

# Free Kinder for families at long day care

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.

Families can access Free Kinder funding for:

- 3-Year-Old Kinder
- 4-Year-Old Kinder, including more hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder.

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.

## What you need to do

Complete the form on the next page to let us know where you are claiming Free Kinder in 2027.

You can only claim Free Kinder at one service.

## How much will I save?

You will save around \$2,100 a year. This is based on 15 hours of kinder a week.

If your child is eligible for more hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder, your Free Kinder savings will be higher (up to around \$4,200 per year for a maximum of 30 hours per week).

Use the [More hours of 4-Year-Old Kinder](#) calculator to find out when your child qualifies.

For Free Kinder information in your language, visit: [vic.gov.au/kinder/translations](https://vic.gov.au/kinder/translations)

## How will I see it on my invoice?

The savings will be applied to your fees regularly across the year.

The savings will be labelled as "Victorian Government Free Kinder Offset" on your invoice.

The savings are applied after the Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (CCS) on your invoice.

## Quick Free Kinder facts

- ✓ Free Kinder reduces the cost of attending kinder at long day care. You will still need to pay a fee for childcare to cover the cost of care for other items including other hours of care and food. This fee can be reduced for eligible families through the Child Care Subsidy (CCS).
- ✓ Kindergarten programs are led by a bachelor qualified early childhood teacher.
- ✓ Free Kinder is for everyone – you don't need a Health Care Card or Pension Card, Australian citizenship, proof of address or CCS.

**More information: [vic.gov.au/freekinder](https://vic.gov.au/freekinder)**

# Funded kindergarten place declaration

Your child can only access a funded kindergarten program and Free Kinder 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 attend 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 service 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.

In Victoria, Free Kinder is available in funded kindergarten programs. Many children receive Free Kinder through their long day care service. Accessing Free Kinder means that those families will have their long day care out-of-pocket fees reduced.

To do this, some information about those children is shared with the Australian Government including the child's name, gender and Free Kinder funding amount received from the Victorian Government.

If you receive the Child Care Subsidy (CCS), the Australian Government already has most of that information. Sharing this information with the Australian Government simply lets them know that your child is attending a state-funded kindergarten program and the amount of Free Kinder offset applied to your fees.

Information may also be shared with an organisation engaged by the department to monitor and ensure that families are receiving the full benefit of Free Kinder.

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](https://www.vic.gov.au/departments-of-education-privacy-policy) (see: [vic.gov.au/departments-of-education-privacy-policy](https://www.vic.gov.au/departments-of-education-privacy-policy)) and relevant privacy legislation including the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)* and the *Health Records Act 2001*.

# PARENTAL EDUCATION AND OCCUPATION DETAILS

Please complete this form in English

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CHILD'S NAME:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                        |
| KINDERGARTEN NAME:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                        |
| Please tick this box if there is only one parent/guardian for the child <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   | Parent/guardian A<br>(primary carer) | Parent/guardian B<br>(must be completed, except where there is only one parent/guardian for the child) |
| <b>Education</b><br>Equivalent overseas education and qualifications are recognised for the purposes of this data collection.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                        |
| <b>1. What is the highest year of primary or secondary school the parent/guardian has completed?</b> (tick one)<br><br><i>For persons who have never attended school, mark 'Year 9 equivalent or below'.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Year 9 equivalent or below                        | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Year 10 or equivalent                             | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Year 11 or equivalent                             | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Year 12 or equivalent                             | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
| <b>2. What is the level of the highest qualification the parent/guardian has completed?</b> (tick one)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No non-school qualification                       | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Certificate I to IV (including trade certificate) | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Advanced diploma / Diploma                        | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Bachelor degree or above                          | <input type="checkbox"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                                               |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                        |
| <b>3. What is the occupation group of the parent/guardian?</b> (See <u>Parental Occupation Index</u> on page 2)<br><br><i>If the parent/guardian is <b>not currently in paid work</b> but has/ had a job in the last 12 months, or has retired in the last 12 months, please use their last occupation</i><br><br><i>If the parent/guardian has <b>not been in paid work</b> for the last 12 months, tick 'N' OR</i><br><br><i>If the parent/guardian has <b>not been in paid work</b> for the last 12 months because the person cares for their own children full time, tick 'H'</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> A                        | <input type="checkbox"/> A           |                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> B                        | <input type="checkbox"/> B           |                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> C                        | <input type="checkbox"/> C           |                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> D                        | <input type="checkbox"/> D           |                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> N                        | <input type="checkbox"/> N           |                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> H                        | <input type="checkbox"/> H           |                                                                                                        |
| Name parent/guardian (print)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                   | Date                                 |                                                                                                        |
| Signature parent/guardian                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                        |

The Department of Education provides this template for Early Childhood Centres/Kindergartens to collect relevant information for the purpose of allocation of funding. This information is uploaded securely on the Kindergarten Information Management System (KIMS). The department's privacy policy can be found here: [Department of Education privacy policy | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](http://www.vic.gov.au). For further information on how this data is managed, speak to your Kindergarten in the first instance.

# PARENTAL OCCUPATION INDEX

|                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>MANAGERS</b>                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| Chief Executives, General Managers and Legislators                              | Chief Executives and Managing Directors, Corporate General Manager, Defence Force Senior Officer, Local Government Legislator, Member of Parliament                                                                                               | <b>A</b> |
| Farmers and Farm Managers                                                       | Aquaculture Farmers, Crop Farmers, Livestock Farmers, Mixed Crop, Livestock Farmers                                                                                                                                                               | <b>A</b> |
| Specialist Managers                                                             | Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers, Business Administration Managers, Construction Managers, Education, Health and Welfare Services Managers                                                                                        | <b>A</b> |
| Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers                                        | Accommodation and Hospitality Managers, Retail Managers                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>B</b> |
| <b>PROFESSIONALS generally with a bachelors degree or above</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| Arts and Media Professionals                                                    | Music Professionals, Photographers, Journalists and Other Writers                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>A</b> |
| Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals                            | Accountants, Auditors and Company Secretaries, Financial Brokers and Dealers, and Investment Advisers, Human Resource and Training Professionals, Information and Organisation Professionals, Sales, Marketing and Public Relations Professionals | <b>A</b> |
| Design, Engineering and Science Professionals                                   | Architects, Designers, Planners and Surveyors, Engineering Professionals                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>A</b> |
| Education Professionals                                                         | Early Childhood Teachers, School Teachers, Tertiary Education Teachers                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>A</b> |
| Health Professionals                                                            | Health Diagnostic and Promotion Professionals, Health Therapy Professionals, Medical Practitioners, Midwifery and Nursing Professionals                                                                                                           | <b>A</b> |
| ICT Professionals                                                               | Business and Systems Analysts, and Programmers, Database and Systems Administrators, and ICT Security Specialists                                                                                                                                 | <b>A</b> |
| Legal, Social and Welfare Professionals                                         | Barristers, Judicial and Other Legal Professionals, Solicitors, Counsellors, Psychologists, Social Workers, Ministers of Religion                                                                                                                 | <b>A</b> |
| <b>TECHNICIANS AND TRADES WORKERS</b>                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians                                        | Agricultural, Medical and Science Technicians, Building and Engineering Technicians, ICT and Telecommunications Technicians                                                                                                                       | <b>B</b> |
| Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers                                       | Automotive Electricians and Mechanics, Mechanical Engineering Trades Workers, Panel beaters, and Vehicle Body Builders, Trimmers and Painters                                                                                                     | <b>C</b> |
| Construction Trades Workers                                                     | Bricklayers, and Carpenters and Joiners, Floor Finishers and Painting Trades Workers                                                                                                                                                              | <b>C</b> |
| Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers                         | Electricians, Electronics and Telecommunications Trades Workers                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>C</b> |
| Food Trades Workers                                                             | Chefs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>B</b> |
|                                                                                 | Bakers and Pastry cooks, Butchers and Smallgoods Makers, Cooks                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>C</b> |
| Skilled Animal and Horticultural Workers                                        | Animal Attendants and Trainers, and Shearers, Horticultural Trades Workers                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>C</b> |
| Other Technicians and Trades Workers                                            | Hairdressers, Textile, Clothing and Footwear Trades Workers                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>C</b> |
| <b>COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL SERVICE WORKERS</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| Health and Welfare Support Workers                                              | Ambulance Officers and Paramedics, Dental Hygienists, Technicians and Therapists, Health Workers, Massage Therapists                                                                                                                              | <b>B</b> |
| Carers and Aides                                                                | Child Carers, Education Aides, Personal Carers and Assistants                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>D</b> |
| Hospitality Workers                                                             | Bar Attendants and Baristas, Cafe Workers, Gaming Workers                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>D</b> |
| Protective Service Workers                                                      | Police                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>B</b> |
|                                                                                 | Defence Force Members - Other Ranks, Fire and Emergency Workers                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>C</b> |
| Personal Service Workers                                                        | Beauty Therapists, Driving Instructors, Travel Attendants                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>D</b> |
| Sports                                                                          | Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials, Sportspersons                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>C</b> |
|                                                                                 | Fitness Instructors, Outdoor Adventure Guides                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>D</b> |
| <b>CLERICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS</b>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| Office Managers and Program Administrators                                      | Contract, Program and Project Administrators, Office and Practice Managers                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>B</b> |
| Personal Assistants and Secretaries                                             | Personal Assistants, Secretaries, Legal Secretaries                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>C</b> |
| General Clerical Workers                                                        | General Clerks, Keyboard Operators                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>D</b> |
| Inquiry Clerks and Receptionists                                                | Call or Contact Centre Information Clerks, Receptionists                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>D</b> |
| Numerical Clerks                                                                | Bookkeepers, Accounting, Financial and Insurance Clerks, Bank Workers                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>D</b> |
| Clerical and Office Support Workers                                             | Couriers and Postal Deliverers, Filing and Registry Clerks, Survey Interviewers                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>D</b> |
| Other Clerical and Administrative Workers                                       | Conveyancers and Legal Executives                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>B</b> |
|                                                                                 | Court and Legal Clerks, Insurance Investigators, Loss Adjusters and Risk Surveyors                                                                                                                                                                | <b>C</b> |
|                                                                                 | Purchasing and Supply Logistics Clerks, Debt Collectors, Human Resource Clerks, Inspectors and Regulatory Officers                                                                                                                                | <b>D</b> |
| <b>SALES WORKERS &amp; MACHINERY OPERATORS, DRIVERS AND LABOURERS</b>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |          |
| Sales Agents                                                                    | Auctioneers, and Stock and Station Agents, Insurance Agents, Real Estate Sales Agents                                                                                                                                                             | <b>C</b> |
| Sales Representatives, Sales Assistants, Salespersons and Sales Support Workers | Sales Representatives, Sales Assistants, Pharmacy Sales Assistants, Retail Supervisors, Checkout Operator                                                                                                                                         | <b>D</b> |
| Machinery Operators, Drivers and Labourers                                      | Machine and Stationary Plant Operators, Road and Rail Drivers, Storepersons, Cleaners and Laundry Workers, Factory Process Workers                                                                                                                | <b>D</b> |