

# Lily D'Ambrosio MP

## STATE MEMBER FOR MILL PARK



- Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change
- Minister for Solar Homes

Monday, 31 January 2022

### THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDER ROLLS OUT IN MILL PARK

Children in Mill Park will start Three-Year-Old Kinder funded by the Andrews Labor Government this week, as part of a nation-leading reform to give every child the best start to their early education.

Member for Mill Park Lily D'Ambrosio today celebrated the statewide roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kinder services, part of the Labor Government's decade-long reform of early childhood education across Victoria.

Around 2,700 services across Victoria's 79 local government areas will deliver at least five hours per week of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten this year, before gradually scaling up to reach the full 15-hour program by 2029.

The Labor Government will invest almost \$5 billion this decade in this Australian-first reform, which provides three-year-old children with access to an additional year of funded kindergarten programs.

Research on the benefits of early childhood education is clear: children who have attended two years of a quality kindergarten program will have better cognitive and social skills when they start school, higher exam scores and better social and emotional outcomes at age 16, and be more likely to go on to higher academic study.

As well as the many benefits for Victorian children, this reform is delivering quality jobs for Victorians when we need them most – creating more than 6,000 teacher and educator jobs around the state and around 5,000 construction jobs over 10 years.

Children enrolled in funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten will also receive a Kinder Kit, a colourful carry-case jam-packed with educational toys and resources to celebrate that kindergarten in Victoria now starts at age three.

The Kinder Kits will be distributed from the start of Term 1 to children enrolled in Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, and have been created to complement learning at kinder with fun and creative activities that encourage family engagement in their child's education and promote awareness of the benefits of continued learning at home.

The Labor Government has supported kinder and early childhood services across Victoria to be COVIDSafe, protecting children and staff – with almost \$15 million in grants for services to deliver better ventilation and other COVIDSafe measures, alongside rapid antigen tests to be provided twice a week to every staff member.



Shop 2/30 Oleander Drive, Mill Park VIC 3082

**P:** 9422 5171 **E:** [lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lily.d'ambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Families can talk to their local kindergarten and long day care services about enrolling for 2022, and can look for a service near them by visiting the 'Find a Kinder Program' website at [findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au](http://findakinder.educationapps.vic.gov.au)

**Quotes attributable to Member for Mill Park Lily D'Ambrosio**

*"I want to welcome every child starting three-year-old kinder in the Mill Park electorate this week to their education journey – we're so proud to be investing in early education to make sure Victorian kids have better outcomes right throughout their lives."*

*"We're leading the nation when it comes to giving kids the best start in life – today marks a huge milestone in our work to build the Education State and give every Victorian child the best opportunities, no matter where they live."*