

The Hon. Wendy Lovell MLC

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development



Vision for Early Childhood Development

The Victorian Government's Early Years Strategic Plan outlines the goals and actions from 2014-2020 to continue to improve all children's outcomes.

Early Years Strategic Plan: 2014-2020

Goal

Focus Area Highlights

Supporting parents and communities to give children a great start

Working with local governments to build on and strengthen local planning approaches

Growing parent and community capacity to support children's development

Early and sustained support for those who need it most

Providing access to high-quality early childhood services for vulnerable children through sustained service pathways

Implementing a strategy to improve learning and development outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians

All children benefiting from high-quality early learning

Boosting the ability of universal services to support language and literacy development

Deepening early years curriculum and assessment approaches



Delivery of the Early Years Strategic Plan

\$8.4 million in
funding to provide
additional support to
young families and children

- **\$4 million** in workforce programs; and
- **\$4.4 million for a suite of initiatives including:**
 - a trial for the expansion of the current MCH Child Health Record
 - the Every Toddler Talking trial; and
 - funding work with local governments to improve centralised enrolments for MCH and kindergarten programs

Additional Funding

**Children's Facilities Capital
Program**
\$15 million

- Allow for targeted investment in areas experiencing existing or expected Kindergarten shortfalls
- Enable the upgrade or replacement of out-dated facilities



Targeted initiatives

\$1.2 million over two years for Early Childhood Intervention Services Improvement Project

Funding will support practice improvements to provide effective support for children with a disability or developmental delay

\$3.8 million over two years for Early Years Workforce Support

Funding will ensure children have access to a high-quality early learning program.

\$2.1 million over three years for Maternal and Child Health Service Reform

Funding will help modernise the MCH service and improve support for vulnerable children

\$1.5 million over three years to improve support for vulnerable children

To streamline early childhood services for vulnerable children.



The Victorian Government has invested **\$283 million** since the 2011-12 Budget, including:

- Investment of more than **\$120 million** to build and upgrade hundreds of services across the state, including many in regional Victoria and growth corridors;
- \$43.6 million for 1,150 Early Childhood Intervention Service** and **150 flexible support places** to support children with disability or development delay from birth until school; and
- \$84.9 million in maternal and child health services** to provide 10 Key Age and Stage checks free for all Victorian families with children from birth to school age.



Focus for the Children and Early Childhood Development portfolio

