

Media Release

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Premier



Tuesday, 5 December 2023

AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

The Allan Labor Government is getting on with reforming early childhood education to give every Victorian child the best start for the best life – with the final locations of the 50 government-owned and operated childcare centres set to create thousands of extra places for children across the state.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today visited Moomba Park Primary School – which will see one of the state's first government-owned childcare centres – to announce the sites for 10 childcare centres that will open in 2026, as well as the areas for a further 20 centres set to open in 2027 and 2028.

Creating more than 950 new places for kids across childcare and three- and four-year-old kinder, the 10 centres set to open in 2026 will be co-located with existing government schools where there is a need for more childcare – and will have space for facilities for critical services like Maternal and Child Health and Allied Health where possible.

The new centres opening in 2026 will be located at Clunes Primary School, Hallam Primary School, Harrisfield Primary School, Kings Park Primary School, McClelland Secondary College, Numurkah Primary School, Portland South Primary School, Wedderburn College, Wilmot Road Primary School and Wyndham Park Primary School.

The 20 new locations opening in 2027 and 2028 will be in Alexandra, Avoca, Bendigo South, Casterton, Churchill, Cohuna, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Drouin, Hamilton, Maffra and District, Melton West, Mickleham, Newborough, Nicholson and District, Roxburgh Park, Warrnambool, Wollert, Wonthaggi–Inverloch, and Woori Yallock.

Where possible, these 20 centres will be located at or alongside government schools, hospitals, TAFEs and other major employers, making childcare more accessible and convenient – as well as affordable – for busy families.

The first four government-owned childcare centres are set to open in 2025 at Moomba Park Primary School, as well as Eaglehawk North Primary School, Murtoa College and Sunshine Primary School.

The rollout of Victoria's childcare centres builds on the work the Labor Government has already done to reform the early education system so it works for Victorian families – giving children a fantastic start to their education, saving busy families time and money and giving parents the opportunity to get back to work or study earlier if they want.

The Labor Government has already introduced universal three-year-old kinder, made both three- and four-year old kinder totally free for every Victorian child, and invested more than \$2.7 billion in infrastructure to make sure facilities in every corner of Victoria are modern, fit-for-purpose and support our children to grow and learn.

To find out more about the new childcare centres, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/50-childcare-centres-victoria.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"More childcare options, closer to home: that's what Victorian parents need, and that's what we're delivering."

"We're making sure more Victorian parents can get back to work when they want to, removing the stress they face in constantly searching for childcare – and most importantly, making sure kids are getting the critical early education they need for the best start in life."

Quote attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

“We know many Victorian families are finding it tough to access childcare when and where they need it – so we’re delivering 50 affordable childcare centres in the areas that need them most.”

Quote attributable to Member for Broadmeadows Kathleen Matthews-Ward

“This childcare centre will make a world of difference to local families, giving children the facilities they deserve and giving parents peace of mind that there is affordable childcare close to home and close to a nearby school.”