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INFORMATION ABOUT KINDERGARTEN FUNDING AND FEES

What is a Funded Kindergarten Program?

A funded kindergarten program must be delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher, supported by qualified educators.

The government provides funds directly to kindergarten providers. This funding partially subsidises the cost of providing a high-quality kindergarten program. The gap between funding and the actual cost to run the kindergarten are covered by term fees paid by families. This is the case for both 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten from 2022.

Funding is provided for children to attend a program at one service. If a child attends multiple services (eg: childcare and sessional kindergarten) only one service can receive funding. In the case of Manchester Preschool, we claim the funding as we only offer a funded program.

4-year-old Kindergarten

This is jointly subsidised by State and Federal Governments for one year before a child goes to school. Children must turn 4 by 30th April to be eligible to start 4-year-old kindergarten. *However, children typically turn 5 in their kindergarten year, and 6 when they are in Prep/Foundation.* You do not enrol your child at school with the intention of them doing two years of Prep – keep this in mind when deciding when your child is going to start Kinder.

3-year-old Kindergarten

The Victorian Government is now rolling out funding for 3-year-old kindergarten. Funding is provided for one year only and children cannot do a second year of a 3-year-old program. The rollout includes:

- 5 hours of funding per week in 2022.
- A gradual increase in funded hours from 5–15 per week between 2023 and 2029.

Victorian children will have access to two years of kindergarten (15 hours per week) by 2029.

Manchester Preschool will run a 6-hour program in 2022. The additional hour is reflected in our fees. Children cannot attend Manchester Preschool's 3yo program until they are at least 3 years old.

Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

Families can access a sessional kindergarten program at low or no cost if the child:

- is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- is a triplet or quadruplet
- is covered by a Health Care, Pension or other eligible concession card
- holds a refugee, humanitarian or asylum seeker visa, or their parent/guardian does.

Priority of access

If Manchester Preschool receives more enrolment applications than the number of places available, we are bound to follow the priority of access guidelines as set out by the government. This means that priority must be given to:

- children at risk of abuse or neglect, or living in Out of Home care
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children
- Asylum seeker and refugee children

- children eligible for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy
- children with additional needs

After these children have been offered a place in the program, Manchester Preschool can then apply their own priority guidelines such as returning families, child's age, date of application, attendance in the 3-year-old program, and locality.

Children with birth date between January 1st – April 30th

Please speak to staff about enrolment if your child's birth date falls in between January 1st and April 30th.

Children cannot do a second year of a funded 3-year-old program. 4-year-old Kindergarten is funded for one year only, unless there are extenuating circumstances and the child meets eligibility requirements to do a second year.

Manchester Preschool's Teaching Team

We are very proud to have such a highly experienced teaching team at Manchester Preschool:

- Cassie Mackenzie - Nominated Supervisor, Educational Leader and Teacher of the 4-year-old program.
- Nila Blennerhassett – Teacher of the 3-year-old program.
- Marina Moreton – Co-educator in the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs.
- Tracy Macneish – Co-educator in the 4-year-old program.

Proposed 2022 Timetable and Fees – subject to change

3-year-old Group

Tuesday & Friday: 9:30am – 12:30pm

\$175 per term TBC

4-year-old Group

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:30am – 2:30pm

\$425 per term TBC