



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## HELPING ALTONA KIDS GET THE MOST OUT OF KINDER

Every child attending a funded kindergarten program in the Altona District will get the most out of their learning and development with the final stage of the \$160 million Australian-first School Readiness Funding rolling out.

Member for Altona Jill Hennessy has announced 40 early childhood services offering funded kinder in 2021 in the Altona District will share in \$544,636 of early childhood School Readiness Funding.

The total funding allocated to each service is dependent on the number of children enrolled who face educational disadvantage.

Australian research shows that one in five Victorian children start school developmentally vulnerable and once behind, they tend to stay behind. This needs-based funding aims to reduce the impact of educational disadvantage on children's learning and development and improve outcomes in communication, wellbeing, and access and participation.

School readiness funding will allow Altona District kindergarten providers to tap into the expertise of speech and occupational therapists, language and literacy professionals and child psychologists, who can then boost the capability of both parents and teachers.

This is the first time the funding will be made available to all funded kindergartens in Victoria, with the program now a permanent feature of Victoria's early childhood education system.

### Quotes attributable to Member for Altona Jill Hennessy MP

"We are providing funding to kinders across the Altona District to ensure they can get the most out of kinder and start at school on track and on par with their peers."

"This needs-based funding will improve outcomes in communication, social and emotional wellbeing, access and participation for children in the Altona District."