

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for the Coordination of Education and Training – COVID-19
Minister for Education



Monday, 1 September 2020

KINDER UPGRADES ACROSS THE STATE

The Victorian Government is repairing, expanding and building new kinders so every child can access Three-Year-Old kinder as the ground-breaking program rolls out across the state.

Minister for Education James Merlino today announced 13 projects across Victoria that will share in more than \$13.8 million in first round of grants under the *Building Blocks* program.

The funding will deliver an integrated children's centre, three new early learning facilities, two modular buildings, and seven kindergarten expansions across Mitchell Shire, Corangamite Shire and Wodonga City Council.

Together the projects will create new kinder places, as well as boosting local jobs and local businesses as these areas rebuild from the economic impacts of coronavirus.

The Building Blocks program creates additional places – well as improving facilities and access to technology – for Three and Four-Year-old Kinder providers across Victoria.

Grants are available to local governments and not-for-profit organisations delivering a funded kindergarten program.

This is part of the Labor Government's \$5 billion investment in funded universal Three-Year-Old Kinder for all Victorian children – in an Australian-first.

The reform has started in six regional local government areas in 2020, with families in a further 15 regional LGAs – including East Gippsland – to benefit in 2021.

As part of the roll-out, the Government is upgrading infrastructure through a \$1.68 billion co-investment with the early childhood sector to build and expand kindergarten facilities across the state.

Applications for the Building Blocks capacity building stream are open year-round. To apply, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/buildingblocks.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

"These projects will not only ensure these kinders are ready for the roll out of Three-Year-Old Kinder – they will boost regional jobs and local businesses as we rebuild from the economic impacts of coronavirus."

"We're delivering unprecedented investment in early childhood services so our children can get the most out of great local kindergartens and set them up for the future."