

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Inquiry into the 2023/24 Budget Estimates



Department  
of Education

14 June 2023



# 2023/24 Budget overview:



**\$1.8 billion**

to continue delivering Australia's largest-ever early childhood reform by commencing the **transition to Pre-Prep** and:



Continuing **Free Kinder**



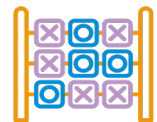
Delivering **50** government-owned and operated **early learning centres**



Delivering new, expanded and upgraded **facilities**



Expanding **inclusion supports**

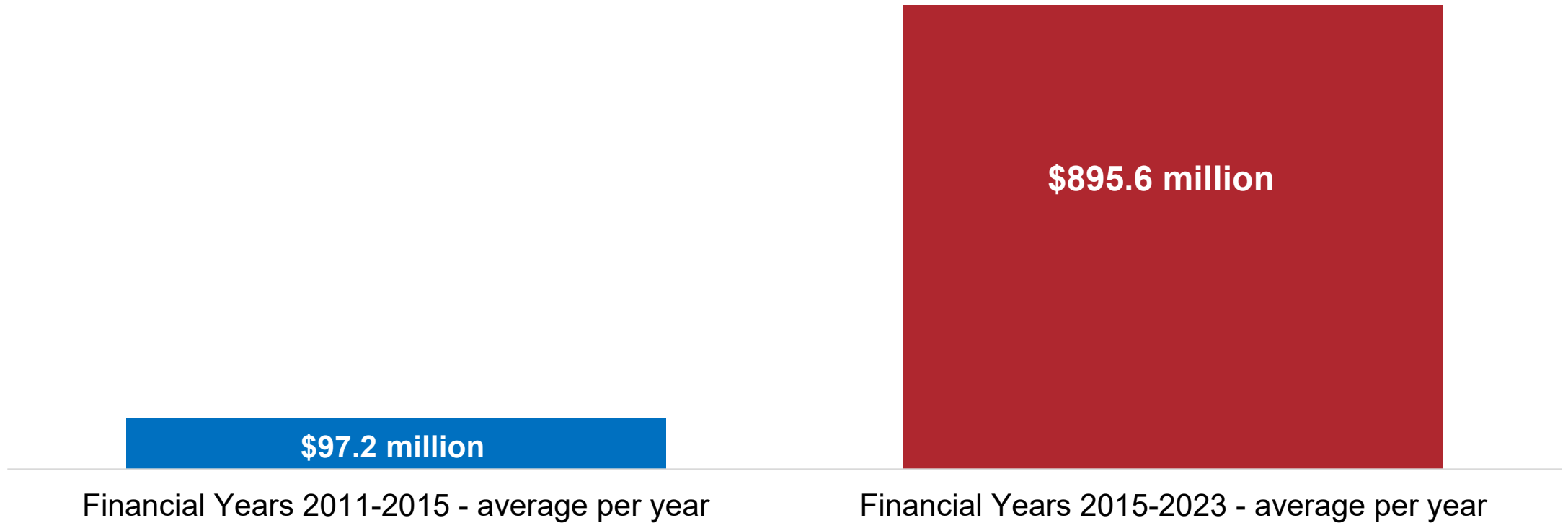


Continuing the roll-out of **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten**



Expanding the **Early Childhood Language Program**.

# Victoria is investing to give every Victorian child the *Best Start* for the *Best Life*



*Average spend per year since 2011*

# Victoria provides more funding per child than any other state

All government expenditure per child in kindergarten services



Source: 2023 Report on Government Services – Real recurrent expenditure on kindergarten services per child in ECEC – Table 3A.35, figures adjusted to 2021-22 dollars

# Victoria is leading the nation in early childhood education

	VIC	NSW	QLD	SA	TAS	WA	NT	ACT
4YO Kinder (15 hours)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4YO Kinder (30-hour commitment)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Universal 3YO Kinder	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Universal 3YO Kinder Commitment	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

# Building on our record investment in *Best Start, Best Life*

## \$546.4 million will:

- Continue the universal expansion of **Three-Year-Old Kindergarten**
- Continue **Free Kinder** for all 3 and 4-year-olds at participating services
- Start the transition to **Pre-Prep** from 2025
- Fund **Aboriginal community organisations** and **Traditional Owners** to help services improve cultural safety.
- Fund initiatives to **attract and retain** a highly skilled early childhood workforce.



# Delivering the infrastructure our littlest learners need

Combined with the **\$1.5 billion** announced last year, the budget provides a further **\$1.2 billion** to deliver the infrastructure needed:



Funds the first **35** of the **50** new government-owned and operated early learning centres



Builds or upgrades around **145 kindergartens** on or near school sites.

**\$10 million** for additional **Building Blocks Improvement Grants**, providing **upgrades** and **refurbishments** to existing early learning facilities across the state



# Investing in early childhood infrastructure

Since 2019-20 we have invested:



more than **\$465.6 million** in **240** capacity-building projects.

- This includes **31** kindergartens on school sites - **10** to be completed by 2024
- the establishment of **10** Building Blocks Partnerships with local councils



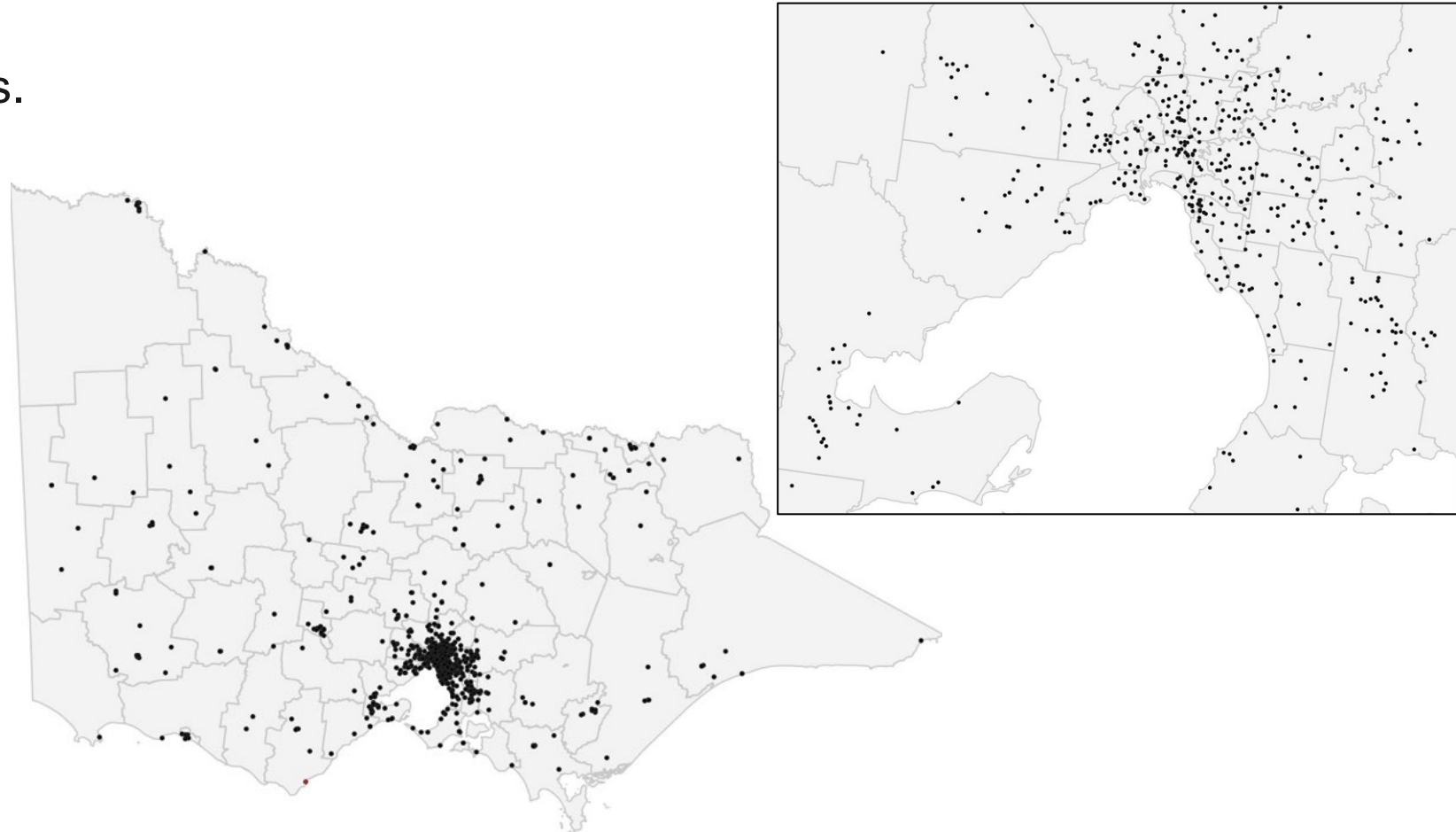
more than **\$16.1 million** in **146** inclusion projects



more than **\$64 million** in **492** improvement projects

## Map of Early Childhood infrastructure projects since 2019-20

Metropolitan Melbourne





# Delivering on our **election commitments** to our littlest learners and their families by investing:



**\$14.7 million** to provide every kindergarten service with a **\$5,000** grant for toys and equipment



**\$1.9 million** to create **8** new toy libraries and support existing toy libraries



**\$3.6 million** to fund **150** Bush Kinder programs each year



**\$23.9 million** to continue our Early Childhood Language Program



**\$3.7 million** to establish **10** new bilingual kindergartens

**This budget also includes:**



**\$3.2 million** to support refugee families to access early childhood services.



# Because kinder is for everyone, we're investing:

## \$18.1 million

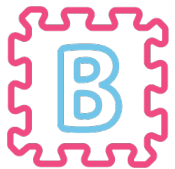
to improve support for children with disability, developmental delay or additional needs to participate in kindergarten. This includes:



Expanding **Pre-School Field Officer services** in growth areas



Piloting a transformed approach to **supporting inclusion in kindergarten**



Continuing **Specialised Equipment grants**



Improving access to **Kindergarten Inclusion Support** program.



