

Media Release

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Children

Minister for Disability



Tuesday, 24 June 2025

MORE SUPPORT FOR LEARNING AT ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Allan Labor Government is making sure all children get the early education they need while they receive care at The Royal Children's Hospital.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today visited Yalingbu Yirramboi, The Royal Children's Hospital school that runs a unique kindergarten program, to celebrate a \$2.5 million investment in the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* to continue delivering the vital program.

This one-of-a-kind kindergarten provides high-quality education to about 280 children each year – making sure children with complex medical needs receive the development, play and learning that every child deserves.

The kinder delivers tailored, play-based education designed around each child's individual needs, led by dedicated early childhood teachers and supported by specialist staff – helping children keep learning, growing and connecting even during some of their toughest moments.

Classrooms on wheels bring the learning right to the children's bedside for those too unwell to leave their rooms – with fun, hands-on activities that keep them engaged and supported. It's a unique caring approach that makes sure no child misses out.

Small group sessions run each weekday for children well enough to attend, often with parents or carers joining in – giving families comfort, connection and care when they need it most.

Support doesn't stop when a child leaves hospital – staff work closely with families and home kindergartens to make sure every child enjoys a smooth transition and ongoing learning success.

This investment is part of the Labor Government's work to support families – making sure every Victorian child, no matter their health or background, has access to the early education they deserve.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

"Every child deserves a great start and this funding means hundreds of children can keep learning, playing and connecting, even while they're in hospital."

"Yalingbu Yirramboi's kinder gives children and families support, connection and care when they need it most – and I'm proud we're backing this vital program."

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

"Long stays in hospital can be incredibly tough for children and their families - this program helps ease that burden, keeping kids connected to education, whilst they get the care they need."

Quote attributable to The Royal Children's Hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr Peter Steer

"At the RCH, our vision is 'a world where all kids thrive'. This invaluable program, led by skilled educators, brings the joy and benefits of kindergarten directly to the hospital bedside, ensuring no child misses out on vital early education."

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