

GOULBURN REGION PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME TO
TERM 4!



WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES!



GRPSA BACKGROUND

GRPSA has been educating children since 1988, with the goal of creating a safe, exciting, engaging environment for children, families and educators.

GRPSA provides Early Years Management services to rural and regional Early Childhood Services in the Goulburn Region. The Goulburn Region covers an area of approximately 1200km² in Victoria's north central corridor. The region runs from Yarrawonga in the North East, to Barmah in the North West, Colbinabbin in the South West, Avenel in the South and Euroa in the South East.



GRPSA is committed to excellence in early childhood to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children.

GRPSA has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to children's best interests, wellbeing and keeping them safe.

GRPSA actively strives to listen to and empower children in the organisation.

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- All members of the preschool community are expected to:
- Take an active role in encouraging learning and achievement
- Interact respectfully with others
- Understand and appreciate individual differences
- Be supportive of each other
- Resolve conflict in a polite, calm and non-physical manner
- Protect the rights and safety of children.



CHILD SAFETY

GRPSA is a child safe organisation that prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all children.

Our educators are thoroughly screened during the interview process and referees are asked specific reportable conduct questions relating to the applicant.

All staff have a current Employee Working with Children's Check or Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration and undergo a National Police Check and Prohibited Persons Register check prior to beginning a role with us.

All educators complete regular staff training to safeguard child safety, which include Mandatory Reporting, Child Safe Standards, Safe Sleep training, First Aid, OHS and Food Safety training.

GRPSA abide by the Commission of Children and Young People (CCYP) – Reportable Conduct Scheme and regularly review relevant policies, procedures and regulatory requirements.

GRPSA have a clear complaints procedure and take all complaints with compassion, understanding and legitimacy.

All families are encouraged to access our Child Safety Document via our website: www.grpsa.com.au

NATIONAL MODEL CODE

GRPSA has adopted the National Model Code from August 2025. This prohibits any person from being in possession of their personal device whilst actively working with children.

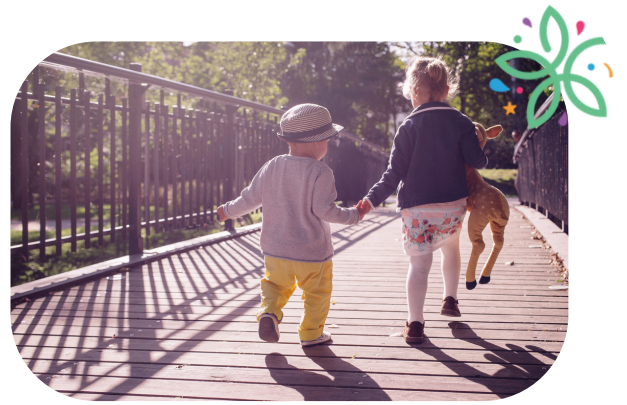


All services have been allocated service issued devices that allow for the safe use of ICT within our services in relation to photographs, privacy, and confidentiality.

GRPSAs safe use of ICT policy outlines the responsibilities of the Approved Provider, Educators and families.

This policy outlines respecting the rights of all families and children accessing our services including when taking photos, videos or audio, that they are only of their own child/children and not distributing photos other than of their own children that have been accessed via online learning platforms (Xplor).

Families are strongly encouraged to become familiar with this policy via our website: www.grpsa.com.au



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS



As part of the Victorian Government's ongoing commitment and action to ensure child safety, there have been some law changes to the Working with Children Check (WWCC) scheme.

These updates affect all WWCC clearance card holders who work or volunteer with children if there are adverse regulatory or disciplinary findings against them, as well as individuals with criminal charges and convictions.

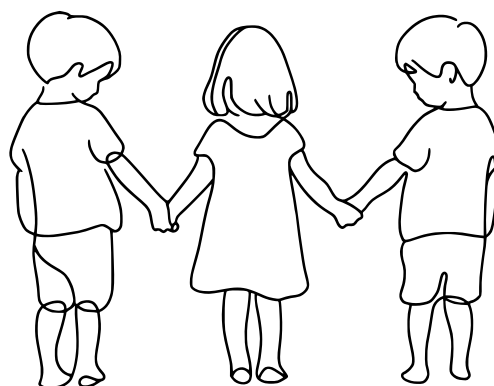
Early childhood services have a legal duty to ensure that their workers and volunteers have a valid WWCC or are a registered teacher with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT). It is therefore critical that services continue to keep themselves informed about any changes to the WWCC scheme to ensure they remain compliant with the law.

About the updates

The following changes have been made to the WWCC scheme:

- Suspension powers — the Worker Screening Unit, which administers the WWCC scheme, will now immediately suspend a person's WWCC clearance if the person is placed on interim exclusion from working with children. Suspended individuals cannot work or volunteer with children until their re-assessment is finalised and a decision is made.
- When a person is suspended, the Worker Screening Unit will notify the individual who holds the clearance and the organisation or employer on record that the holder works or volunteers with. The Worker Screening Unit will also notify the relevant regulatory bodies and agencies as required.
- Interstate bans — anyone excluded from working with children interstate will face an automatic exclusion in Victoria.
- Cancelled WWCC — clearances will be cancelled if applicants provide false or misleading information to obtain it, or if the individual is prohibited from applying for a clearance.
- More time to lay charges — the time limit for charging someone who uses false information to get a WWCC clearance has increased from 12 months to 5 years and 6 months.

To find out more, visit this link: [Click here](#)



COMPLAINTS PROCESS

We understand that from time to time a person may be unhappy with a service that we have provided, and they have a right to have their complaint heard. We will handle all complaints with respect for the rights of the individual and without bias.

A complaint can be defined as a person's expression of dissatisfaction with their engagement with any aspect of our service.

Our Complaint Policy can be found on our website, via the QR code, or as a hard copy in the folder onsite at the service.



Understanding and resolving complaints provides an opportunity to improve our service delivery across all areas of our business.

Making a complaint

Any person wishing to make a complaint should follow the following processes as required.

Resolving the complaint at the service

If possible, families and relevant staff members should try to resolve the complaint through discussion at the time it is made. If a separate meeting is required as part of the process, that should be arranged by the staff members involved.

Families and staff members should be aware that discussions in a public area of the service may not be in the best interests of children and may breach a person's privacy. Meetings should be held in a private space.

Escalating the complaint to GRPSA

If the matter cannot be resolved by the family and staff members involved, the matter should be raised directly with GRPSA.

We ask that you discuss the nature of the complaint with GRPSA. This can be done via email to admin@grpsa.com.au and/or by phone: **58262780**.

Complaints will be responded to within 3 – 5 working days. A complaint can be raised by telephone or via email.

Escalating the complaint further

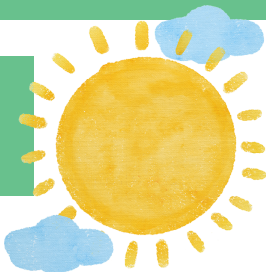
If the matter is not resolved or is of a more serious nature, the matter should be raised directly with the GRPSA CEO via email to ronni@grpsa.com.au

Making a complaint to the Regulatory Authority

Anyone can raise a complaint directly to the Regulatory Authority by phone or email. An Authorised Officer from the local regional office will assess the complaint and take further action. To contact the **Quality Assessment and Regulation Division (QARD)**, call **1300 307 415**.

Conduct

When dealing with complaints, service staff, families, GRPSA Admin/Management will abide by the GRPSA Code of Conduct by seeking to resolve conflict in a polite, calm and non-physical manner, interacting respectfully with others.



Ultraviolet (UV) radiation damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Skin cancer is one of the most preventable cancers.

Children and adolescents are in school or in care when daily ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels are at their peak, meaning schools and services are uniquely placed to educate about sun protection behaviour, minimise UVR exposure and ultimately reduce the future risk of skin cancer.

Overexposure to UV during adulthood also increases the risk of skin cancer. It is important that all teachers and staff are aware of their own occupational UV exposure and protect themselves by using a combination of sun protection measures (hats, covering clothing, sunscreen, shade and sunglasses) when UV levels reach 3 and above.

Children are to wear appropriate sun protective hats, cool loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible for sun protection and sunscreen when attending the service.

Parents are asked to apply sunscreen prior to attending the service. If your child requires special sunscreen, please provide some and advise the staff of requirements. It must be SPF30+ and clearly labelled with a pharmacy label.

GRPSA's Sun Protection Policy is located here: [Sun Protection Policy](#)



CONGRATULATIONS



GRPSA are excited to share that **Nathalia and District Preschool** are a finalist in the Victorian Early Years Awards. The awards celebrate the remarkable work that early childhood professionals do every day to improve learning outcomes of children across Victoria.

The team at Nathalia have been recognised for their Road Safety and Bike Riding Program. This falls under Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing category.

This award recognises one or more early childhood services and/or organisations that are taking action to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for young children. For more information and all about the other finalists, before winners are announced 6 November 2025. [Finalists for 2025 VEYA | vic.gov.au](#)

We would also like to acknowledge **Narelle Herring**, the ECT at Tungamah Preschool who was nominated for Early Childhood Teacher of the Year. Well done, Narelle!



GRPSA IS GROWING!

New Kinders

GRPSA is excited to formally announce that we were chosen as the successful applicant as the approved provider to three new Kinders on School Sites:

Opening in 2026

- 1) Yarrawonga P-12 Kinder (Interim Name)
- 2) Nagambie Primary Kinder (Interim Name)

The timetable for the kinders opening in 2026 is located here: [2026 Timetable](#)

Opening in 2027

- 3) Kialla West Primary Kinder (Interim Name)

Keep up to date on the progress here: [Kialla West Primary Kinder Progress](#)

Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook for job advertisements.



SNAPS FROM AROUND THE SERVICES



Some happy snaps from our Services events throughout Term 3 and 4



Term 4 Set up at Avenel



Strathmerton children enjoying Dutch Thunder Wildlife incursions



Incursion from Museum Victoria at Euroa Kinder



Yarrawonga Bush Kinder!



Foster a Native session at Katamatite Kinder



Book week adventure to Mooroopna for the Undera Kinder children



Nature Learning - Punt Road Kinder

FACILITY UPGRADES



Many of our upgrades are continuing and some are starting soon! At GRPSA, we believe that every child deserves to learn in a welcoming and inclusive environment that inspires and challenges them to engage in learning.

GRPSA recently organised building and playground audits of our services and we are working towards ensuring any issues are rectified.

Planning Phase:

- Murchison and Euroa Renovation of outdoor area
- Fencing for Punt Road outdoor space
- Double gate entrance for Euroa

Works in Progress:

- New shade sails for Nagambie and Barmah

Works Completed:

- Mulch top up at services where it was required
- Landscaping at Colbinabbin (Thank you to the Colbinabbin Parent Committee for organising this entire project and for the funds provided!)



Child Care Subsidy (CCS)/ 3 DAY GUARANTEE



The Australian Government is replacing the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Activity Test from January 2026 to guarantee at least 3 days of subsidised early childhood education and care (ECEC) each week for children who need it.

Why is this important?

The 3 Day Guarantee will support universal access to ECEC and help ensure more children are school-ready. It will also provide targeted cost-of-living relief to families.

The Productivity Commission's final report, *A path to universal early childhood education and care* (released September 2024), was clear that the children and families most likely to benefit from ECEC are the least likely to attend.

Who will benefit?

The 3 Day Guarantee will benefit all families through certainty around eligibility for subsidised ECEC.

In its first full financial year the 3 Day Guarantee will benefit around 66,700 families, and more than 100,000 families will be eligible for additional hours of subsidised care.

Families earning over \$533,280 in 2024-25 are not eligible for subsidised care – consistent with current settings.

For more information, visit this website:
[CCS 3 Day Guarantee](#)



**Services
Australia**

SURVEY



2025 Kindergarten Parent Opinion Survey

The annual Kindergarten Parent Opinion Survey will open on Monday 13 October and close on Friday 7 November. The survey provides an opportunity to hear from parents about their experience with their child's funded kindergarten program. In 2025 the survey will be conducted by the Social Research Centre (SRC)

Service providers will receive an email an email from SRC with details about the survey, including promotional materials and a survey link to share with families.

Further information about the survey is available on the department website: [here](#)



**What do you think
about your child's
kindergarten program?**

Tell us now at srcentre.com.au/parentsurvey or scan the QR code below

The Department of Education invites you to complete a short survey about your child's kindergarten program. It's your chance to tell us what's going well in your kindergarten, as well as any areas for improvement.

The survey is anonymous and will help your service to provide the best possible kindergarten experience for children and families.

The survey is open until **Friday 7 November 2025**.

If you have any questions please call **1800 023 040** or email parentsurvey@srcentre.com.au.



ENROLMENTS

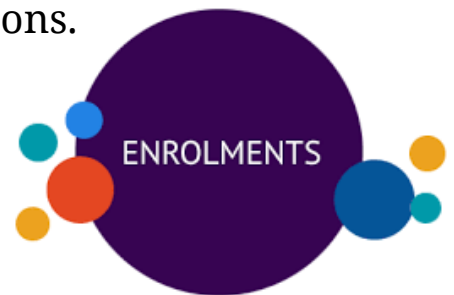


All families who have applied for Kinder 2026 should have received an email from GRPSA. Please contact admin@grpsa.com.au if you haven't heard from us. Funded kinder forms have been sent out this week. We require those completed in order to obtain funding.

You will also find a timetable for 2026 on the website at www.grpsa.com.au and here: [GRPSA 2026 Timetable](#). Please note that the start and end dates for 2026 will be added later in the year.

Start Dates for 2026 will be circulated by the end of this year.

Several Kinder/Pre-Prep groups for 2026 are full or are close to. Please contact admin@grpsa.com.au with any questions.



GRPSA POLICY REVIEWS

Families are invited and welcome to review policies when they are up for review if they have a keen interest in a particular area. Families can request a digital copy of the policy/policies they wish to review. Policies will be sent via XPLOR and email.

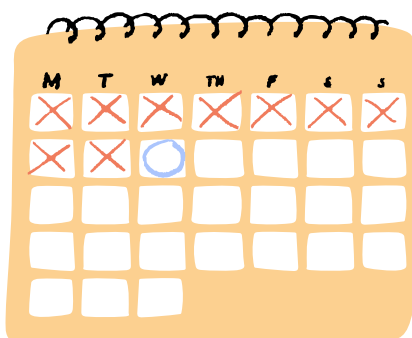
KEY DATES

Start of Term 4 - 6th October 2025

End of Term 4 - 19th December 2025

(depending on each service)

4th November - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday



**Keep in touch &
up to date with us**

WWW.GRPSA.COM.AU

ADMIN@GRPSA.COM.AU

 @GOULBURN REGION PRESCHOOL

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