

## Introduction

The Victorian Government's \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms are the biggest changes to Victoria's early childhood education sector in a generation.

These reforms give Victorian children – regardless of their life circumstances, background or postcode – access to 2 years of quality early learning before they start primary school.

To find out more, go to

[vic.gov.au/best-start-best-life-reforms](https://vic.gov.au/best-start-best-life-reforms)



## Benefits of 2 years of early childhood education

When children access 2 years of quality early learning before school, it has many benefits, especially for those who need additional support.

Between the ages of 3 and 5, children learn important social and emotional skills.

Kindergarten is a safe place for children to build these skills, their independence and concentration while forming positive relationships and making friends.

Studies show that children who attended 2 years of kindergarten had better development in language, pre-reading, and early number concepts.

## Cost of Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep, like Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, will be free for children enrolled at participating standalone (sessional) kindergarten services across Victoria. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.

Learn more about Pre-Prep at  
[vic.gov.au/pre-prep](https://vic.gov.au/pre-prep)



**Best Start  
Best Life**

# Four-Year-Old Kinder is becoming Pre-Prep



## Pre-Prep is rolling out

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep, with programs across Victoria gradually increasing from 15 to 30 hours each week.

By 2036, all 4-year-old children in Victoria will have access to 30 hours of Pre-Prep.

### About Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep will be delivered in standalone (sessional) kindergartens and long day care services. Like Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Pre-Prep programs will be play-based and led by qualified teachers. The additional hours mean even greater access to the many benefits of early childhood education.

### Benefits for children

Increased hours of learning in the year before school gives more time for children to deepen their learning and development.

More hours of play-based learning in Pre-Prep can lead to:

- improved learning and social outcomes
- increased literacy and numeracy
- positive self-regulation and social skills.

## Pre-Prep roll-out schedule

Pre-Prep started in 6 local government areas (LGAs) in 2025, and will gradually roll out across the state.

In 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee background, and children who have had contact with Child Protection services will be eligible for Pre-Prep, no matter where they live in Victoria. An additional 12 regional LGAs will also start Pre-Prep in 2026.

### 2025 launch LGAs

- Ararat Rural City
- Gannawarra Shire
- Hindmarsh Shire
- Murrindindi Shire
- Northern Grampians Shire
- Yarriambiack Shire

### 2026 launch LGAs and priority groups

- Benalla Rural City
- Buloke Shire
- Corangamite Shire
- East Gippsland Shire
- Horsham Rural City
- Loddon Shire
- Mansfield Shire
- Mitchell Shire
- Pyrenees Shire
- Strathbogie Shire
- Wangaratta Rural City
- Wodonga Rural City

Pre-Prep becomes available across Victoria to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a refugee or asylum seeker background and children who have had contact with Child Protection services.

### 2027 launch LGAs

- Alpine Shire
- Central
- Goldfields Shire
- Colac-Otway Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Indigo Shire
- Moira Shire
- Moorabool Shire
- Moyne Shire
- South
- Gippsland Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Swan Hill Rural City
- West Wimmera Shire

### 2028 launch LGAs and priority groups

- Bass Coast Shire
- Baw Baw Shire
- Campaspe Shire
- Golden Plains Shire
- Greater Shepparton City
- Hepburn Shire
- Latrobe City
- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Mildura Rural City
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Queenscliff Borough
- Surf Coast Shire
- Towong Shire
- Warrnambool City
- Wellington Shire

Pre-Prep becomes available across Victoria to children who have (or have a parent or guardian who has) a Commonwealth concession card and children from a multiple birth (triplets or more).

### Find out when your child is eligible

Use the Pre-Prep calculator to find out when your child is eligible to attend Pre-Prep at [vic.gov.au/pre-prep-calculator](https://vic.gov.au/pre-prep-calculator)



For launch LGAs from 2029 to 2036 and further information, please refer to [vic.gov.au/pre-prep](https://vic.gov.au/pre-prep)

