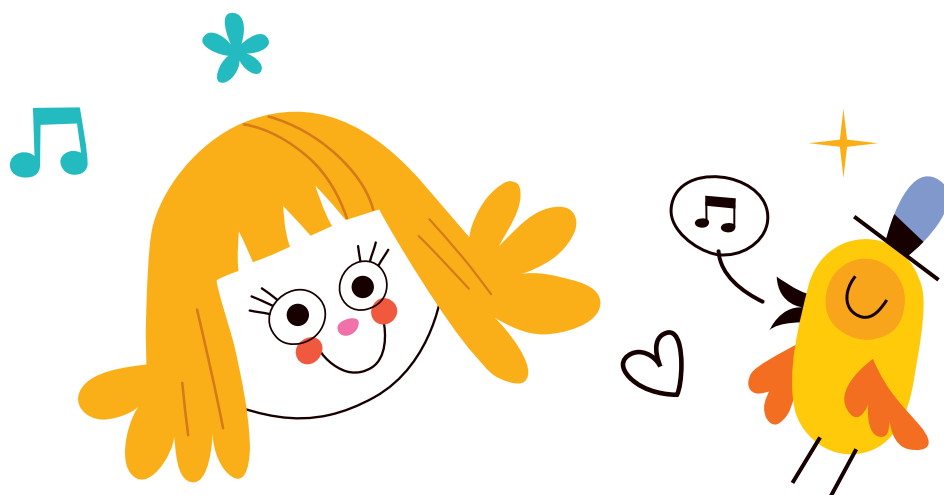




Contents

Executive Summary	3
Background	4
Community Buildings Policy and Community Hubs Strategy	6
Today's Early Years Infrastructure across Greater Bendigo	7
Early years infrastructure planning and process	8
Strategic project prioritisation	11
Overarching Guiding Principles	11
Short-term and long-term actions	12
Early years capital investment pipeline	13
Actions for City owned or managed infrastructure	14
Appendix 1: Early Years Service locations	16
SA2 Region: Bendigo	16
SA2 Region: California Gully - Eaglehawk	16
SA2 Region: White Hills - Ascot	17
SA2 Region: North	17
SA2 Region: South	18
SA2 Region: Heathcote	18
SA2 Region: Flora Hill - Spring Gully	18
SA2 Region: East Bendigo - Kennington	19
SA2 Region: Kangaroo Flat - Golden Square	19
SA2 Region: Maiden Gully	20
SA2 Region: Strathfieldsaye	20
Planning Permits	21
LGA estimates in 2020	22



Executive Summary

This Early Years Infrastructure Framework (EYIF) seeks to provide a strategic framework to ensure that the children of Greater Bendigo have access to contemporary early years facilities, optimising developmental and learning outcomes.

As a result of significant Victorian Government early years reforms, demand for kindergarten places is expected to exceed supply in most regions of Greater Bendigo by 2032. Actions and investment are needed across the sector including the City and Victorian Government.

The EYIF:

- Explains the City of Greater Bendigo's evidence-based approach to early years infrastructure planning and delivery.
- Articulates the City's role in planning, developing, and maintaining early years infrastructure.
- Provides an overview of early years infrastructure in Greater Bendigo – both City and non-City owned;
 - Assesses the suitability of the City owned and managed facilities for early years services, considering current practices, community expectations and anticipated future need;
 - Identifies challenges and opportunities for each site;
- Provides an overview of future demand for early years infrastructure.
- Guides decision making on future early years infrastructure projects, funding requirements and advocacy requirements.
- Aligns with the goals and strategic objectives of the Community Infrastructure Framework (under development) which is an important input into the City's future strategic planning and reporting requirements per the Local Government Act 2020.

Given some estimates are longer term and the external policy environment is dynamic, this framework will remain a living document and will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its accuracy and relevance.



Background

Early childhood education matters

The ages of three to five are critical periods in the development of children. By the time a child turns five, around 90 per cent of a child's brain development has already occurred. Neurobiology shows how the early years of development establish the basic structures of the brain. A child's relationships, experiences and environment during these years create neural pathways that have a long-lasting influence on health, wellbeing, behaviour, and learning.

Between the ages of three and five, children develop skills that help them to manage their emotions and behaviour, build resilience and persistence, form positive relationships, and focus their attention. These skills are vital in enabling children to transition into school and help navigate and adapt to the numerous changes they are likely to encounter in their future careers.

Research shows quality education and care early in life leads to better health, education, and employment outcomes later in life. The early years are critical for establishing self-esteem, capacity to build relationships, resilience, healthy growth, and capacity to learn. Quality education and care shapes every child's future and lays the foundation for development and learning.

Victorian Government reforms

In recent years significant Victorian Government early childhood reforms have been announced, including:

Funded three-year-old kindergarten

In 2019, the Victorian Government committed to an additional year of universal funded kindergarten providing all children with two years of kindergarten before beginning primary school. In Greater Bendigo funded three-year-old kindergarten started in 2022. Most services offer some three-year-old kindergarten hours, but some can still not offer the full 15-hours of funded kindergarten available.

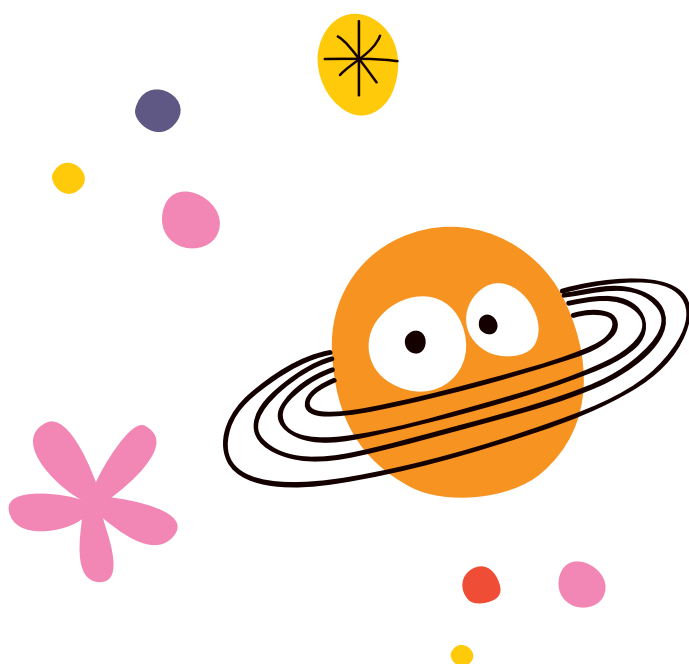
Free kindergarten

In 2022, the Victorian Government announced that, from 2023, kindergarten would be 'free' by allocating \$2,500 per year for each attending three and four-year-old child. This government funding being in lieu of any parent fees previously levied by service providers.

Thirty hours of free 'pre-prep' services

In 2022, the Victorian Government announced that, from 2025, 30 hours per week of free 'pre-prep' services would be available for four-year-olds. Under the staged roll-out, Pre-Prep will commence in Greater Bendigo in 2029. All children across Victoria will be able to access up to 30 hours per week of Pre-Prep by 2030.

Aboriginal children, children from a refugee background and children known to child protection will be eligible for 30 hours of Pre-Prep every week from 2026, and children whose families hold Commonwealth concession cards will be eligible from 2028.



The role of City of Greater Bendigo in supporting early years services

In partnership with the Victorian Department of Education, the City's goal is to ensure all children have easy access to contemporary kindergarten programs. Infrastructure is one of those enablers.

Greater Bendigo has a growing population and the number of children in our community, aged three to five-year-olds, is expected to grow from 4,500 in 2021 to 6,168 in 2036.

Currently the City of Greater Bendigo (the City) supports the development of three to five-year-old children through service provision and management of early years infrastructure. The City provides Maternal and Child Health services (MCH); owns and operates two long day care centres (LDCs); and owns or acts as committee of management under delegation from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for another 16 kindergarten services across Greater Bendigo. These centres are operated by not-for-profit organisations.

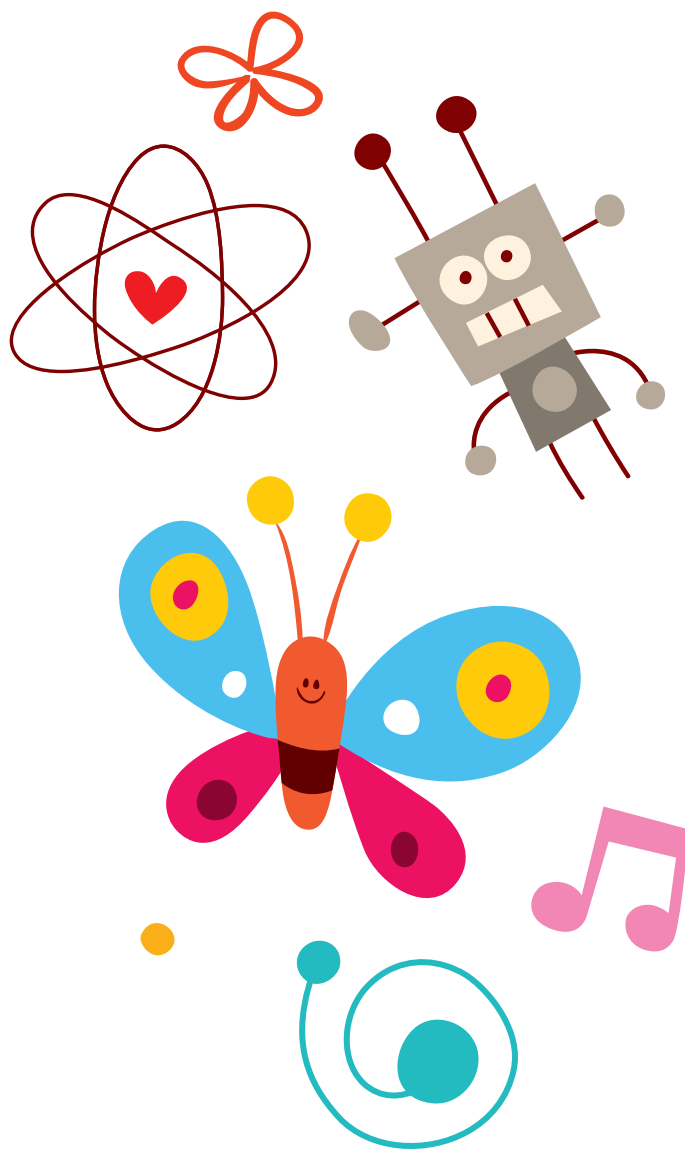
In recent years the City has invested in two new fit-for-contemporary purpose, early years facilities in Greater Bendigo, with funding support from Department of Education (DE). These facilities are deemed fit-for-contemporary purpose with the inclusion of two or three playrooms, storage, staff spaces, co-location with MCH/allied health services and are inclusive and accessible to today's Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards. A new 99-place kindergarten will also be built in Marong by 2025.

Despite this recent investment, many of the City's older facilities are no longer fit-for-contemporary purpose.

The majority of the City's owned or managed facilities are more than 38 years old and whilst they continue to serve the purpose for which they were built there is a limit to how long the buildings remain suitable for early years provision.

There is also the consideration of cost with each early years' facility requiring significant financial investment for maintenance. Reactive and program maintenance alone annually costs the City approximately \$79,000 for the kindergarten sites and \$144,000 for the long day care centres.

With the expansion of kindergarten programs, the state government has significantly increased its investment in early years infrastructure. Eaglehawk North Primary School will be the site of the first State-run early learning centre in Victoria.



Kindergarten programs in long day care centres and standalone kindergartens

Children can attend a funded kindergarten program at either a long day care centre or at a standalone kindergarten.

A long day care centre can offer a full day of education and care, including a kindergarten program. The teacher-led kindergarten program is integrated with additional hours of education and care. At a standalone service, a kindergarten program will only operate on certain days and at specific times. These days and hours are set by the kindergarten service.

No matter where a child goes to kindergarten, teachers and trained educators will lead the program. For more information visit the [Victorian Government website](#).



Community Buildings Policy and Community Infrastructure Strategy

The development of the EYIF was guided by the Community Buildings Policy (draft) and Community Infrastructure Strategy (draft).

Timing for the EYIF has been driven by significant early years reforms. To ensure early years infrastructure provided and maintained by the City is fit-for-contemporary purpose for these expanded programs, this framework needed to be developed at the same time as the above policy and strategy. It also informs the asset management plan and long-term financial plan.

Community buildings vision and guiding principles

The draft vision for community buildings, which includes early years infrastructure, is:

'By 2036, Greater Bendigo will have an equitable network of safe, welcoming and inclusive Community Buildings where all people can:

- *connect with other people, culture, activities and programs;*
- *play and create;*
- *learn and contribute; and*
- *rest.'*

The draft principles intended to enable achievement of that vision are:

- equity;
- accessibility;
- promote wellbeing;
- partnering; and
- sustainability.

Community buildings are not considered to be an 'outcome' in their own right: they are considered an 'output' which exists to promote the municipal community's health and wellbeing, social connectedness and life-long learning.

It is considered that resourcing of community buildings is a shared responsibility across the government, private and not for profit sectors, as well as the broader municipal community. (*Draft Community Buildings Policy*)



Today's Early Years Infrastructure across Greater Bendigo

In 2023, there are 27 standalone kindergartens and 24 long day care centres in Greater Bendigo with the services managed by:

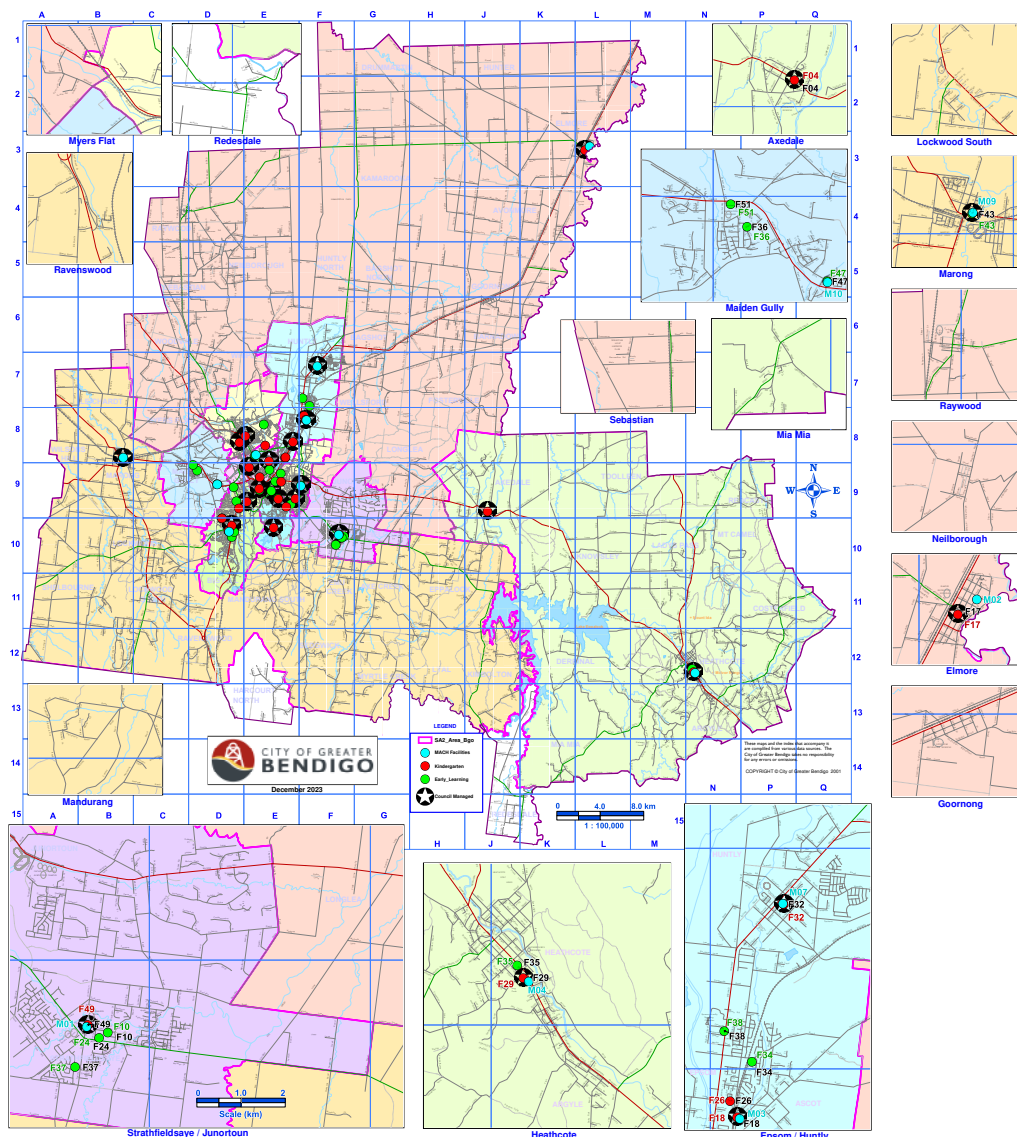
- 60% private not for profit,
- 34% private for profit,
- 4% local government,
- 2% other.

In the long-term, the emergence of the private sector in childcare and kindergarten will reduce the need for the City to deliver childcare and kindergarten services. Most long day care services also include funded kindergarten programs.

Further, there has been significant policy changes and increased availability of State Government Building Blocks funding to support the expansion of facilities to a minimum of two playrooms and co-located facilities. Building Blocks grants prioritise funding in areas with unmet demand for services.

The Victorian Government has made a commitment to:

- Kindergartens on or next door to every new government primary school from 2021.
- Use of modular kindergarten facilities for flexible deployment.
- Additional state funding to support further development through three grant streams 'capacity building, improvement and inclusion'.



Early years infrastructure planning and process

Decision-making in relation to the prioritisation, investment, design and delivery of early years infrastructure is based on robust evidence, with a strong focus on community engagement and quantitative assessments of City owned or managed facilities.

The robust evidence base that guides the decision-making process includes:

Mapping demand for three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten services

In 2020 the City signed a Kindergarten Infrastructure Service Plan (KISP) with DE. The plan identified where, when, and how many additional kindergarten places are needed to support the roll-out of three-year-old kindergarten from 2022 to 2029. Services across Greater Bendigo were mapped by Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2) which are medium-sized areas that represent a community that interacts together socially and economically.

In 2023/2024 the City will renew the KISP agreement to include the number of additional kindergarten places that will be needed to support the roll-out of 30 hours of pre-prep. It is anticipated that all areas of Greater Bendigo will experience some unmet demand by 2032.

Community engagement and expectations

In 2021, targeted community consultation provided parents and care givers of current and future kindergarten children, and service providers the opportunity to provide feedback on the enablers and barriers to kindergarten participation in Greater Bendigo.

The online survey received approximately 350 responses.

The information received through the community consultation will ensure the City continues to meet the expectations of the community.

Key factors influencing the decision to choose a kindergarten include:

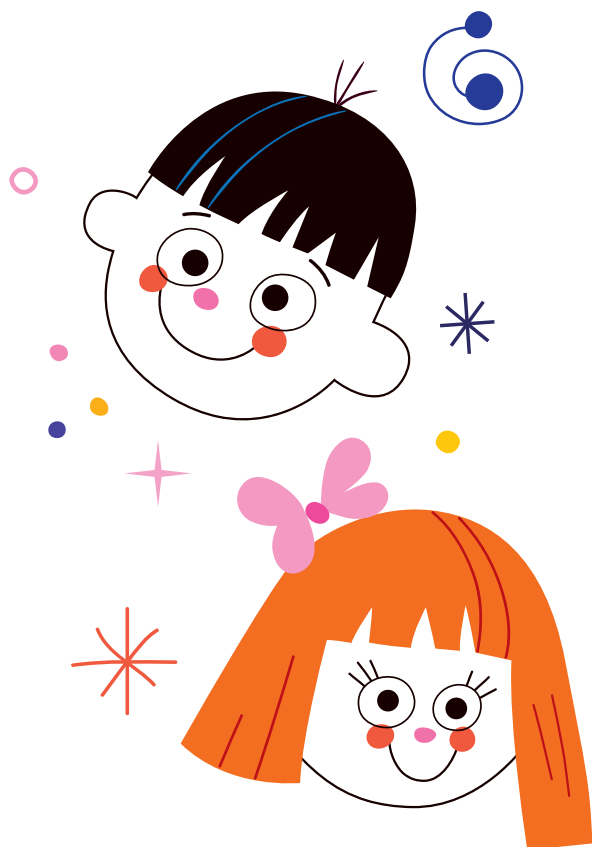
- The environment and outdoor play spaces 85.59%
- Location close to parent/caregivers home 68.01%
- Flexibility of days and times sessions are available 58.5%
- Educators are known or have been recommended 47.55%

Whilst some of the factors that are barriers to kindergarten participation include:

- Program hours 26.9%
- Availability of places at kindergarten of choice 24%
- Cost 18.3%

Additional driving factors included:

- Safe drop off/pick up locations
- Facilities need to include additional early years services in the same building
- Ability to change room sizes, and
- Staff and storage spaces.



Defining fit-for-contemporary purpose early years facilities

To continue to meet community expectations and be eligible for Building Blocks funding Greater Bendigo's early years' facilities need to **become** fit-for-contemporary purpose.

All existing early years infrastructure is fit for the purpose it was built. To ensure the children of Greater Bendigo continue to have access to high quality learning experiences in contemporary settings, now and into the future, the infrastructure also needs to be fit-for-contemporary purpose.

The Huntly Early Learning Hub is an example of a fit-for-contemporary purpose service with 66 licenced places, two playrooms, storage, staff and lunchroom and inclusive and accessible service to today's Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards. The kindergarten is also co-located with MCH services with an additional room available for an allied health service.

Current standards include a preference for:

- Minimum of two rooms
- Co-location of services with schools, Maternal and Child Health or allied health services
- Proximity to an activity centre (10 minutes in urban Bendigo/ 20 minutes in rural Bendigo).

The majority of the City's owned or managed facilities are not meeting these standards. They include:

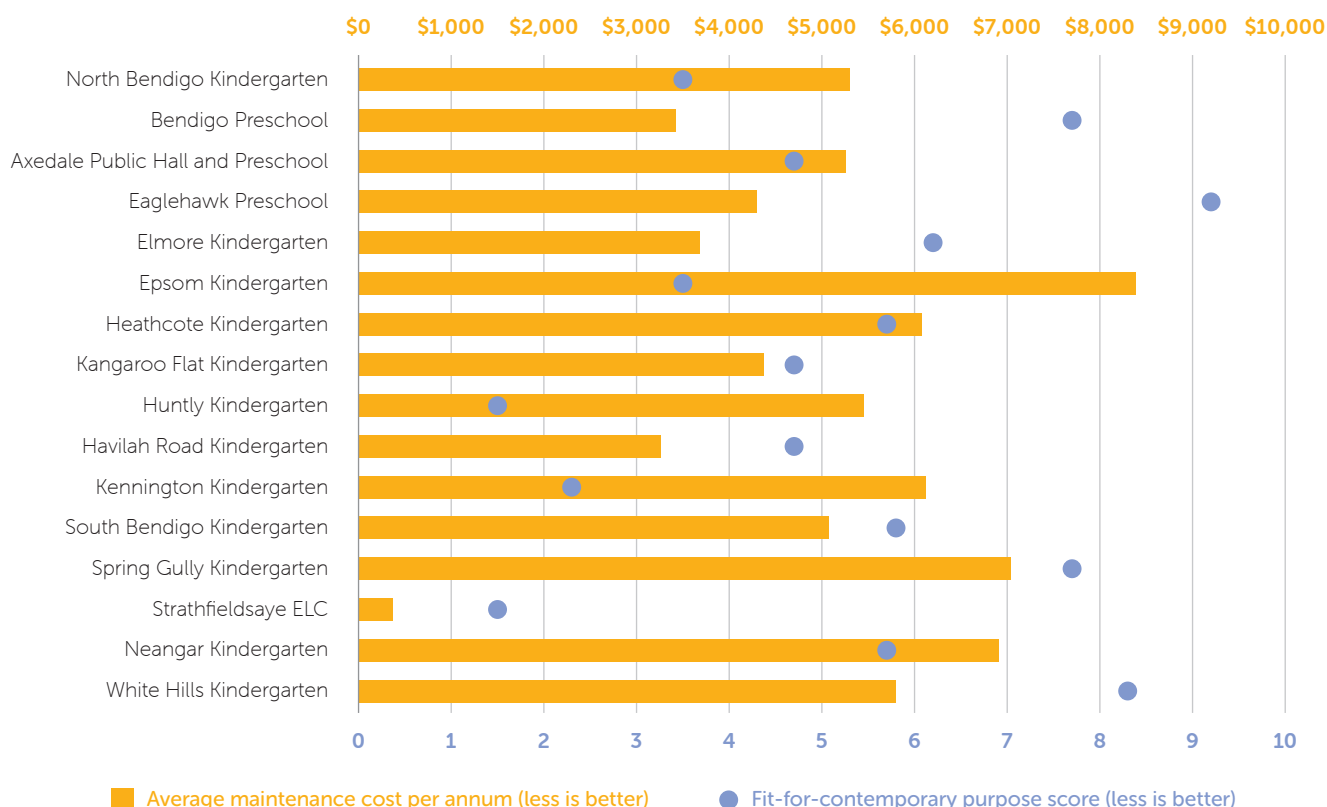
- 13 single playroom facilities,
- Eight facilities that are DDA compliant to today's standards and eight that are compliant to the year they were built,
- Three facilities with co-located MCH services.

NOTE: The standards of the building are not a reflection of the service being delivered from the building. All Greater Bendigo services providers deliver fantastic programs for children in our community. It's the buildings that are no longer meeting the community needs. Children deserve the best early years' experience and that can't be delivered in ageing infrastructure.

Audit of City owned or managed facilities

A City audit of the physical condition of City owned or managed kindergarten facilities rated each with a fit-for-contemporary purpose score and evaluating the cost of maintaining the site per annum. In the graph below less is better.

Average maintenance cost per annum and fit-for-contemporary purpose



The **fit-for-contemporary purpose score** combines:

- Building condition – is the building in good condition?
- Play rooms – does the facility have two or more play rooms?
- DDA compliance – is the building compliant to today's standards?
- Provider expectations – does the facility meet expectations with storage, staff rooms and amenities?
- Potential to expand – is there potential to expand the building, play space and carpark in current site?

With a score of seven or more a building is no longer considered fit-for-contemporary purpose. In Greater Bendigo these buildings include:

- Bendigo Preschool
- Eaglehawk Kindergarten
- Spring Gully Kindergarten
- White Hills Kindergarten

Maintenance costs per annum

Maintenance costs includes both planned and reactive maintenance and expenditure from the past five years has been averaged to provide an estimated annual cost per annum.

- Three kindergarten facilities are regularly costing more than \$7,000 per annum on maintenance. This includes:
 - Epsom Kindergarten
 - Spring Gully Kindergarten
 - Neangar Kindergarten
- The City owned and run early learning centres cost approximately \$72,000 each per annum on maintenance.
- The City spends an average maintenance cost per annum of \$160 per place at a council owned or managed kindergarten and \$1,022 per place at a City run early learning centre.

Please note:

- *Neither of these scores can be considered in isolation or without also considering SA2 regions with unmet demand.*

Feasibility studies

In 2022/2023 feasibility reports were developed for six kindergarten sites looking to gain an informed understanding of the current state of facilities with a view for renewal and expansion.

Each Project Feasibility Report is a site-specific assessment of the current conditions of the facility on a nominated City owned and managed property that operates as a kindergarten. Each assessment was supported by external consultants reports and other relevant information. The reports provided the City with a benchmark to compare individual centres against other centres in the region.

Initial feasibility studies were undertaken at:

- Epsom Kindergarten
- White Hills Kindergarten
- Neangar Kindergarten
- Havilah Road Kindergarten
- Spring Gully Kindergarten
- Axedale Preschool

These reports have guided the current pipeline of proposed capital projects. Feasibility studies will now be programmed for other sites.



Strategic project prioritisation

This framework prioritises a pipeline of early years investments over four years. The pipeline of activity is unfunded and will need to be further prioritised as part of the broader City capital management program. This will require City project plans to be developed for all projects.

Community consultation

Additional site-specific community consultation will be undertaken as individual projects progress.

Project evaluation

Project evaluation will capture learnings from the delivery of projects and incorporate these in the design and delivery of future projects.

Overarching Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles have been developed to ensure that the City responds appropriately and equitably to the need for an Early Years Infrastructure in a dynamic external environment.

The City of Greater Bendigo:

- 1 Commits to the ideal that every child has access to high quality early years experiences in a contemporary setting.
- 2 Advocates for capital investment in early years' infrastructure where the investment will deliver contemporary early years experiences.
- 3 Advocates for capital investment in early years' infrastructure where the investment will increase capacity.
- 4 Utilise KISP data to guide decision making.
- 5 Identifies partnership opportunities in areas of unmet demand to increase capacity.
- 6 Works with the Department of Education and providers to monitor and respond to changing demand in SA2 regions.
- 7 Maintains current early years infrastructure, until changes in supply and demand indicate it is no longer required.
- 8 Undertakes a service review to determine the City's future role in the delivery of long day care in early learning centres.
- 9 Endorses and undertakes short-term actions, including early years capital investment pipeline, as outlined below.
- 10 Continues to use the community engagement plan to engage key stakeholders and the broader community during the framework implementation phase



Short-term and long-term actions

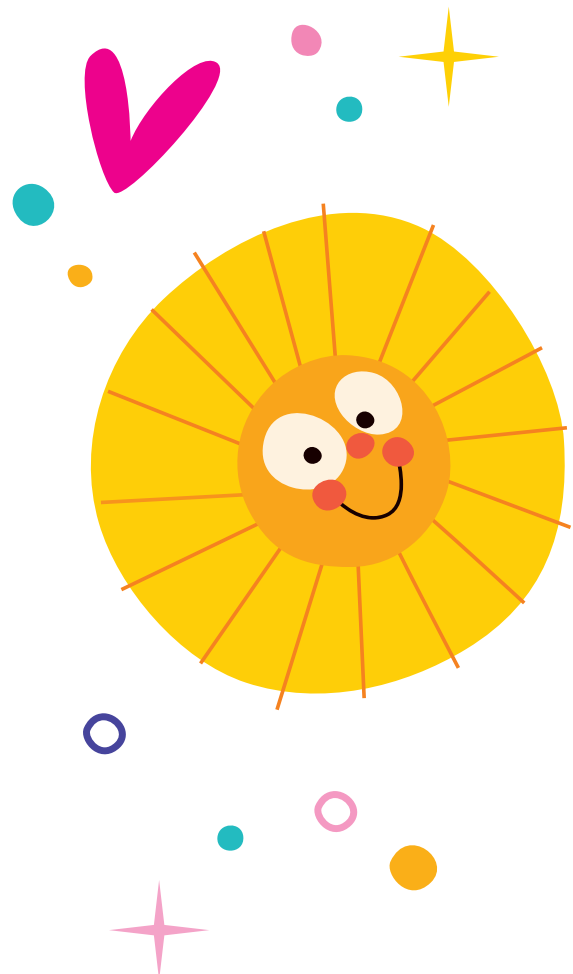
This framework is a living document and will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remains relevant. Actions in the framework have therefore been prioritised as short-term and long-term actions.

Short-term actions (4-years)

- Use analysis of buildings conditions, maintenance costs, and community expectations to support classification of existing early years buildings as no longer fit-for-contemporary purpose.
- Use the KISP (2020) and KISP (2023/24 – under-development) to prioritise need for kindergarten infrastructure in each SA2-region based on supply and demand.
- Use feasibility study reports to guide recommendations for suitability of buildings/sites for expansion.
- Seek funding through the Department of Education for all future kindergarten infrastructure projects including, but not limited to:
 - Spring Gully kindergarten is not fit-for-contemporary purpose. It neighbours' regions with significant unmet demand. The site has capacity for expansion.
 - Epsom kindergarten has a high maintenance cost per annum. It is in a growth corridor. The site has capacity for expansion.
- Maintain all current early years' infrastructure until changes in supply and demand indicate a change in need.
- Work with Department of Education and service providers to promote quality early years services being delivered from City owned or managed buildings.
- Support the development of Victoria's first state-run early learning centre at Eaglehawk North Primary School.
- Explore opportunities for sector partnerships.
- Work with service providers to optimise utilisation of infrastructure through change management strategies.
- Annually, monitor SA2 requirements for changes to supply and demand, including planning permit applications, and update the recommendations within the framework as changes occur.

Long-term actions











- Undertake a service review to determine the City's role in the delivery of long day care at Annie Galvin ELC and Helen Jessen ELC.
- Work with service providers at City owned or managed buildings to transition children to services that are fit-for-contemporary purpose.
- Where a building is deemed not-fit-for-contemporary purpose, close and consider future use of those buildings in alignment with the Community Infrastructure Strategy (under development).
- Monitor SA2 requirements for changes to supply and demand, and community expectations of contemporary services, and update the recommendations within the framework as changes occur.



Early years capital investment pipeline

Victorian Government reforms have led to increased availability of Building Blocks funding to support the sector through capacity building and planning. Building Blocks grants prioritise funding in areas with unmet demand for services. In all instances Building Blocks funding will be sought from DE.

City budget proposals will also be submitted for any council funding required.

Capital project	Delivery timeframe			
	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
Marong Kindergarten – new				
Spring Gully kindergarten expansion				
Epsom Kindergarten expansion				
Kindergarten feasibility studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Jessen ELC • Kennington Kindergarten • Flora Hill Kindergarten • Kangaroo Flat Kindergarten • Heathcote Kindergarten 				
Kindergarten feasibility studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Galvin ELC • Bendigo North Kindergarten • Bendigo Preschool • Eaglehawk Kindergarten • Elmore Kindergarten 				



Design



Build



Kindergarten operational



Feasibility studies



Actions for City owned or managed infrastructure

SA2-region	Kindergarten	Recommendation	Timeframe
Bendigo	Annie Galvin ELC	Undertake site feasibility study. Undertake service review. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
	Bendigo North Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
	Bendigo Preschool	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
	Havilah Road Kindergarten	Feasibility study complete. No opportunity to expand current building. Any new works and disturbance of existing soils would trigger remediation and containment requirements and related costs. Not recommended for expansion. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
California Gully / Eaglehawk	Eaglehawk Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
	Neangar Kindergarten	Feasibility study complete. Opportunity to expand current building. Any new works and disturbance of existing soils would trigger remediation and containment requirements and related costs. Not recommended for expansion. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
White Hills / Ascot	Epsom Kindergarten	Site feasibility study complete. Site and building suitable for expansion. Expand (not yet funded).	2024/2025 – design (unfunded) 2025/2026 – build (unfunded)
	Huntly Kindergarten	Kindergarten built in 2020. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
	White Hills Kindergarten	Site feasibility study complete. Unable to expand building, site landlocked, significant slope, high cost to demolish and rebuild. Not recommended for development. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change.
North	Elmore Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain	Until supply and demand ratios change.



SA2-region	Kindergarten	Recommendation	Timeframe
South	New Marong Kindergarten and Community Hub	Build	2022/2023 – design (complete) 2023/2024 – build 2024/2025 – operational
Heathcote	Heathcote Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change
	Axedale Kindergarten	Feasibility study complete. Upgrade would require significant alteration and addition. Site limitations and planning overlays. Not recommended for expansion. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change
East Bendigo / Kennington	Helen Jessen ELC	Undertake site feasibility study. Undertake service review. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change
	Kennington Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change
Spring Gully / Flora Hill	South Bendigo Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change
	Spring Gully Kindergarten	Feasibility study complete. Site and building suitable for expansion. Expand (not yet funded).	Design – 2023/2024 (funded) Build – 2024/2025 (not yet funded)
Kangaroo Flat / Golden Square	Kangaroo Flat Kindergarten	Undertake site feasibility study. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change
Strathfieldsaye	Strathfieldsaye Kindergarten	Kindergarten built in 2018. Maintain.	Until supply and demand ratios change



Appendix 1: Early Years Service locations

SA2 Region: Bendigo

This region includes the following suburbs: Bendigo, Ironbark, Long Gully, North Bendigo.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Annie Galvin ELC	Bendigo
Aspire Early Education and Kindergarten	Bendigo
Goodstart Early Learning	Bendigo
Jenny's ELC	Bendigo
Lightning Reef ELC	North Bendigo
Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-Operative	North Bendigo
Creek Street Christian College ELC	Bendigo

Note:

Those shaded darker are City owned and operated facilities or services located in buildings where the City is the owner or Committee of Management.

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Bendigo Preschool	Bendigo
Dr Harry Little Preschool	Bendigo
North Bendigo	Bendigo
Havilah Road Preschool	Long Gully

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Co-located Lightning Reef ELC	North Bendigo

SA2 Region: California Gully - Eaglehawk

This region includes the following suburbs: California Gully, Eaglehawk, Sailors Gully, Eaglehawk North and Jackass Flat.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Creative Garden ELC	Jackass Flat

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Neangar Kindergarten	California Gully
Eaglehawk Preschool	Eaglehawk



SA2 Region: White Hills - Ascot

This region includes the following suburbs: White Hills, Ascot, Epsom and Huntly.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Country Buddies	Epsom
Great Beginnings	Epsom
Jenny's Kindergarten	Epsom
Journey Early Learning Centre	Epsom
Amiga Montessori	White Hills
Nurture One Children's Centre	White Hills

Note:

Those shaded darker are City owned and operated facilities or services located in buildings where the City is the owner or Committee of Management.

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Ascot
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Huntly
Shine Bright Kindergarten	White Hills

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Co-located Shine Bright Kindergarten	Ascot
Co-located Shine Bright Kindergarten	Huntly

SA2 Region: North

This region includes the following suburbs: Elmore, Goornong, Raywood, Huntly North, Bagshot North, Neilborough, Sebastian, Woodvale, Campbell's Forest and Myers Flat.

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Elmore



SA2 Region: South

This region includes the following suburbs: Marong, Lockwood, Ravenswood, Mandurang, Sedgwick, Emu Creek, Axe Creek and Eppalock.

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Marong

Note:

Those shaded darker are City owned and operated facilities or services located in buildings where the City is the owner or Committee of Management.

SA2 Region: Heathcote

This region includes the following suburbs: Axedale, Heathcote and Knowsley.

Long Day Care Service that offers kindergarten program:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Jenny's ELC	Heathcote

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Axedale
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Heathcote

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Located at Heathcote Hospital	Heathcote

SA2 Region: Flora Hill - Spring Gully

This region includes the following suburbs: Flora Hill, Quarry Hill and Spring Gully.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
First Grammar	Flora Hill
Goodstart ELC	Flora Hill

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Spring Gully
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Flora Hill



SA2 Region: East Bendigo - Kennington

This region includes the following suburbs: East Bendigo, Strathdale and Kennington.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Helen Jessen ELC	Strathdale
Aspire Childcare Bendigo	Kennington
Village Early Education	Bendigo East

Note:

Those shaded darker are City owned and operated facilities or services located in buildings where the City is the owner or Committee of Management.

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Shine Bright Kennington	Bendigo
Shine Bright Neale Street North Kindergarten	Bendigo

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Co-located Helen Jessen ELC	Strathdale

SA2 Region: Kangaroo Flat - Golden Square

This region includes the following suburbs: Golden Gully, Golden Square, Kangaroo Flat.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Community Kids	Golden Square
Goodstart ELC	Golden Square
Goodstart ELC	Kangaroo Flat
Journey ELC	Kangaroo Flat
Great Beginnings	Kangaroo Flat

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Golden Square Kindergarten	Golden Square
Shine Bright Helm Street Kindergarten	Kangaroo Flat
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Kangaroo Flat

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Co-located Shine Bright Helm Street Kindergarten	Kangaroo Flat



SA2 Region: Maiden Gully

This region includes the following suburbs: Maiden Gully.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Shine Bright Early Years Hub	Maiden Gully
Jenny's ELC	Maiden Gully
Village Early Education	Maiden Gully

Note:

Those shaded darker are City owned and operated facilities or services located in buildings where the City is the owner or Committee of Management.

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Co-located Shine Bright Kindergarten	Maiden Gully

SA2 Region: Strathfieldsaye

This region includes the following suburbs: Strathfieldsaye and Junortoun.

Long Day Care Services that offer kindergarten programs:

Early Learning Centre (ELC)	Suburb
Brady Bunch ELC	Strathfieldsaye
Goodstart ELC	Strathfieldsaye
Jenny's Kindergarten	Strathfieldsaye

Standalone kindergartens:

Kindergarten	Suburb
Assisi Kindergarten	Strathfieldsaye
Shine Bright Kindergarten	Strathfieldsaye

Maternal Child Health Service:

MCH	Suburb
Club Court co-located Shine Bright Kindergarten	Strathfieldsaye



Planning Permits

Planning application no.	Location	Description	Decision
Bendigo			
DU/667/2020	40-48 Cohn Street NORTH BENDIGO 3550	Use and development of an early learning centre (childcare), maternal and child health clinic (medical centre), youth centre (place of assembly) and removal of vegetation	Approved
DU/353/2020	62-68 Eaglehawk Road IRONBARK 3550	Use and Development of Land for a Childcare Centre and Creation of Access from a Road Zone Category 1	Notice of decision
DP/179/2021	7 Grattan Street and 10 Smith Street, NORTH BENDIGO 3550	Use and development of a childcare centre and creation of an easement	Appealed
DC/137/2023	227 Eaglehawk Road, LONG GULLY 3550	Use and development of land for a childcare centre; alteration access to a road in the Transport Zone 2	
California Gully - Eaglehawk			
DC/787/2022	39-43 Peg Leg Road, EAGLEHAWK 3556	Demolition of a Building, Use and Development of a Child Care Centre, Creation of Access to a Road in the Transport Zone 2 and Variation and Creation of Easements	
DC/842/2022	213-221 Jobs Gully Road, EAGLEHAWK 3556	Use and development of land for child care centre	
DU/187/2023	37 Barrell Street, CALIFORNIA GULLY 3556	Use and development of a childcare centre and a reduction in car parking requirements	
White Hills - Ascot			
DU/900/2022	106 & 108 Waratah Road, HUNTLY 3551	Use and Development of a Childcare Centre, Display of Business Identification Signage and Parking Reduction	Referred
DC/169/2023	Lot A Sawmill Road, HUNTLY 3551	Use and development of land for a childcare centre on Lot 720	Approved
DU/556/2023	710 Midland Highway HUNTLY 3551	Use and development of land for a childcare and medical centre and reduction of car parking requirements	
North			
DC/369/2023	Lot 1 Michie Street, ELMORE	Use and development of land for a childcare centre	Referred



Planning application no.	Location	Description	Decision
East Bendigo - Kennington			
DC/232/2022	55 Condon Street KENNINGTON 3550	Use and development of a child care centre, removal of native vegetation and alteration to access to a road in TRZ2	Referred
Kangaroo Flat - Golden Square			
DC/809/2021	110 Panton Street, GOLDEN SQUARE 3555	Use and development of a Child Care Centre	Approved
DU/157/2022	76 Specimen Hill Road, GOLDEN SQUARE 3555	Use and development of land for a childcare centre and reduction of car parking spaces	Referred
DU/253/2022	42 Olympic Parade, KANGAROO FLAT 3555	Development and use of a childcare centre, display signage and removal of native vegetation	Referred
DU/348/2022	272 High Street, KANGAROO FLAT 3555	Use and Development of a Child Care Centre, Display of Signage and Alteration of Access to TRZ2	Referred
DS/683/2022	68-72 High Street, KANGAROO FLAT 3555	Partial demolition & extension to existing building and use as a child care centre	Approved
DU/519/2023	64 High Street KANGAROO FLAT 3555	Use and development of land as a childcare centre and reduction of 2 car parking spaces	Referred

LGA estimates in 2020

Table: estimated three and four-year-old kindergarten places between 2021-29 (presented in 15-hour equivalent places)

LGA level estimates	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Total estimated demand for kindergarten places (three and four-year-old children)	1,593	2,052	2,244	2,466	2,655	2,964	3,150	3,343	3,589
Total kindergarten places that cannot be accommodated by existing services	0	33	50	89	133	208	255	316	420

