

Media Release

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Children

Minister for Disability



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FREE RESOURCES TO UPSKILL AND RETAIN KINDER WORKFORCE

The Allan Labor Government is giving early kinder teachers and educators a new one-stop shop for professional development – helping them deliver safe, high-quality kindergarten education for Victorian children.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today launched the Kindergarten Teaching Excellence Approach, a comprehensive system designed to strengthen the quality of teaching in kindergarten and Pre-Prep programs – because great teachers give kids the best start in life.

The initiative provides world-leading professional development learning tools that help teachers and educators build rich interactions, deliver intentional play-based teaching and expand their knowledge of subject matter.

At the heart of the initiative is the new Early Childhood Hub, an online one-stop-shop where professionals can easily access and complete professional learning.

The resources will help the workforce better understand a child's unique strengths and abilities and how they develop – and are available free to all staff in Victorian funded kindergartens.

Teaching Excellence builds on the Labor Government's focus on quality and safety in the sector and will play a key role as kinder programs expand from 600 hours in the year before school to 1,800 hours across the two years before school.

The initiative is part of our nation-leading \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms which are transforming early childhood education – helping children thrive, easing cost-of-living pressures for families and supporting parents and carers to return to work or study if they choose.

The reforms are transforming early childhood education in Victoria – delivering and expanding hundreds of kindergartens across the state, saving families up to \$2,600 a year through Free Kinder, and supporting the rollout of 15 hours of three-year-old kindergarten each week by 2029 and up to 30 hours of Pre-Prep each week by 2036.

For more information on *Teaching Excellence* go to earlychildhoodhub.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

"We're backing our early childhood workforce with practical resources that make a real difference in giving every child the best start to their education."

"The Early Childhood Hub gives early childhood teachers and educators easy access to high-quality professional learning and resources that will help retain and upskill the workforce."