

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Workplace Safety

Minister for Early Childhood



Tuesday, 22 March 2022

NEW PARTNERSHIP TO CREATE KINDER PLACES ACROSS HOBSONS BAY

The Andrews Labor Government is giving families in Hobsons Bay more kindergarten options, with a new partnership with the Hobsons Bay City Council to deliver better kinder facilities and more places for kids in the city's booming southwest.

Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt today announced the Labor Government will co-contribute up to \$5.8 million towards three new and expanded kindergartens under the *Building Blocks Partnership*, as part of its landmark Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform.

This first stage includes the delivery of an extra 168 funded kindergarten places, operational by 2025. Kindergarten projects will be supported in Newport, Altona and Seabrook.

There is also in-principle support for a further state government contribution of up to \$2 million for one more new kindergarten in the City of Hobsons Bay, to be delivered from 2026. The projects will deliver more than 270 funded kindergarten places in total, in the City of Hobsons Bay by 2029.

Building Blocks Partnerships build on joint state government and council supply and demand forecasts via Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans and agree funding for a forward pipeline of kindergarten projects, providing funding certainty for new and expanded kindergartens years in advance.

The first *Building Blocks Partnership* was made with Wyndham City Council in September 2021 followed by another partnership with Melton City Council in February 2022, outlining specific projects and funding via a streamlined grants process that builds on the Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plans' supply and demand forecasts.

In an Australian first, the Labor Government is investing almost \$5 billion over this decade to deliver a full 15 hours per week of universally funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

To find out more about *Building Blocks* visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt

"We know how important it is to give our kids the best possible start, which is why we're backing even more Building Blocks partnerships to support the successful roll-out of our landmark Three-Year-Old Kinder."

Quote attributable to Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne

"It's exciting to be rolling out the third Building Blocks partnership – this time in Hobsons Bay – delivering more first-class learning facilities for families in Melbourne's booming southwest."

Quote attributable to Member for Altona Jill Hennessy

"Education is at the heart of our agenda for Victoria and we're working to make sure every kid, no matter where they live, has access to the very best learning opportunities."

Quotes attributable to Hobsons Bay City Council Mayor Peter Hemphill

Media contact: Ben Nielsen 0429 137 798 | ben.nielsen@minstaff.vic.gov.au

“Hobsons Bay City Council is proud to be part of the Building Blocks partnership, which will increase access to kindergarten for our young families.”