

## Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2020-21 Budget Estimates - 2 December 2020 4:45-5:30

## Early Childhood

## Responses to questions on notice

E1.

Portfolio:	Early Childhood
Witness:	Hon Ingrid Stitt MLC
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins MP
Page of transcript:	p. 8

**Mr HIBBINS:** Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Minister and your team, for appearing before us this evening. I want to ask about the funded three-year-old kinder and just an update in terms of the current rollout. When it was first announced the figures were that around 25 per cent of families would be able to attend for free and 65 per cent would get a subsidised enrolment. What are the figures now for the LGAs where it has been rolled out?

**Response:** The Minister for Early Childhood – I am advised that:

The breakdown of enrolments by LGA and subsidy level is set out in the table below.

This is point in time data (as at July 2020) and enrolment numbers do fluctuate across the year. In total, 434 of 572 enrolments were fully subsidised by the Andrews Labor Government (at least for Terms 2, 3 and 4) either through the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy or Free Kinder payments.

Note that the remaining 138 children may also have been provided a free sessional program for part of the year if their service provider was in receipt of JobKeeper funding (at an equivalent or greater level than free kindergarten funding) and elected to waive kindergarten fees or, if they were in a long day care kindergarten program, would have received this for free in Term 2 as part of the Commonwealth childcare assistance package.

Early Childhood QoN

LGA	Total funded three-year-old enrolments	Received a free sessional program through Kindergarten Fee Subsidy	Received free sessional program through COVID-19 'free kinder' funding	Enrolled in sessional services not in receipt of free kinder funding (e.g. because they were in receipt of JobKeeper funding)	Fee paying enrolments in long day care (noting free childcare in Term 2)
Buloke Shire	30	8	3	19	0
Hindmarsh Shire	41	15	26	0	0
Northern Grampians Shire	80	23	41	0	16
South Gippsland Shire	268	53	180	14	21
Strathbogie Shire	101	28	5	54	14
Yarriambiack Shire	52	30	22	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>51</b>