

Early Start Kindergarten

For all Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander children

Useful contacts

Eastern Metropolitan Region	9265 2400
Northern Metropolitan Region	9304 0730
Western Metropolitan Region	9275 7051
Southern Metropolitan Region	8765 5600
Barwon South Western Region	5225 1000
Gippsland Region	5127 0400
Grampians Region	5337 8444
Hume Region	5761 2100
Loddon Mallee Region	5440 3111



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Why is kindergarten important?

Kindergarten programs help children with their language, development and self-confidence. Research shows an **early start and more time at kindergarten** prepares children for **success at school and has a positive impact later in life.**

What is Early Start Kindergarten?

Early Start Kindergarten provides free or low cost kindergarten to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **three year old children** where programs are offered by a **qualified teacher.**

Some services will be able to offer your child a place in a program for four year olds or a mixed age group.

Applications for Early Start Kindergarten funding are made by the kindergarten service on your behalf and the grant is paid directly to the service.

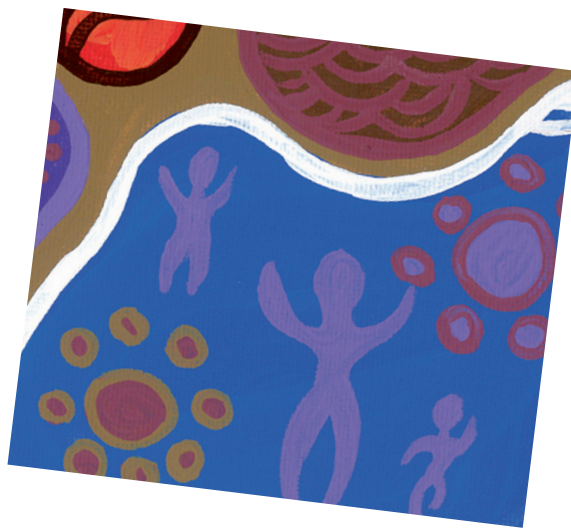
Is my child eligible?

Your child is eligible if they are aged three by 30 April in the year they will be attending kindergarten, and your child is an **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.**

How do I enrol my child?

You can enrol your child by contacting a kindergarten service near you and asking to access Aboriginal Early Start Kindergarten. Alternatively a **Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO)** in your nearest Department of Education and Early Childhood Development office can help you apply. To find their contact details visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/regions.htm>

To find a **kindergarten service or child care centre with a funded program** in your area visit www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice or contact your local council. You can find out the phone number for your local council by visiting www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au.



Should my child go to four year old kindergarten as well?

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are eligible for two years of free or low cost kindergarten before starting school. Four year old kindergarten will build on the strengths your child develops when they are three years old.

Try to enrol your child for **four year old kindergarten** as early as possible to make sure your child gets a place as **places at your preferred kindergarten are not guaranteed.**

Where do I find out more about Early Start Kindergarten for Aboriginal Children?

For more information about Early Start Kindergarten visit www.education.vic.gov.au/kindergarten/earlystart or contact the Koorie Engagement Support Officers in your nearest Department of Education and Early Childhood Development office.

Refer overleaf for contact details of our regional offices.