

Contact the Preschool Field Officers:

1300 358 333

[psfo@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:psfo@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

Informed consent is required from the parent/guardian before the PSFO program can provide supports in relation to individual children.

Referrals can be received from teachers, Maternal & Child Health Nurses, supporting Allied Health Service, Community Health, and Pediatricians etc.

Parents/Guardians who have concerns regarding their child's development are encouraged to discuss these first with their child's teacher.

*Funded by the Department of Education and Training, the Preschool Field Officer program is a free service.*



Education  
and Training

## Who is eligible for the service?

Victorian state funded kindergarten programs are eligible for preschool field officer (PSFO) services to support the access and participation of children with additional needs in their kindergarten program.

Children with additional needs may include:

- Children whose behaviours challenge us
- Children with social or emotional challenges
- Children with speech, language and/or communication challenges
- Children who may appear to have a delay in any area of their development
- Children with advanced abilities and skills
- Children with a diagnosis e.g. allergies, ADHD, diabetes, anxiety, depression
- Children who have English as an Additional Language (E.A.L.)
- Children from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker children
- Children currently living in Out of Home Care
- Children who are struggling to settle and engage with the program's routine and/or with peers and staff for reasons not yet known

*Please Note: Children who are already supported by an early childhood early intervention service such as NDIS should, in the first instance, seek inclusion support directly from their early intervention service provider.*

Preschool Field Officers provide support to

- kindergarten teachers and families to encourage the participation and inclusion of children with additional
- needs into three and four year old state funded kindergarten programs

*All children are individual and it is their differences that make them unique and special.*



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## What is the role of the PSFO?

The PSFO program works closely with the teacher to support children within the context of the kindergarten program.

Contact will be made with the teacher to discuss the referral.

Support to teachers may include:

- provision of information, programming support and resources to inform inclusive practice
- Consultation and assistance to assess a child's learning and development needs
- Increase teacher's confidence and capacity to respond to concerns regarding a child's development
- coaching and modelling of specific skills, suggestions and strategies
- identification of referral pathways to specialist and supporting services and facilitation of links to these services
- supporting funding applications

With parent/guardian consent, the PSFO can directly observe a child in the early childhood environment and contribute to the teachers assessment of the child's capabilities as well as their learning and development needs.



Yarra Ranges Council  
Preschool Field Officer  
Program (PSFO)



Yarra Ranges Council is a Child Safe Organisation

## Kindergarten & School readiness

The PSFO is available to offer support in relation to transition and readiness for kindergarten and school.

This may involve:

- support, advice and resourcing
- assistance with transition
- discussions and /or observations of a child's developmental needs

It is important to be aware that the Department of Education and Training (DET) funds each child for only one year of three year old and one year of four year kindergarten.

A child may be eligible for a second year of four year old kindergarten if they meet DET criteria—the child has a delay in two or more areas of their development (according to their birth age).

A second year application is applied for by the kindergarten teacher. The kindergarten teacher must apply for a second year and sign a declaration to verify eligibility.

Additional information and support regarding kindergarten and school readiness is available from the PSFO program.