

# Financial support to become a kinder teacher

If you're looking for a rewarding career helping children get the best start in life, there are lots of jobs with the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kinder

## The Victorian Government is introducing universal funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

This means Victorian kids will have access to two years of kinder before school, no matter what their family's income is. This reform will create more than 4,000 new kinder teacher and 2,000 new educator jobs across the state - and it's a profession that will always be needed.

Whether you're starting your study, upskilling as an educator, or changing careers there is financial support available to help you become a kinder teacher.

## Why work in early childhood education?

We're looking for enthusiastic, creative and caring people who are passionate about fostering the learning and development of young children through play.

If you enjoy helping others and don't want to work at a desk - you should consider a career in early childhood education.

## How do I become a kinder teacher?

You'll have to be degree-qualified in early childhood education.

The most common qualification pathway is an undergraduate early childhood qualification (for example, a Bachelor in Early Childhood Education). If you study full-time this usually takes four years to complete.

If you have prior university qualifications, a graduate diploma or Master's in early childhood education may be the best pathway for you. If you study full-time this usually takes between one to two years to complete.

If you have completed any vocational training in early childhood education and care, universities may recognise this as prior learning when you enrol. This may reduce the number of subjects you'll need to study and how long your degree will take to complete.

## What does a typical day look like?

Kinder teachers and educators help children unlock their imagination through play

Kinder teachers lead the planning and delivery of kinder programs and work with educators to support the education of young children

Children in their first five years learn at a faster rate than at any time during their lives and they learn most from their interactions with the people caring for them



They identify when a child needs more support or encouragement in a specific area, either because they are struggling or because they need new challenges

Kinder teachers enjoy flexible working hours in comparison to other roles in education, with full-and part-time options available in communities across the state

## Financial support to study early childhood teaching

Financial support is available while you study an early childhood teaching qualification.

Financial support can be used to pay for course fees, living costs while you study, or other costs associated with your education, such as the purchase of a laptop to assist with your studies.

You could be eligible to receive scholarships of up to:

- **\$25,000** towards an approved undergraduate qualification
- **\$12,000** towards an approved Graduate Diploma qualification
- **\$18,000** towards an approved Master's qualification.

## Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathway Scholarship

The Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathway Scholarship is available for Aboriginal people wanting to become kinder teachers, educators or to upskill.

You could be eligible for up to:

- **\$2,500** towards an approved early childhood Certificate III qualification
- **\$5,000** towards an approved early childhood Diploma qualification
- **\$34,000** towards an approved undergraduate qualification
- **\$16,000** towards an approved Graduate Diploma qualification
- **\$24,000** towards an approved Master's qualification.

These scholarships aren't available if you're studying through Free TAFE.

## How does the program work?

You can apply for financial support at any time. Payments are made to recipients according to study and employment milestones. For example, the first milestone payment requires proof of enrolment in an eligible course.

## Eligibility

Financial support is available to Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or holders of a permanent visa who meet the entry requirements for the course provider.

## How to apply

To apply, you need to provide evidence of enrolment in an early childhood qualification. Applications take less than 25 minutes to complete.

Visit [www.education.vic.gov.au/ecscholarships](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecscholarships) for more information and to apply.

## Other pathways available

You can also study a VET-qualification to become an educator, this usually takes between six to eighteen months if you study full-time. The Certificate III and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care are both available tuition-fee free through Free TAFE.

You can always upskill to become a kinder teacher by completing a degree and may qualify for recognised prior learning when you enrol. This may reduce the number of subjects you'll need to study and how long your degree will take to complete.

Visit [www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe](http://www.vic.gov.au/free-tafe) for more information.

## Hannah's journey

Hannah was inspired to study to become an early childhood teacher after working as an educator in a kinder. Before working in early childhood, Hannah ran her own café, but the early mornings were tiring. She considered a career change as she had always gravitated towards children.

She realised that pursuing further study would be the best way to grow her knowledge of how young minds learn.

*"After I finish my studies, I'd like to be a teacher that enriches children's learning, to have children know and feel that they are loved and supported, by assisting families and helping parents to create a solid foundation that will cement their child's future learning."*

Hannah received financial support from the Victorian Government. This helped with her tuition fees to study at Deakin University.

She says that the support has helped her to focus on her studies.

*"I worked while studying for my Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care and understand the level of commitment and hard work that is required."*

*"I believe this is my vocation and the work I am called to do."*

Hear from teachers about their experiences working in the early childhood sector by visiting the website: [www.vic.gov.au/make-difference-early-childhood-teaching](http://www.vic.gov.au/make-difference-early-childhood-teaching)