Funded kindergarten place declaration

The Victorian Government provides funding to sessional (standalone) services and long day care services to deliver high-quality kindergarten programs in the 2 years before school. This helps to ensure Victorian children get the best start in life.

Your service receives funding for your child's funded kindergarten program from the Victorian Government.

Your child can access:

- one funded year in a 3-Year-Old Kinder program (between 5 and 15 hours per week)

  and

- one funded year in a 4-Year-Old Kinder program (15 hours per week), or if eligible, more hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder (16 to 30 hours per week).

Families with children born January to April can choose which year their child starts 3-Year-Old Kinder. These children can start either the year they turn 3 years old or the year they turn 4 years old. When you enrol your child in 3-Year-Old Kinder, you should think about the age you want your child to be when they start school.

Use the Starting Age Calculator to find out when your child can start kindergarten. You can also speak with your kinder service about the best time for your child to start.

Your child can only access one funded kindergarten program at a time. This means that only one service can claim kindergarten funding for your child.

Please note that your service is not participating in Free Kinder in 2027. Some families may be eligible for a free kindergarten program (or lower fees) by accessing Early Start Kindergarten or other fee subsidies. Visit vic.gov.au/costs-kindergarten and vic.gov.au/early-start-kindergarten for more information. Please talk to your service if you think your child may be eligible.

Use the More hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder calculator to find out when your child qualifies for more hours.

For information in your language, visit: vic.gov.au/kinder/translations

What you need to do

Complete the form on the next page to let us know where you are claiming your child's one funded kindergarten place in 2027.

Funded kindergarten place declaration

Your child can only access a funded kindergarten program at one service. If you accept a funded kindergarten place at more than one service, you may need to repay the funding and could lose your child's place in one program.

Please complete this form and return it to your service. This will let us know where you are claiming your child's funded kindergarten place in 2027.

1. Which kindergarten program will your child attend in 2027?

- ☐ 3-Year-Old Kinder (they will start school in 2029)
- ☐ 4-Year-Old Kinder (they will start school in 2028)
- ☐ My child will not be attending kindergarten in 2027 ***(Skip sections 2-4 and go straight to section 5)***

2. Will your child attend any other kindergarten or long day care services in 2027?

- ☐ Yes, my child will also attend another service
- ☐ No, my child will only attend this service

3. Will your child receive their funded kindergarten program at this service?
Your child can only get kindergarten funding at one service at a time.

- ☐ **Yes, my child will receive their funded kindergarten program at**

_____.

(nominated service name)

☐ I confirm that my child will not accept a funded kindergarten place at any other service.

☐ I understand that if I accept a funded kindergarten place at more than one service, I may need to repay the funding and may lose my child's place in the kindergarten program.

- ☐ **No, my child will receive their funded kindergarten program at another service.**

4. Privacy acknowledgement

- ☐ I have read the *Information Sharing* statement (page 3) and understand how my child's information may be collected and shared.

5. Parent/carer/guardian declaration

Date:	**Signature:**
Child Name:	**Parent/carer/guardian name:**

Once completed, please return this form to your service as soon as possible.

Information Sharing

Information for families with children enrolled in funded kindergarten program

Each year, kindergarten providers collect information about the families and children enrolled at their services. This includes sessional kindergarten and long day care services that offer a kindergarten program. This information may be shared with the Department of Education (the department).

How the department uses your information

The department uses your information to:

- work out how much funding to pay to your service to help it deliver the kindergarten program.
- plan any changes to funding and supports for services and families and help local councils plan their early childhood services.
- link kindergarten information with other Victorian Government information to help plan supports for Victorians. Data linkage is done in a safe way to make sure that your child's name is **not** linked to the enrolment information used for analysis.
- complete the Annual Kindergarten Census and meet national reporting obligations. Some enrolment and attendance information is shared with the Australian Bureau of Statistics so that it can report on the numbers of children attending kindergarten in Australia each year. This information is anonymous, meaning your child's name is **not** shared.
- help academic researchers study part of the childcare or kindergarten system in Victoria. If those researchers are approved, they may have limited access to anonymous information. Identifiable information is only shared if parental consent has been provided.

Any agency or researcher, whether it's the Australian Bureau of Statistics, or a researcher at a university, must meet strict criteria on how they use and store this information, even when it's anonymous.

Information sharing

Occasionally, data needs to be shared without making it anonymous.

The department must share information that is not anonymous where required by law.

Privacy policies

All information is handled in accordance with the Department of Education's Privacy Policy (see: vic.gov.au/department-of-education-privacy-policy) and relevant privacy legislation including the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)* and the *Health Records Act 2001.*