

Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Workplace Safety

Minister for Early Childhood



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GRANTS TO MAKE KINDERGARTENS MORE INCLUSIVE

Making kindergartens inclusive for children of all abilities is at the heart of a new round of grants from the Andrews Labor Government, which will upgrade Victorian kindergartens and fund specialist equipment to give every Victorian child the best start in life.

Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt visited Manor Kindergarten in Werribee today to announce that applications are open for the latest round of the *Building Blocks: Inclusion Stream* grants. These grants will help centres upgrade facilities or purchase equipment to provide safe and inclusive environments for children of all needs and abilities.

Grants of up to \$200,000 are available to fund infrastructure upgrades to buildings and playgrounds, while grants of up to \$10,000 are on offer for moveable inclusive education equipment.

Thanks to previous grants received from the Labor Government, Manor Kindergarten has already been able to fund the installation of an accessible sandpit, a yarning circle and the purchase of a new laptop.

The *Victorian Budget 2022/23* invests \$11.9 million to deliver two further rounds of the *Building Blocks Inclusion* grants – making kindergarten buildings, playgrounds and equipment across Victoria more inclusive and accessible for every child.

In an Australian first, the Labor Government has committed almost \$5 billion to deliver 15 hours of funded three-year-old kindergarten programs to children in Victoria by 2029.

As part of this 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.

To apply for the next round of the Building Blocks Inclusion Grants Stream funding, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Early Childhood Ingrid Stitt

“Every Victorian child deserves equipment that suits and enhances their individual educational needs.”

“It is vital that early childhood services are equipped with modern technology to make sure that Victorian children get a great start in life.”

“Upgrading facilities or buying specialist equipment to provide our children with a safe and inclusive learning environment is crucial to ensuring all children can participate in kindergarten.”