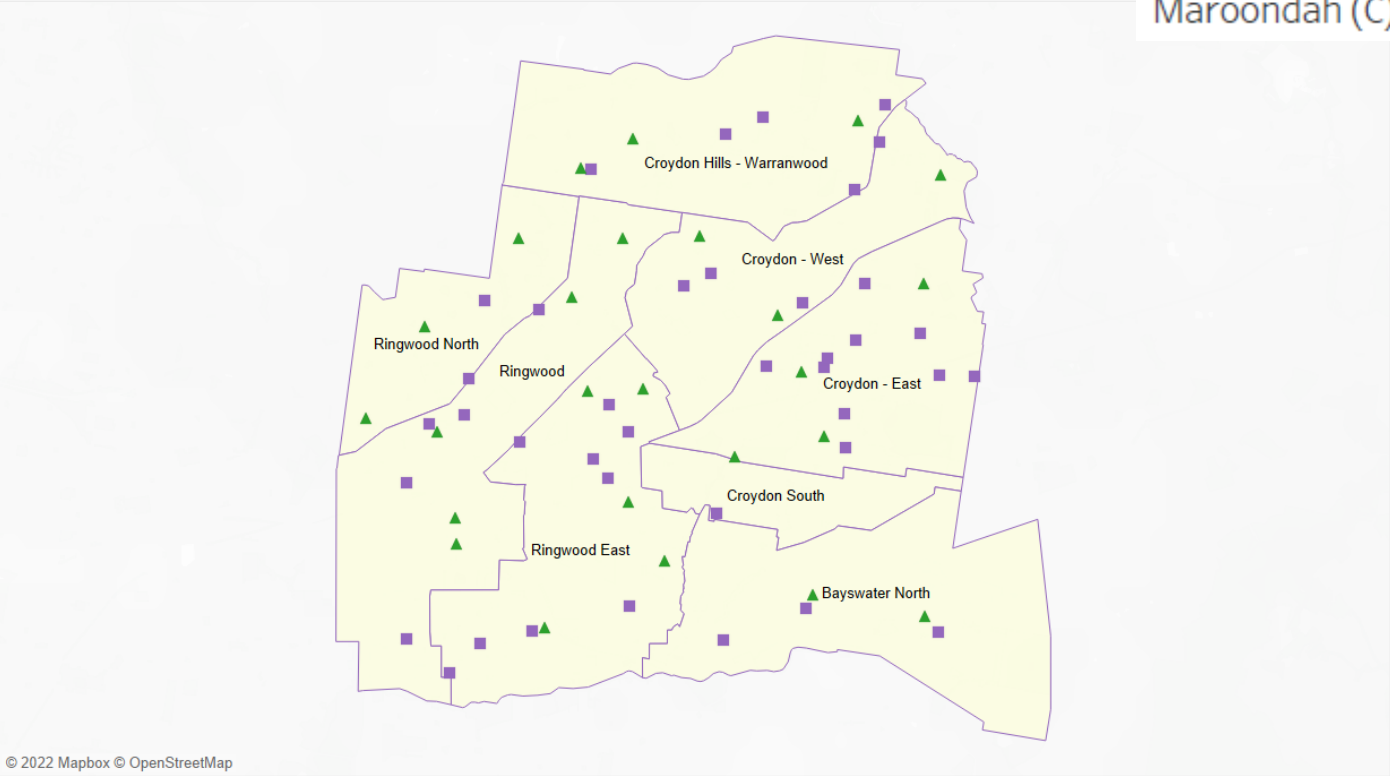
All data presented in this document are estimates only and are based on the best information available to the Department and Local Government at the time. They are published on an as-is basis and are for informational purposes only. They are subject to adjustment in response to market forces and as new 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 THE CITY OF MAROONDAH

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 Maroondah City Council and the Department to capture other services that are planned to open in the future.

** Upgrades to existing facilities are not shown as new planned services i.e. Tarralla Kindergarten.*



3. LOCAL CONTEXT

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 and has informed the funded kindergarten enrolment estimates in Section 4.

3.2 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten

Within the City of Maroondah there are 64 kindergarten services which can be broken down as follows;

- 22 stand-alone kindergartens
- 39 kindergarten programs in long day care services
- 3 kindergartens in private schools

20 of the 22 stand-alone kindergarten services operate out of buildings owned and managed by Maroondah City Council. These Council facilities are leased to the kindergarten services below and while Council does not directly engage in the delivery of the service they play a key supporting role through leadership, building and maintenance works, assistance for approved providers, formal network meetings every term, marketing and communication with families across Maroondah.

Kindergartens operating out of council owned facilities	
Arrabri Kindergarten	Kurboroo Kindergarten
Barneong Reserve Kindergarten	Lipscombe Park Kindergarten
Bayswater North Kindergarten	Maroondah Montessori Preschool
Brentwood Park Kindergarten	Maroondah Preschool
Croydon Central Kindergarten	North Ringwood Preschool
Croydon Gums Kindergarten	Norwood Preschool
Croydon North Kindergarten	Oban Preschool
Ellie V Pullin Preschool	Pinemont Preschool
Greenwood Park Kindergarten	Pinjarra Kindergarten
Heathmont East Preschool	Tarralla Kindergarten

Council also own 2 of the 39 long day care facilities that operate kindergarten programs.

Long Day Care Centres operating out of Council facilities

Knaith Road Childcare Centre

North Ringwood Community Children's Centre

21 of the 22 stand-alone kindergartens are members of the Maroondah Integrated Kindergartens Association (MIKA) which has been in operation for more than 20 years.

MIKA is a non-profit community-based organisation that provides a central registration system for its member kindergartens on behalf of Council. Council provides annual funding to support the operation of the central registration system and assist with administration support and supplies. The remainder of MIKA's income is raised through membership and enrolment fees.

MIKA member kindergartens

Arrabri Kindergarten	Lipscombe Park Kindergarten
Barneong Reserve Kindergarten	Maroondah Preschool
Bayswater North Kindergarten	North Ringwood Preschool
Brentwood Park Kindergarten	Norwood Preschool
Croydon Central Kindergarten	Oban Preschool
Croydon Gums Kindergarten	Pinemont Preschool
Croydon North Kindergarten	Pinjarra Kindergarten
Ellie V Pullin Preschool	Ringwood Uniting Kindergarten
Greenwood Park Kindergarten	St Johns Kindergarten
Heathmont East Preschool	Tarralla Kindergarten
Kurboroo Kindergarten	

Key demographic trends that influence demand for kindergarten

The data and information in this section has been taken from the City of Maroondah Profile on .id, informed decisions, <https://profile.id.com.au/maroondah>.

Population growth

Between 2021 and 2040 the population of Maroondah is forecast to grow by over 22,600 people, a 19% increase.

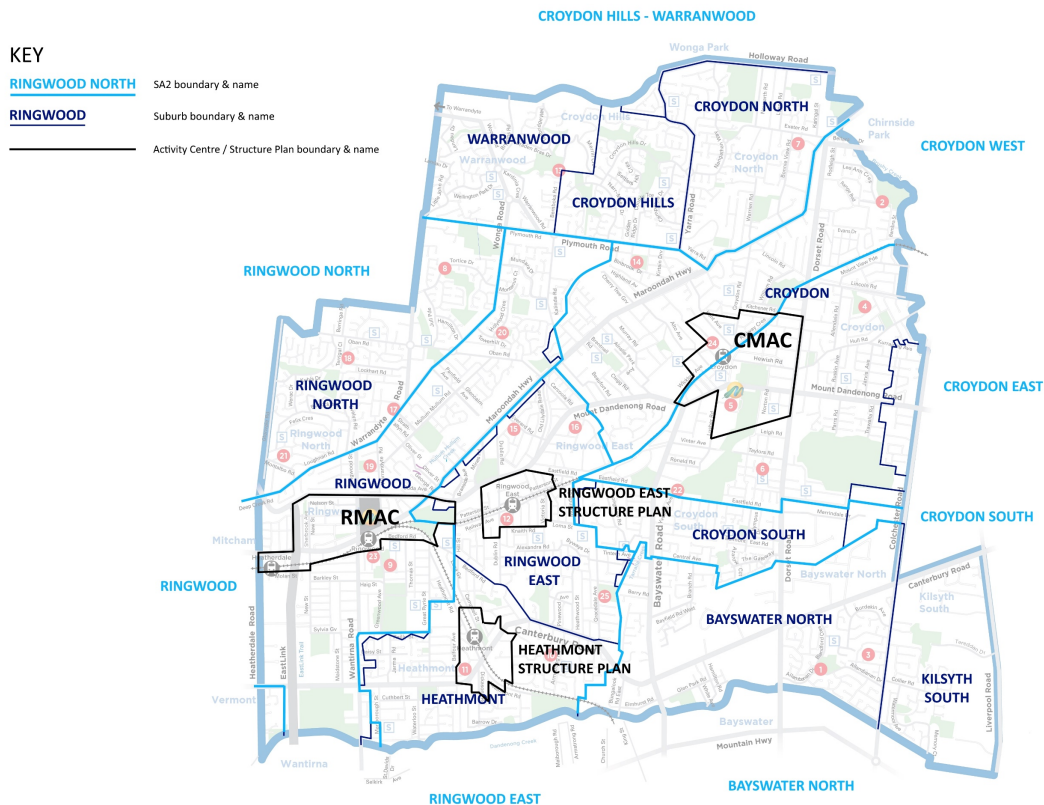
The number of kindergarten-aged children (three and four-year-olds) is expected to increase by over 450 children during this time, with more than half of this growth occurring within the next 10 years during the period of the Early Childhood Reform.

The City of Maroondah includes eight Statistical Areas (SA2), eleven suburbs and four areas of significant development activity as shown on the map below.

The Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre (RMAC) is identified within *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and forms part of a network of centres and employment hubs. Metropolitan Activity Centres have excellent regional road and public transport connections, and great potential for future population and economic growth.

The Croydon Major Activity Centre (CMAC) is also identified within *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and will play an important role in accommodating growth, employment, education and social activation - undergoing significant transformation over the next 10 years.

The Ringwood East and Heathmont Structure Plans will guide future land use and development in these designated areas under an agreed vision for the next 15 to 20 years. These plans will support higher density housing and additional commercial activities.



It is important for Council to monitor demographic trends across all suburbs but also these activity zones which are defined in .id data.

Within Maroondah, more than a 10% population increase in children aged three and four years is expected in the following suburbs between 2021 and 2040:

- Ringwood	increase of 35%	+ 191 children
- Warranwood	increase of 24%	+ 24 children
- Croydon Hills	increase of 23%	+ 26 children
- Ringwood East	increase of 22%	+ 59 children
- Heathmont	increase of 14%	+ 38 children
- Ringwood North	increase of 14%	+ 32 children
- Kilsyth South	increase of 11%	+ 6 children

The most significant population growth rates from 2021 to 2040 are predicted to occur within the Activity Centres and Structure Plan areas:

- RMAC	increase of 199%	+ 151 children
- Ringwood East Structure Plan	increase of 74%	+ 30 children
- Heathmont Structure Plan	increase of 65%	+ 20 children
- CMAC	increase of 54%	+ 47 children
-		

The areas of fastest population growth for children aged three and four years in Maroondah over the next five years from 2021 to 2026 are:

- RMAC	increase of 152%	+ 116 children
- CMAC	increase of 26%	+ 22 children
- Ringwood	increase of 24%	+ 133 children
- Ringwood East Structure Plan	increase of 15%	+ 6 children

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| - Croydon Hills | increase of 15% | + 16 children |
| - Warranwood | increase of 13% | + 14 children |

Council use population forecasts developed by .id, who work closely with Council to ensure modelling assumptions are based on detailed information about current and planned residential development activity. The Department of Education and Training uses Victoria in Future data, and a mid-point of these population projections has been used to inform the KISP estimates.

Data from both models will need to be monitored as the Reform progresses - checking for impacts at both the SA2 and suburb level.

Successful change management work in these areas could also have a large impact with reduced capping and an increase of supply for 2029.

Age profile

In 2016 the City of Maroondah had a higher proportion of children than Greater Melbourne, including babies and pre-schoolers aged zero to four years (6.6% of Maroondah's total population were in the babies and pre-schooler age group compared to 6.4% of Greater Melbourne's total population).

Between 2011 and 2016 one of the largest changes in the age structure for Maroondah occurred in the young workforce (25 to 34-year-olds) and this group is expected to grow significantly between now and 2025. According to the 2019 data on births in Australia the median age for becoming a parent was 31.5 for a mother and 33.5 for a father (Victoria was the state with the highest median age of 32.1 for a mother and 34 for a father) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/2019>). Therefore, Council could potentially see some additional growth in the zero to four age group.

Cultural diversity

In 2016, 25,545 residents (23%) in the City of Maroondah were born overseas compared to 34% in Greater Melbourne. 19% of the City of Maroondah's overseas born population were new migrants compared to 24% in Greater Melbourne.

While the City of Maroondah had a lower proportion of new migrants, it is important to note that this varied across the City. Proportions ranged from a low of 4.3% in Kilsyth South to a high of 36.9% in RMAC. The five areas with the highest percentages were:

- RMAC (36.9%)
- CMAC (34.9%)
- Ringwood East (27.5%)
- Ringwood (26.5%)
- Croydon (21.2%)

Cultural diversity in Maroondah is increasing, with Maroondah seeing a significant rise in the number of residents that speak a language other than English at home. Between 2011 and 2016 there was a 43% increase in the number of Maroondah residents that spoke a language other than English at home (i.e. an additional 5,579 individuals). As of 2016, there were over 18,500 Maroondah residents that spoke a language other than English at home.

The areas with the highest number of residents that speak a language other than English at home include:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| - Ringwood | 5,111 residents | increase of 1,360 |
| - Croydon | 4,345 residents | increase of 1,763 |
| - Ringwood East | 2,203 residents | increase of 773 |

Other significant increases between 2011 and 2016 across Maroondah include:

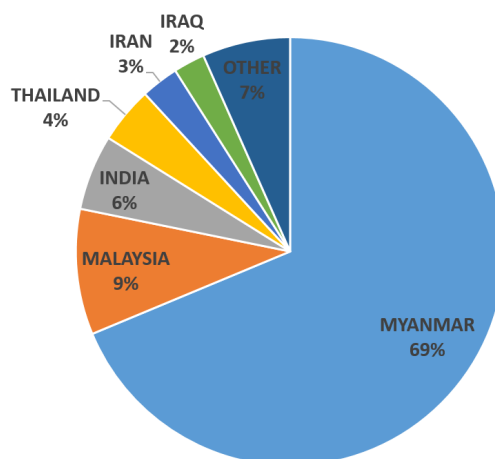
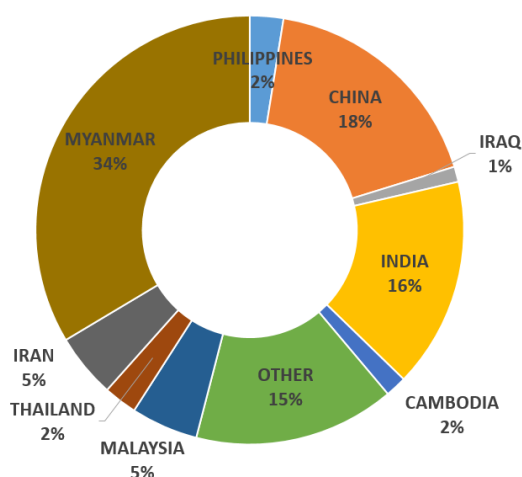
People of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin

- Croydon 162 residents increase of 45
- Ringwood 88 residents increase of 30
- Heathmont 49 residents increase of 18

People born overseas

- Croydon 6,339 residents increase of 1385
- Ringwood 5,833 residents increase of 930
- Ringwood East 2,718 residents increase of 592

According to the Australian Government, Department of Social Services, as per Migrant Information Centre - Eastern Melbourne 'City of Maroondah Settlement Data - July 2017 to June 2018' (<https://miceastmelb.com.au/resources/demographics-of-the-eastern-region/city-of-maroondah-settlement-data-july-2017-to-june-2018/>), in 2017-2018, 60% (211) of Humanitarian Visa arrivals in the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR) settled in the City of Maroondah – more than 3 times the next highest LGA (Yarra Ranges). The majority (69%) of individuals in the EMR arriving on a Humanitarian Visa in 2017-18 were born in Myanmar/Burma.



Top countries of birth for individuals arriving on a Humanitarian Visa in 2017-2018.

The top 10 countries of birth for new arrivals into the City of Maroondah in 2017-2018.

Council are also aware of significant differences in the cultural diversity from one part of the municipality to the next.

With the introduction of expanded eligibility requirements for Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) and Maroondah's Central Enrolment Project the number of ESK enrolled children tripled between 2020 and 2021 and numbers continue to grow.

The increase in ESK students has direct impact on the affordability of long day care services and access to kindergarten programs across Maroondah which could impact the ability to accommodate the Reform.

Vulnerable areas

The 2016 Census highlighted the central areas of Ringwood and Croydon and suburb areas of Croydon South, Kilsyth and Ringwood as areas with the highest percentage of financial vulnerability and social isolation within Maroondah. A higher percentage of families in these areas have one parent supporting children under 15 (4.5% compared to 3.8% for the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR)), are living in low income households (16% compared to 16.2% for EMR) and do not have access to a car (4.7% compared to 5.7% for EMR).

Council need to ensure that Maroondah has kindergartens that are accessible to all families by offering a range of programs, fee options and locations.

Overview of SA2 and suburb areas

Bayswater North SA2.

Combines the suburbs of Bayswater North and Kilsyth South.

Bayswater North has a high level of industrial property - particularly the north side of Canterbury Road so access to kindergarten services is more limited compared to other suburbs in Maroondah.

There are currently five services in this area, two of which are stand-alone and within very close proximity to each other. Demand for these services may increase during the Reform as historically there has been a preference for stand-alone services.

The Maroondah Early Learning Profile 2020 developed by the Department of Education shows this area has the lowest kindergarten participation rate in Maroondah at 79%. Families may be travelling north to attend kindergarten in Croydon or Ringwood East.

Both suburbs have a low Socio-Economic Index (SEIFA) - and on the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) are ranked below the City of Maroondah (73rd percentile), Greater Melbourne (70th percentile), Victoria (61st percentile) and Australia (57th percentile). Bayswater North is 997.2 (53rd percentile), Kilsyth is 986.4 (47th percentile).

Croydon - East SA2 and Croydon - West SA2

The suburb of Croydon is the largest local area within Maroondah and is split into the two SA2 zones. It has the highest number of existing kindergarten programs, the majority of which operate out of long day care services which are concentrated in the central area of Croydon and within the Croydon - East SA2.

The high number of long day care services have indicated adequate supply for 2029 however given they are privately managed, Council will continue to monitor the area to ensure capacity is not affected by COVID-19.

Overall Croydon has no unmet demand in 2029, however when split into the SA2 areas Croydon - West has a need for additional places.

The Croydon Major Activity Centre (CMAC) sits in the heart of Croydon and may therefore impact demand in both SA2s.

Croydon Hills - Warranwood SA2.

At an SA2 level Croydon Hills - Warranwood has the highest-level of 2029 unmet demand in Maroondah with a need for more than 120 new kindergarten places. At the suburb level the SA2 is split into three areas and the bulk of the unmet demand lies within the suburbs of Croydon Hills and Croydon North. There is little unmet demand within the suburb of Warranwood.

In 2016 Warranwood had the highest level of advantage in the City of Maroondah with a SEIFA index score of 1,105.2 (96th percentile).

Croydon South SA2.

There are currently no stand-alone kindergarten services in this SA2 and only one LDC. The KISP estimate of demand for four-year-old children is calculated from 2019 enrolment data, then adjusted for population growth. With only one service in Croydon South, this impacts on estimates of demand in this SA2.

Enrolment data for stand-alone kindergartens shows us that children living in Croydon South generally travel north to attend neighbouring services such as Pinjarra and Croydon Gums, or east to Tarralla. However, families may prefer to access services closer to home.

Pending approval of the planning scheme amendment, proposed planning controls will encourage more development in this area as part of the 'Greening the Greyfields' project. This increase together with Councils 20-minute neighbourhood concept could put a much higher demand on kindergarten programs in this area.

Ringwood SA2.

The central area of Ringwood (defined by the RMAC boundary), which only contains two existing kindergarten services, does show a high level of unmet demand. Between 2021 and 2029 the population of three and four-year-olds is predicted to increase by 136 persons - a percentage increase of 180% and more than half of the total population growth for Maroondah.

An area in Ringwood is also listed as part of the 'Greening the Greyfields' project where proposed planning controls will encourage more development. Residential development projections are predicted to increase more than 70% by 2035.

Ringwood East SA2.

This SA2 combines the suburbs of Ringwood East to the north and Heathmont to the south. Both suburbs have Structure Plans which will guide significant change over the next 15 to 20 years. With the recent change to Heathmont Kindergarten there is now a need for additional places within this SA2 and only one remaining stand-alone kindergarten in the suburb of Heathmont.

Ringwood North SA2.

In 2016 Ringwood North had the second highest level of Advantage in the City of Maroondah with a SEIFA index score of 1,088.9 (94th percentile).

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

Private Schools

Within Maroondah there are three kindergartens that operate out of private schools - Tintern Grammar Early Learning Centre, Yarra Valley Grammar School Early Learning Centre and Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten.

The annual fees for these kindergartens are significantly higher than other stand-alone or long day care kindergarten services in Maroondah and are therefore not accessible to many members of the community. As such, the KISP reduces the assumed capacity of these services to reflect actual enrolments and assumes less contribution to the supply of places within Maroondah.

Montessori Services

Maroondah has three Montessori kindergartens - Bilingual Montessori Early Learning in Croydon Hills, Heathmont Kindergarten, and Maroondah Montessori Preschool. Montessori kindergartens have higher fees and offer a fundamentally different education program to most stand-alone community kindergartens and long day care services. Their enrolment structure is also different with a very small intake of new students each year. Students will stay with the service to complete their foundation year before moving to a Montessori primary school (noting that there are no Montessori Primary schools within Maroondah and therefore most students will continue their education outside the LGA).

The KISP data reflects these differences by reducing the assumed capacity for some of these services, to better reflect enrolments.

Family preference when choosing a service

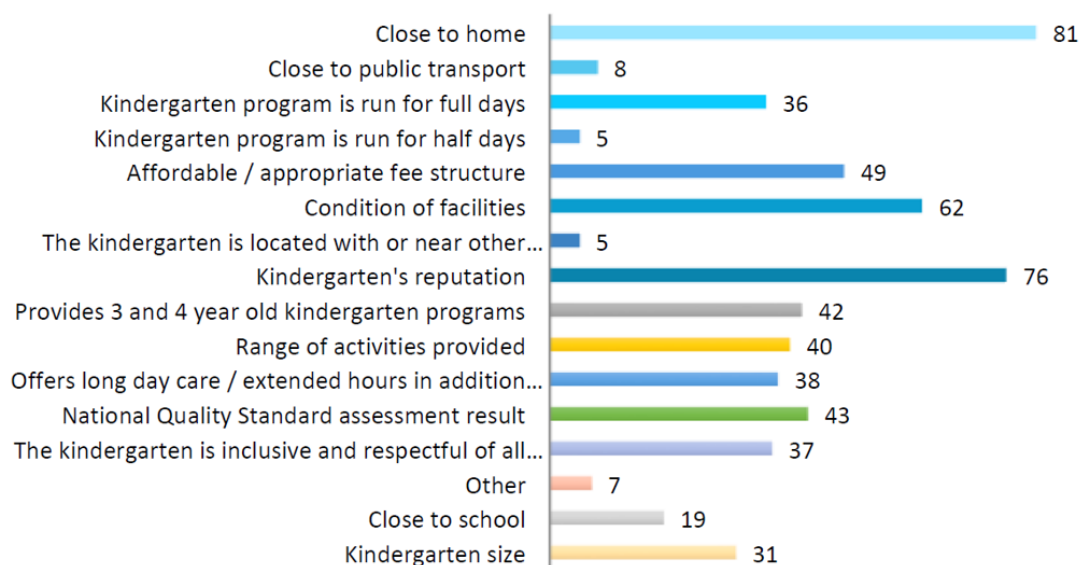
Part of *The Children and Families Strategy* consultation process by Council was to ask parents and carers for the factors most important to them when choosing a kindergarten. Close to home was the most important factor followed closely by the kindergarten's reputation and condition of facilities. Following the consultation, Council understands that there is a strong preference amongst the community for children to attend a stand-alone kindergarten however barriers such as

shorter hours, timetabling structure and the cost of unfunded three-year-old kinder have contributed to the shift in participation towards long day care.

The cost of accessing a kindergarten program in a long day care service can be significantly higher than attending a community run stand-alone service. There is a risk that Council won't be able to cover demand for universal access if we rely on private entities. This risk could also be heightened by the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The Reform may see another shift in this trend with the change to longer hours in stand-alone kindergartens and funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

Parent/carer preference when choosing a kinder (2019 Survey results)



Service remeasure and changes to licensed capacity

Maroondah City Council have recently undertaken a remeasure of all Council owned kindergarten facilities to check that the licensed places as listed on ACECQA matches the current building capacity.

The average age of council-owned kindergarten facilities in Maroondah is more than 40 years therefore for many of our services, the licensed capacity may have changed due to condition of the building, fixtures and fittings being moved or added, etc.

Changes to licensed capacity will be incorporated into future lease agreements and may have an impact on the overall capacity of stand-alone kindergartens.

Workforce

Educator to child ratio requirements can also impact the overall capacity. For example, Croydon North Kindergarten is licensed for 24 children, but it is not financially viable to employ an additional educator for only two children. For this reason, their capacity is capped at 22.

The Early Childhood workforce has been under strain due to the impacts on COVID-19 and this has been compounded by the introduction of the Reform and the increasing levels of students with high needs. Council will need to work closely with teachers and educators to ensure we can meet demand for kindergarten.

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

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, while newer residential areas are in the northern and south-eastern peripheries (<https://profile.id.com.au/maroondah/about>).

Enrolment trends & physical barriers

MIKA data from the last 20 years has shown that there are some kindergartens which are much more popular than others due to their location, reputation, timetabling, and building condition.

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.

The central areas of Ringwood and Croydon will also be less reliant on cars due to an increase in high density living, parking limitations and good access to public transport.

Council needs to ensure that Maroondah has a range of kindergartens that are accessible by walking distance and/or easily accessible by public transport. This aligns with the 20-minute neighbourhood concept that Maroondah is piloting in Croydon South.

Cross LGA movement

DET and MIKA data over the last few years show that most enrolments at Maroondah services are coming from within the Local Government Area (LGA). As such there have been no adjustments to the KISP modelling to account for cross-LGA travel.

Kindergarten attendance patterns (DET 2020)

Number of Maroondah (C) resident children attending kindergarten.	149 8
Number of Maroondah (C) resident children attending a first year of kindergarten.	141 3
Estimated year before school population in Maroondah (C)	159 0
Maroondah (C) kindergarten participation rate	88.9 %
Number of children attending a service in Maroondah (C)	154 7
Number of children living in Maroondah (C) who attend a service in Maroondah (C)	122 1
Number of resident children attending a service outside Maroondah (C)	277
Number of children from other LGA's coming into Maroondah (C) to attend kindergarten.	326

MIKA services with more than 10% of places (2021 enrolment data) from outside the LGA include Arrabri Kindergarten, Barneong Reserve Kindergarten, Bayswater North Kindergarten, Brentwood Park Kindergarten, Croydon North Kindergarten and Pinemont Preschool. All these services are located within 1km of the LGA border.

Other information about the expansion of early childhood services

Age and condition of assets

Only one new Council kindergarten has been built in Maroondah since 1986, with the average age of Council's kindergarten facilities at more than 40 years.

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.

It is therefore likely that many of Council's kindergartens will require significant works - or replacement - if they are to withstand higher and more intensive levels of use.

The increase in enrolment numbers over the next 10+ years will also increase the frequency and intensity of maintenance requirements, which will have a direct impact on the operation of facilities and both financial and staffing resourcing within Council.

Change to lease agreements

Council own and lease 22 facilities for kindergartens programs through a 3x3x3 (9 year) contract with the service provider. When future lease agreements are up for renewal Council are looking to implement several changes to support the Reform including increased asset utilisation rates.

This change should promote the provision of quality, well-coordinated, integrated and accessible services across Maroondah and optimise the utilisation of these facilities.

Management of services

More than half of Council owned services are managed by volunteer committees who are elected from the amongst the kindergarten parent body each year. Committees of Management are responsible for the running of the kindergarten including employing staff, managing finances, fundraising, marketing, maintenance, liaising with Council and DET, and ensuring compliance with other peak bodies. Volunteers usually work full time and/or care for multiple young children so their time on the committee can be limited. Pressure to provide the level of support and skill needed to run a kindergarten has been compounded by COVID-19 and the introduction of the Reform. Council have recently seen several kindergartens move to an Early Years Management (EYM) organisation. These pressures along with the relatively short tenure and regular turnover of committee members has also contributed to a lack of long-term planning and strategic oversight of kindergarten infrastructure across Maroondah.

4. FUNDED KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT ESTIMATES BETWEEN 2021-29 FOR THE CITY OF MAROONDAH

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 the City of Maroondah, Maroondah City Council and the Department have developed:

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 Maroondah City Council and the Department will support 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 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 10-year roll-out.

4.2 METHODOLOGY

The estimated Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places used in the following sections have been agreed Maroondah City 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 15hour 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.

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 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 March 2021.
- 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 slightly different totals appearing in the below data.

Number of services by service type (NQAITS, 2021)	
Stand-alone kindergartens	25
Long day care centres	39

Percentage of services by management type, LGA level (NQAITS, 2021)	
Type	Percentage
Local Government	0%
Private not for profit	48%
Private for profit	47%
Other	5%

Current kindergarten offering	
Four-Year-Old Kindergarten participation rate (VCAMS, 2018):	93%

Number of services that offer a funded kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	59
Number of services that offer an unfunded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (DET, 2019):	34



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.

Maroondah City 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.

Maroondah City 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**). Both parties are committed to helping providers and services offer these kindergarten places before progressing to funded infrastructure solutions to meet demand. This commitment is reflected in the LGA and community level estimates below (**Table 2** onwards), which 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*	3032	3088	3050	3050	3050	3050	3050	3050	3050

*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 Maroondah City Council and 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 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.

In estimating how many Three and Four-Year-Old Kindergarten places cannot be accommodated by existing services and infrastructure, Maroondah City Council and the Department have taken into account 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 Local Government owned services being developed and planned Kindergartens on School Sites.

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 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 shown in the community's table of estimated demand for kindergarten places (i.e. there are numbers in the bottom row above zero). Projects in LGAs or communities where demand can be met through existing services (i.e. the bottom row shows all zeros) are not eligible for funding under this stream.

LGA estimates

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

LGA level estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
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Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	1561	2024	2214	2408	2572	2843	2995	3151	3351
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	1	5	20	59	155	255	369

Community estimates

Table 3-10: Estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)

Bayswater North estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	108	155	171	188	201	205	228	251	268
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	46	63
Croydon – East estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	243	309	336	366	393	450	457	463	490
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Croydon – West estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	218	274	298	324	347	385	399	417	443
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	34

Croydon Hills – Warranwood estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	189	253	279	302	313	334	375	404	429
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	11	33	73	102	127

Croydon South estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	21	43	44	47	50	55	77	95	104
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	1	5	7	12	34	52	61

Ringwood estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	259	343	387	435	481	561	578	595	636
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ringwood East estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	368	455	491	523	552	606	625	648	684
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21

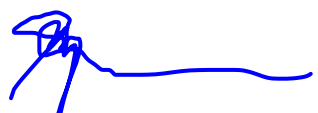
Ringwood North estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	156	192	207	222	235	246	258	280	296
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	0	0	0	2	14	25	47	63

5. AUTHORISATION

The Area Executive Director (Outer Eastern Melbourne) of the Department of Education and Training and the Chief Executive of Maroondah City Council endorse this Kindergarten Services and Infrastructure Plan (KISP) for the City of Maroondah by signing on / /

This KISP is not intended to create legal relations or constitute a legally binding contractual agreement between the parties. The parties may review this KISP in 2024 to publish a new version that will replace the previous version.

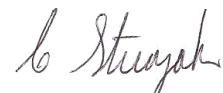
Signed for and on behalf and with the authority of Maroondah City Council


.....
Signature


.....
Witness Signature

Name: Steve Kozlowski.....
Title: Chief Executive Officer.....
Address: Realm, 179 Maroondah Highway Ringwood.....

Signed by Area Executive Director (Outer Eastern Melbourne), Department of Education and Training


.....
Signature


.....
Witness Signature

Name: Clayton Sturzaker
Title: Area Executive Director (Outer Eastern Melbourne)
Address: 60-62 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood VIC 3134