

THEME 2:

I’m a parent or carer. How will you help children thrive through different life stages?



Our ongoing work

We facilitate and support delivery of early childhood education, enhancing the learning, development and wellbeing of young children.

- Facilitate provision of kindergarten programs in Council-owned and maintained kindergarten buildings.
- Deliver the centralised kindergarten application and enrolment service to provide a single, central point of contact for families and kindergarten providers.
- Partner with early childhood services to reduce barriers that prevent families participating in early childhood education.
- Deliver an ongoing kindergarten bathroom upgrade program to ensure bathrooms and change facilities in Council-owned kindergartens are accessible and meet the needs of children.
- Deliver and facilitate a range of programs to engage children in learning, creative expression and building social skills.

We provide guidance on children’s health and facilitate local care and support.

- Deliver Maternal and Child Health and supporting services, including consultations at different stages of a child’s development, breastfeeding support, nutrition advice, health referrals, early parenting information and links to community resources and new parents’ groups.
- Provide immunisation services for children under the age of 18 through public and school immunisation programs.
- Partner with local services to help connect families to health and support programs run by community health groups and other support services.

We support parents and caregivers by helping them feel confident, connected and equipped to raise healthy, happy children.

- Deliver training programs to support parents, caregivers and professionals in their role in caring for, educating and raising children and young people.
- Deliver targeted support to children and families facing additional challenges such as unstable housing, family violence, trauma or financial hardship to assist them to engage in early childhood education and health services.
- Deliver supported playgroups to help children and families doing it tough to connect with others, learn and get the help they need. Provide guidance and support to enable the community to confidently run and manage their own playgroups.

We support children approaching adolescence to build confidence and develop the skills they need to thrive as they approach their high school years.

- Deliver evidence-based programs, events and initiatives that respond to the current and emerging needs of middle years children (7–11) and young people (12–25). This includes opportunities for positive social connection, entertainment, community participation, developing new skills and the promotion of healthy and respectful relationships. This will be via school holiday programs, targeted leadership training sessions, music/art events and life skills workshops.
- Deliver education and parenting support programs for parents of middle years and young children through the Raising Children and Young People training and programs.

We support young people in their transition to adulthood by creating pathways to education, training and employment, strengthening life skills and championing youth voices and leadership.

- Support local services to provide opportunities for young people to re-engage with education and/or pathways to employment.
- Partner with other services to make it easier for young people to get the help they need, such as mental health support.
- Facilitate and support the Youth Council to continue to provide valuable advice on matters affecting young people and create opportunities for young people to engage with Council and have their voices heard.



Strategic Priority

SP3	Partner with the Victorian Government and stakeholders to implement the Best Start, Best Life Reform, including free kindergarten for 3- and 4-year-old children and extending kindergarten hours.	HP	DAP
SP4	Deliver and facilitate culturally safe services and programs for First Peoples children and their families, suited to local needs.	HP	DAP
SP5	Advocate for funding from other levels of government to establish a dedicated youth hub and create additional youth-friendly spaces where young people can thrive.	HP	DAP

HP Health Plan DAP Disability Action Plan

Responsibility of others

Service or program by others	Who
Childcare centres and childcare provision	A range of private and not for profit providers
Community playgroups	Volunteers
Integrated family services	Not for profit providers (Berry Street, Kinds First) and Victorian Government funded The Orange Door