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Early Years Network Plan: Evidence and Analysis Report

Supporting document to the *Glen Eira City Council Community Infrastructure Plan 2026–2030*

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Purpose of this report

This report provides detailed evidence and analysis about facilities supporting kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health, playgroups, toy libraries and occasional care in Glen Eira.

It informed the early years directions and recommendations contained in the **Glen Eira Community Infrastructure Plan 2026–2030**. It also provides a standalone evidence base for future service planning, feasibility studies, funding applications, advocacy and infrastructure decisions.

This report does not approve projects, commit funding or determine future service, property or facility outcomes. The Community Infrastructure Plan is Council's primary strategic document and contains Council's adopted directions, priorities and actions.

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Executive summary

The **Early Years Network Plan: Evidence and Analysis Report** provides Glen Eira City Council's detailed planning approach for facilities supporting:

- kindergarten;
- Maternal and Child Health;
- occasional care;
- playgroups; and
- toy libraries.

The Network Plan informed the early years directions and recommendations in the **Glen Eira Community Infrastructure Plan 2026–2030**. It provides the detailed service, facility and demand analysis supporting those directions and recommendations.

The Network Plan also functions as a standalone document that may be used to support early years service planning, government advocacy, external funding applications, partnerships and future feasibility work. It considers immediate priorities within a ten-year planning horizon, recognising that demand, government policy, funding, service models and Council's capacity may change over time.

Demand is increasing for infrastructure which supports early years services and activities, particularly for kindergarten and MCH services. This is largely driven by rapid changes in State Government policies and priorities and population growth and change, but it is also impacted by community preferences, workforce challenges and the involvement of the private sector. At the same time, many Council owned early years facilities are single purpose or standalone, have constrained functionality and do not support contemporary quality service delivery.

Consistent with the strategic directions of the Community Infrastructure Plan, a co-ordinated approach to planning and delivering facilities for early years services and activities is essential to achieving more effective and sustainable outcomes for both the community and Council.

Key messages

Council has an important and substantial role in providing facilities which support long term health and wellbeing outcomes for children and their families

Between 1,000 and 1,100 3 and children access 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten in Glen Eira through a Council building (close to 40% of children accessing 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten), MCH services will support up to 1,500 new births in 2026, and many families and children access occasional care, playgroups and toy libraries every day throughout Glen Eira. There is clear evidence that having access to these services and activities is critical to the long-term health and wellbeing outcomes for children and their families.

Demand for early years services and facilities is driven by multiple factors

State Government policy changes are driving a substantial increase in demand for **kindergarten**. The combined effort of Council, the Victorian State Government, private schools, faith-based organisations and long daycare providers is needed to ensure children do not miss out on kindergarten in the future.

Council's role is centred on supporting access to free sessional kindergarten through operating a kindergarten central registration system and as a facility owner. **Note:** It is important to understand while demand is high for free sessional kindergarten, Council cannot meet all current and future demand for this service. As noted above, meeting kindergarten demand will require the combined effort of different organisations and service providers.

Population growth will drive increased demand for **MCH** services. This combined with the condition and functionality of existing infrastructure and workforce challenges means more consulting rooms, programming spaces, and administrative / meeting spaces will be needed to respond to current and future demand. The co-location and integration of MCH services with complementary services and activities will also be key to delivering high-quality contemporary service models.

In contrast to Kindergarten and MCH, while population growth may increase demand for **playgroups and toy libraries**, existing services and facilities can absorb this increase. Playgroups operate from a range of Council and non-Council facilities with capacity to absorb increased use. For toy libraries, service model changes will increase their ability to respond to growing demand and the co-location of the service with complementary services and activities may help to increase the accessibility of the services for the community.

Demand for **occasional care** services has been stable and is unlikely to increase in Glen Eira due to the changing needs of families (e.g. both parents working), the increased availability of long daycare and kindergarten.

Council's future role in providing or enabling facilities for early years services and activities must balance multiple factors

- Responding to evidence-based community needs.
- Addressing the condition and functionality of facilities and its ability to support contemporary, high-quality services.
- Understanding the opportunities to provide additional or different infrastructure on existing Council owned sites, including consolidating infrastructure to support the co-location and integration of services and improve the accessibility of services.
- Minimising or managing risk to Council and the community.
- Council's competing priorities and financial sustainability goals.

Recommendations

Recommendations are grouped into three categories:

1. **Network wide strategic directions** about Council's future role in providing facilities to support early years services and activities.
2. **Short term capital investment recommendations**, identifying where investment is proposed to support Council to deliver on its preferred strategic direction for the Early Years network in the short term.
3. **Operational or service related actions** which can be progressed through service planning, existing programs or operational budgets.

A summary of the recommendations is provided on the following pages with the fuller version outlined in section 6 of this Plan.

1. Network wide strategic directions

Kindergarten	Expand facilities to retain 37.1% of children accessing sessional kindergarten through Council owned buildings.
	Advocate to the Victorian State Government about increasing the availability of kindergarten on school sites in Glen Eira and about partnering with developers to include kindergarten as part of new residential developments.
	Advocate to and partner with the Victorian State Government to secure funding to implement Council's preferred strategic direction for kindergarten.
Maternal and Child Health	Address the condition and functionality of existing facilities and increase the capacity of facilities to more effectively support the community and deliver a more sustainable service model.
	Implement a network model for MCH services and facilities.
Playgroups, toy libraries and occasional care	Pursue opportunities to co-locate with complementary services and for services and activities to operate from multi-use spaces with supporting infrastructure.

2. Short term capital investment recommendations

Kindergarten	Repurpose or undertake minor expansion of existing facilities to increase their licensed capacity. • Carnegie ELC (repurpose) • Bentleigh West Kindergarten (expansion from 25 – 33 places).
	Expand existing kindergarten facilities to provide additional program rooms: • Brady Road Kindergarten.
Maternal and Child Health	Address the short-term need for MCH facilities in Caulfield and Elsternwick. • Refurbish the existing Caulfield MCH facilities (former Caulfield Early Learning Centre) to provide fit for purpose facilities and establish it as a large scale MCH site. • Lease and fit out a commercial premises for MCH service in Elsternwick, securing a medium to long term lease to allow the service to operate from the site until the Elsternwick Community Hub is developed.
Playgroups	Provide large scale multipurpose space as part of large scale MCH facilities: • Provide multipurpose programming space as part of refurbished and upgraded MCH facilities in Caulfield.

3. Operational and service actions

Kindergarten	Maximise places for kindergarten in Council owned facilities: • Review and update the service agreement Council has with kindergarten service providers.
	Undertake further planning to confirm the pipeline of capital works initiatives for kindergarten and lay the groundwork to secure capital funding. • Seek a Building Blocks Planning Grant from the Victorian State Government to support more detailed planning to confirm priorities for implementation and provide a pathway for Building Blocks Partnership funding.
Maternal and Child Health	Maximise use of MCH facilities: • Pursue opportunities for MCH facilities to be used for complementary activities and services when they are not being used for MCH services e.g. consulting rooms supporting allied health services.
Toy Libraries	Work in partnership with Toy Libraries to increase their accessibility to the community: • Engage with Carnegie and Moorabbin Area Toy Libraries to identify how the accessibility and visibility of the services can be improved for families.
General	Proactively engage with stakeholder organisations where infrastructure changes are being considered which affect their service or activity and the communities they support.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The context for the Early Years Network Plan

The **Early Years Network Plan: Evidence and Analysis Report** provides Glen Eira City Council's detailed planning approach for facilities supporting early years services and activities.

The Network Plan informed the early years directions and recommendations in the **Glen Eira Community Infrastructure Plan 2026–2030**.

The two documents have connected but different roles:

- the **Community Infrastructure Plan** provides Council's municipality-wide vision, principles, facility roles, investment approach and consolidated recommendations; and
- the **Early Years Network Plan** provides the detailed early years evidence, demand analysis, network directions, recommendations and longer-term opportunities.

The Early Years Network Plan can be read and used as a standalone document for:

- early years service and infrastructure planning;
- government advocacy;
- external funding applications;
- partnership discussions;
- feasibility studies and business cases; and
- future reviews of Council's early years facility network.

The Network Plan focuses on facilities supporting:

- kindergarten;
- Maternal and Child Health;
- occasional care;
- playgroups; and
- toy libraries.

Early years services operate within a complex system involving Council, the Victorian Government, schools, Early Years Managers, community organisations, faith-based organisations, not-for-profit organisations and private providers.

Planning for the network is influenced by:

- government policy and funding;
- population and housing change;
- family needs and service preferences;
- provider and workforce capacity;
- the location, condition and functionality of existing facilities;
- opportunities for shared and integrated delivery; and
- Council's financial and delivery capacity.

The Network Plan identifies Council's preferred early years network direction, recommendations and potential future opportunities. It does not, by itself, approve funding or commit Council to deliver an individual project. Proposals remain subject to updated evidence, feasibility, engagement, funding, Council's investment assessment process, budget consideration and Council approval.

1.2 How early years services and activities are delivered in Glen Eira

Early years services and activities in Glen Eira are delivered by a range of different service providers and from sites owned by a combination of Council, State Government, schools or faith-based organisations and not for profit and for profit operators. This is especially relevant to kindergarten and long daycare services, with services delivered by:

- Early Years Managers e.g. Glen Education.
- Community based committees of management e.g. Ormond Community Kindergarten, Monash Caulfield Childcare.
- Private long daycare providers e.g. Guardian Childcare Caulfield North.
- Private Schools and faith-based organisations e.g. Wesley College, Adass Israel Preschool.

Table 1.2 below provides a summary of the long daycare and kindergarten providers in Glen Eira.

No. of community operated sessional kindergartens (Early Years Managers and community committees of management)	16
No. of private long daycare services	37
No. of independent school early learning centres	7
No. of community operated long daycare centres	8
Total no. of services who offer a funded kindergarten program	**68**

Table 1.2: Summary of kindergarten and long daycare providers in Glen Eira, May 2026

Glen Eira City Council is a significant provider of facilities and spaces supporting the delivery of kindergarten, MCH, playgroups, occasional care and toy libraries, and directly delivers MCH services, and some playgroup and occasional care services. While Council does not deliver kindergarten services, it is responsible for 12 facilities and sites where between 1,000 and 1,100 children access kindergarten. In addition, Council manages a Kindergarten Central Registration System (CRS) which includes all Council owned buildings and an additional 3 services on school sites.

Council also has a critical role as an advocate, planner and partner with others, to enable children and families to have access to early years services and infrastructure which supports them to be healthy and thrive over the course of their life.

Table 1.2 below provides a summary of Council's current role in the early years.

Provide infrastructure	Service delivery	Kindergarten Central Registration	Advocacy, Planner and Partner
11 sessional kindergarten sites **1** childcare / kindergarten site **6** MCH plus **1** leased building **5** playgroups sites **2** toy library sites **2** occasional care sites	**MCH** 1,300 - 1,500 birth notifications PA Key Ages and Stages visits Enhanced MCH New parent groups Specialist programs **Occasional care** Carnegie and GESAC **Playgroups** 6 run by Council, 5 in Council buildings	**1,400** children (approx.) – 50% of all children participating in kindergarten **1,000 – 1,100** in Council buildings 14 services 11 in Council buildings 3 on school sites	**Advocate** about the need for services and infrastructure to support children and families. **Plan and partner** with others to enable access to services and infrastructure for children and families.

Table 1.2. Summary of Glen Eira City Council's current role in the early years

Council's role reflects a combination of factors, and this frames Council's current service and infrastructure commitment to the community:

- **Historical involvement**. For example, Council and most local governments in Victoria have been involved in delivering MCH services and providing infrastructure to support MCH services for many decades. In addition, most of the kindergarten infrastructure on owned Council sites was built between 1950 and 1980 and has supported the delivery of kindergarten since this time.
- **Agreements between State and Local Government:** For example, *Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years (2017 – 2027)* is a Compact Agreement between State and Local Government (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria). The Compact is designed to strengthen collaboration between State and Local Government in the planning, development and provision of early years services and outlines the roles and responsibilities of State and Local Government in the planning, funding and delivery of early years services. A separate agreement is also in place about the partnership between the MAV and State Government in relation to the delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services. Historically, the cost of delivering MCH services was shared 50/50 by Local and State Government, but over time, the funding from State Government has not kept pace with the cost of delivering the service. Currently the funding split is 40% State Government and 60% Glen Eira City Council.
- **New State Government funding:** For example, in recent years the State Government has provided funding to support Council's to operate a Kindergarten Central Registration system and has increased funding to enable additional or expanded MCH services e.g. Supported Playgroups and Enhanced MCH services.
- **Responding to community needs:** For example, making infrastructure available to support the delivery of Toy Library services in Carnegie and East Bentleigh, and repurposing Murrumbeena ELC to support the delivery of kindergarten services.

1.3 The scope of the Network Plan

The Early Years Network Plan is designed to guide Council in future planning for the renewal and development of facilities to support the delivery of quality early years services and programs which are contemporary, responsive to the needs of children and families, and reflect Council's resourcing capacity and priorities. As noted previously, the Plan focuses on infrastructure owned, operated, or supported by Glen Eira City Council, and considers Council's current and future role in the early years space, and the impact of non-Council services and facilities in responding to community needs.

The Early Years Network Plan examines:

- Why investing in the early years is so important to children and families.
- The strategic and policy context for the provision and operation of early years infrastructure in the City of Glen Eira.
- The demographic profile of the Glen Eira community, particularly children and families.
- The early years infrastructure available in Glen Eira, its condition, functionality, accessibility, and location.
- Current and future demand for early years services and infrastructure in Glen Eira focused on kindergarten, MCH, playgroups, occasional care and toy libraries.

The Plan considers the current and future early years' service and infrastructure needs across the 12 suburbs in Glen Eira. For kindergarten, the planning areas are based on the SA2 Census catchments used by the State Government to assess demand for kindergarten services and infrastructure.

The Network Plan identifies:

- network-wide strategic directions about Council's role in early years facilities;
- short-term capital planning and investment priorities;
- operational and service actions; and
- potential medium and long-term infrastructure opportunities.

These provide more detailed early years guidance than the consolidated Community Infrastructure Plan and may be used to support service planning, advocacy, funding and future project development.

The recommendations align with the Community Infrastructure Plan. Individual capital proposals remain subject to further planning, feasibility, funding, Council's investment assessment process and Council approval.

2.0 Why investing in the early years is important

2.1 The evidence

There is overwhelming evidence that having universally accessible and effective services and support for young children and their families, improves long-term health and wellbeing outcome for them and the wider community. The investment Federal, State and Local Governments make in the early years through programs and initiatives such as the National Quality Framework and Standards for Early Childhood Education, Maternal Child Health Services, Kindergarten, playgroups, occasional care and toy libraries, is underpinned by this research.

A child's first five years of life is the most important time for laying the foundations for all future health, wellbeing, and learning. Brains are built over time. Simple neural connections form first, followed by more complex circuits. The connections which form early provide either a strong or weak foundation for the connections which form later. While we are all shaped through a complex interaction between our genes and the environment in which we are raised, the early life experiences of a child shape the architecture of their brain, providing the foundation for all future learning, behaviour and health.[1] The more adverse experiences in childhood, the greater the likelihood of developmental delays and later health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, substance abuse, and depression. [2]

Critical to brain development is the relationships a child has with parents, caregivers and extended family. Responsive, attentive relationships with a caring adult help to build a strong foundation for a child's brain architecture and for all future health and wellbeing. This combined with universally accessible early years services such as Maternal and Child Health, Playgroups and Kindergarten are key to positive long-term health and wellbeing outcomes for all children and are particularly critical in preventing or minimising the impact of adversity in a child's life. In addition, economic modelling shows that the cost of investing in the early and middle years of a child's life, provides significant long-term savings and benefits such as higher levels of educational attainment, increased employment options, reduced crime, and improved health outcomes.[3]

Maternal and Child Health services support families from the time their child is born until they start school. It is a vital service providing support and resources which help families to navigate the transition to parenthood and the early years of a child's life. Its key role is to identify developmental and health issues children and their families may be experiencing, and by working in partnership with families and the wider community and collaborating with other service providers help to ensure families and children receive the support they need.

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[1] Center on the Developing Child (2026), Key Concepts, Key Concepts in Early Childhood Development | Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University; Australian Government, Why Children and their early years matter: an evidence summary in support of the Early Years Strategy 2024 – 2034, Evidence Summary - Why Children and their Early Years Matter | Department of Social Services

[2] Center on the Developing Child (2026), Serve and return, Serve and Return: Back-and-forth exchanges and Toxic Strees Toxic Stress : What is toxic stress?

[3] Yoshikawa, H., Weiland, C., Brooks-Gunn, J., Burchinal, M., Espinosa, L., Gormley, W., Ludwig, J.O., Magnuson, K.A., Phillips, D.A., & Zaslow, M.J. (2013, August, September). Investing in our future: The evidence base for early childhood education. Society for Research in Child Development and Foundation for Child Development. Available: http://fcd-us.org/sites/default/files/Evidence%20Base%20on%20Preschool%20Education%20FINAL.pdf.

Kindergarten plays a crucial role in a child's development and in supporting long term health and wellbeing outcomes for children**.** Kindergarten offers a play-based learning environment which is shown to be a powerful way of supporting learning and development by encouraging creative thinking, developing social and emotional skills and supporting early literacy and language skills. This is important for all children, and even more so for children who are in vulnerable circumstances.[4]

Toy libraries offer a unique and sustainable approach to play and learning. They

- Support the learning and development of children;
- Are strengths-based, embedded in the community and reflect the needs of local families;
- Offer an accessible soft entry point for busy families juggling multiple commitments and those who don't engage with formal early years services;
- Offer a cost-effective way for families to access a wide range of toys, reducing the financial burden on families, especially those with children with disabilities or developmental concerns;
- Are volunteer based, support skill development and help build the confidence and capability of parents; and
- Reduce isolation by supporting families to connect with others in their community.[5]

Playgroups are an essential part of our communities, supporting social connections and learning for both children and adults.[6] For children, playgroups offer a place to develop their social skills, and learn to share and communicate, helping to build confidence and emotional resilience and empathy. For parents and caregivers, playgroups offer an opportunity to connect with others, share experiences and learn parenting techniques in a supportive environment. They can reduce parental isolation by creating a community of support which enhances the overall wellbeing of families.[7]

Occasional care services are designed to support parents and caregivers to have a short break from their caregiving responsibilities and to provide early learning and social experiences for children aged 0 – 6 years. The service provides a flexible way families can access childcare. As workforce participation by parents and caregivers has increased, the demand for occasional childcare has reduced with more families needing access to permanent childcare. Despite this, occasional care services continue to play an important role in supporting the wellbeing of children and their families. [8]

[4] Victorian State Government, Benefits of kinder, Benefits of kinder | vic.gov.au
[5] Think Impact, Valuing play: The social impact of toy libraries in Australia, 22 December 2025, Toy Libraries Australia dd62b8_84254daa3d214277b089ea4cf77c0430.pdf and Toy Libraries Australia, Toy Libraries: an original foundational support, Toy Libraries as Foundational Supports
[6] Focus Connect, the importance of playgroups in early childhood development and family support, The Role of Playgroups in Early Development and Family Support
[7] Department of education South Australia, The value of playgroups, The value of playgroups
[8] Australian Productivity Commission, Occasional care: A flexible childcare option for rural Australia

3.0 Strategic context

3.1 Policy context

All levels of government have a strong commitment to supporting children and families to thrive and this provides important context when planning for community infrastructure to support early years services and activities. The key policy directions and influences for the Early Years Network Plan include:

- **A fundamental commitment at Federal and State and Local level** to supporting children and their families to be safe and to thrive, through universal access to services and targeted support for children and families experiencing vulnerability.
- **A clear vision and commitment by the community and Council** to strengthening community wellbeing and inclusion and community resilience, and the importance of using evidence-based approaches to help achieve this.
- **Acknowledgement of how important it is to address Council's long term financial sustainability** and the range of factors impacting on its ability to deliver quality services and infrastructure into the future. Opportunities to deliver more innovative and efficient service models, to better utilise existing infrastructure, to consolidate and divest infrastructure where appropriate, and to partner with others are all a part of the mix.
- **The importance of finding a balance between net community benefit and financial sustainability** when planning for community services and facilities.
- **That environmental sustainability underpins all of Council's work and decisions.**

At a state level, policy initiatives for kindergarten and MCH are driving increased demand for these services and a need for more infrastructure, particularly for kindergarten. The initiatives include:

- **The roll out of the Best Start Best Life Reforms (2024 – 2036)** which includes making free kindergarten available for all children participating in 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten; 3-year-old children having access to 15 hours of funded kindergarten per week by 2029; and 4-year-old children having access to 30 hours a week of funded kindergarten (or pre-prep) by 2036.
- **Reforms to Maternal and Child Health** services including an increase in key ages and stages hours per child from 6.45 hours to 8 hours, increased investment in parenting supports, expansion of Enhanced Maternal and Child Health programs, additional resourcing to address the risk of family violence, expansion of the supported playgroup program, specific initiatives to support Koori families and children, additional support for children with a disability

Figure 3.1 provides a summary of the key plans and policies influencing the Early Years Network Plan, **Appendix A** provides more information about the planning and policy context.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Key policy influences</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Glen Eira Council</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">2040 Community Vision</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Council Plan 2025 - 2029
Incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Resource planning</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Asset Plan 2022 - 2032</td><td>Financial Plan 2025 - 2035</td><td>Financial Sustainability Strategy 2025 - 2029</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Strategic Plans</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Strategic Property Plan 2025 - 2030</td><td colspan="2">Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025 - 2029</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">State Government</td></tr>
<tr><td>Best Start Best Life reform 2024 – 2036</td><td>Supporting Children and Families in the early Years 2017 - 2027</td><td>Child Safe Standards 2022 and Reportable Conduct Scheme</td><td>Activity Centre Program and Housing Targets</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Federal Government</td></tr>
<tr><td>National Quality Framework</td><td colspan="2">National Principles for Child Safe Organisations</td><td>Productivity Commission
Inquiry into early childhood education and care</td></tr>
</table>

Figure 3.1: Key policy influence for the Glen Eira Early years Network Plan

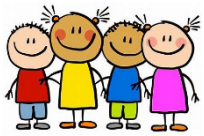
3.2 Community profile[9]

Located 10km from the CBD in south-east Melbourne, Glen Eira covers 39 square kilometres and includes the suburbs of Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Carnegie, Caulfield, Caulfield East, Caulfield North, Caulfield South, Elsternwick, Gardenvale, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Murrumbeena and Ormond, and parts of Brighton East and St Kilda East. The population is growing consistently, and this is projected to increase substantially due to the State Government Activity Centre and Housing Target initiatives, which propose an additional 66,000 dwelling in Glen Eira by 2051. This Plan relies on forecast information developed prior to the announcement of the Housing Targets initiative as updated forecast data is not yet available.

[9] Glen Eira City Council, Council Plan 2025 - 2029: gecc-council-plan-2025-2029.pdf;
.id community, Glen Eira Community profile and Population Forecast Home | City of Glen Eira | Community profile ; Glen Eira City Council, Birth Notification data; Victorian State Government, ECE Profile 2024, City of Glen Eira Kindergarten Central Registration data, 2024

Key features of the families and children in Glen Eira include:

- **A growing number of children aged 0 – 4 years** and consistent with this, a notable projected increase in the number of birth notifications by 2036.
- **An increasing number of children identified as being developmental vulnerable** in their first year of school. Between 2021 and 2024 the increase in developmental vulnerability was most significant in Carnegie and to a lesser extent in Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Caulfield North, and Caulfield South. Despite this, overall, the proportion of children identified as being developmentally vulnerable in Glen Eira remains notably lower than Victoria and wider Australia.
- **An increasing number of couple families with children.**
- **An increasing number of single parent families**.

	161,057 *Residents in 2024*	**181,976** *Residents projected in 2036*
	55,038 *Residents born overseas (37.5%)*	**Top places of birth** *China, India, United Kingdom, South Africa and Israel*
	**7,772** *Projected 0–4-year-olds in 2021*	**8,743** *Projected 0–4-year-olds in 2036*
	**1,376** *Birth notifications 2024/2025*	**2,002** *Projected birth notifications 2036*
	2,765 *Children participating in kindergarten in Glen Eira in 2024*	**1,081** *Children participating in kindergarten in a Council building in 2024*
	Increasing vulnerability *Amongst children in their first year of school*	***Low disadvantage* levels** *but this varies across communities*

More information about the profile of the Glen Eira community is provided in **Appendix B.**

Considerations for the Early Years Network Plan

While the demand and needs analysis later in this Plan will assess in more detail the expected impacts of the Glen Eira community profile, key considerations are:

- Increased demand for early years infrastructure, services and supports will occur across Glen Eira, with the largest increase expected to occur where the 0 – 4-year-old population is projected to grow the most i.e. in Elsternwick – Gardenvale, and Caulfield North – Caulfield East, followed by Bentleigh, Bentleigh East and Murrumbeena.
- Population growth will also drive increased demand for broader community infrastructure to support children and families such as parks, playgrounds, libraries etc.
- The importance of providing high quality, easy to access early years infrastructure, services and supports in communities where children and families may be experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage. Local areas where it is more likely children or families may need additional support include Glen Huntly, Carnegie, Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Caulfield North and South.
- Ensuring infrastructure and services support children and families of all abilities and from all backgrounds and experiences.

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4.0 Early years infrastructure

There are many sites supporting early years services and activities across the City of Glen Eira. Some are Council owned and some are owned by the State Government, private schools, faith-based organisations and not for profit and for profit operators. Table 4.1 below provides a high-level summary of the number of sites supporting early years' services and activities operating in Glen Eira.

Service or activity	Service / site	No. of Sites
Kindergarten	**Total sites offering funded kindergarten**	**68**
	Community operated sessional kindergartens	16
	Community operated long daycare	8
	Private long day care services	37
	Independent school early learning centres or long day care services (some offer sessional kindergarten)	7
Kindergarten in Council buildings	**Total sites owned by Council where kindergarten is delivered**	**12**
	Co-located with other community services (MCH)	2
	Standalone building in a community precinct (includes 1 community childcare service offering kindergarten)	6
	Standalone building and site	4
Maternal and Child Health	**Total MCH sites in Glen Eira**	**7**
	Standalone building and sites (3 in Council buildings, and 1 in a commercial building)	4
	Co-located with other community facilities	3
Occasional Care	**Total occasional care sites in Glen Eira**	**3**
	In a Council building (Carnegie and GESAC)	2
	Integrated with other community facilities	3
Playgroups	**Total sites where playgroups operate from**	**13**
	Council buildings where playgroups operate from – all operate from multiuse spaces	5
	Buildings owned by others	8
Toy Library	**Total sites where toy libraries operate from**	**2**
	Standalone building in a community precinct (Carnegie)	1
	Integrated with other community facilities	1

Table 4.1: Summary of early years services and sites, City of Glen Eira, May 2026

4.1 Council owned facilities supporting early years services and activities

Á range of Council owned facilities support the delivery of early years services and activities including kindergarten (12 sites), MCH (6 sites), occasional care (2 sites), playgroups (5 sites) and toy libraries (2 sites). In addition, Council leases a commercial building in Elsternwick to support the delivery of MCH services.

Some of the facilities are standalone and single use e.g. a number of kindergartens, while others support a mix of activities e.g. playgroups and occasional care or MCH and playgroups.

Figure 1 below shows where these sites are located.

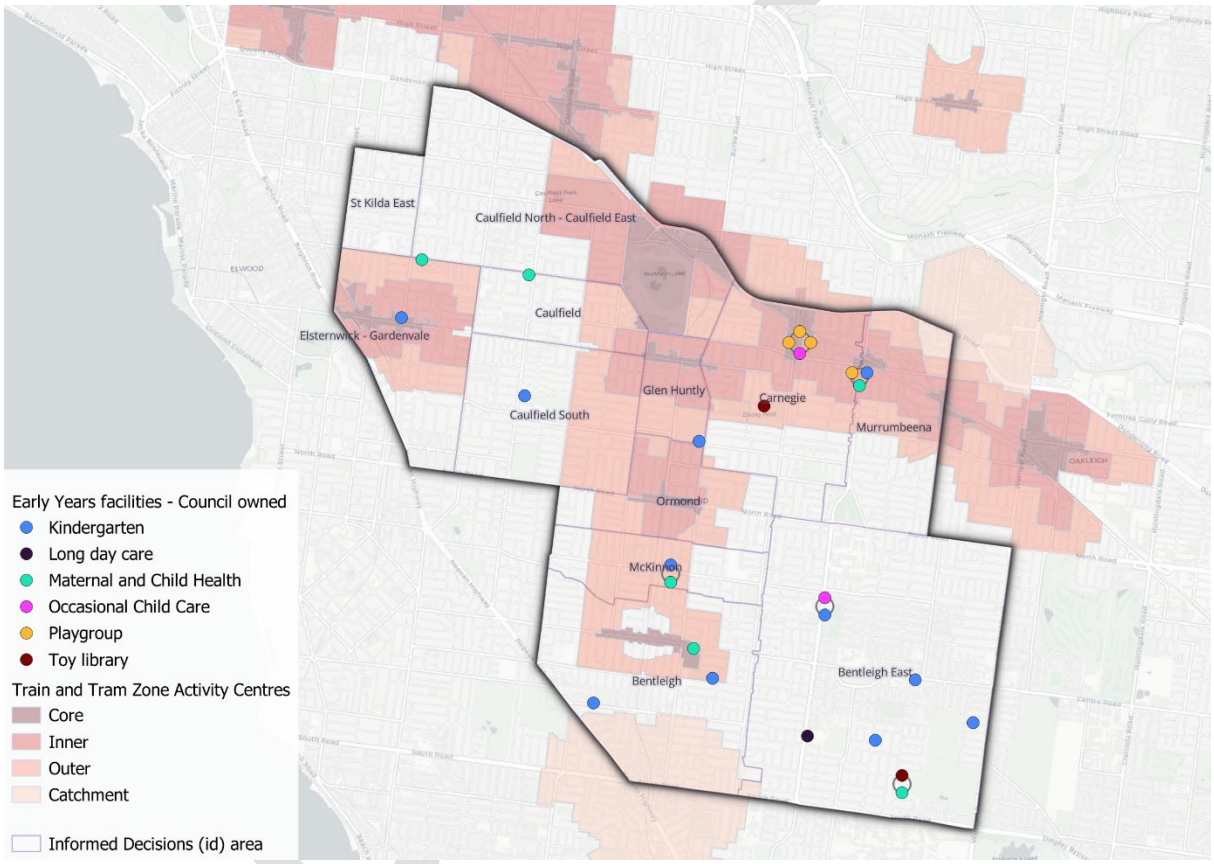


Figure 1: Council owned or managed early years sites in the City of Glen Eira, May 2026

Key features of Council owned or managed facilities are:

- There is a prevalence of standalone single room buildings. For kindergarten there are 10 standalone buildings, 4 located on standalone sites and 6 in community precincts but in separate buildings. There are also several standalone buildings for MCH services (4 of 7 sites), and 1 for toy libraries.
- Many of the buildings supporting early years services are aging and a number have constrained functionality. The oldest kindergarten / MCH facility was built in 1910 and the most recent in 1980. While all facilities have received upgrades or improvements, the age of buildings is an important consideration for the Network Plan. Functionality constraints are typically associated with MCH

facilities with several sites identified as having universal accessibility constraints (e.g. Caulfield), consulting rooms which are too small or lack natural light, not having access to programming space and limited administration space to support staff conducting outreach programs.

- A number of sites are very close to each other with key examples including Bentleigh and McKinnon MCH services (1.2km), Centre Road and Glover Street Kindergartens (1.2km), Bentleigh MCH and Bentleigh Kindergarten (850m), and Caulfield and Elsternwick MCH services (1.5km). This may provide opportunity for consolidation of sites, but the location and extent of community need is a key consideration, along with the structure of the MCH service and infrastructure network across the City of Glen Eira.
- Several of the kindergarten sites have capacity to accommodate additional infrastructure e.g. a second program room and/or MCH facilities. These opportunities will need to be considered alongside future community and service needs, and the suitability of the location for service expansion.
- There is a high concentration of kindergarten sites in southern Glen Eira (8 in total) and fewer in northern Glen Eira (4).
- The Elsternwick MCH is the only Council operated early years' service operating from a commercial building. The lease on this building will conclude in September 2027 and Council will need to find an alternate site for the service.

Table 4.2 below provides a summary of all Council facilities where early years services and activities are delivered from including high level information about the spaces, the condition, accessibility and functionality of the facilities, whether they are integrated or co-located with other infrastructure, and possible opportunities for expansion.

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Location	Infrastructure / Service	Program / Consulting Rooms	Licensed capacity	Land / Building Owner	Service Provider	Facility Condition, Accessibility, Functionality	Integrated / Co-located or Precinct	Expansion opportunities
Bentleigh	**Bentleigh MCH**	2 consulting rooms 1 community room	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Ageing but functional.	Standalone building in a community precinct.	No capacity for additional infrastructure.
	Bentleigh West Kindergarten	1 program room	25	Glen Eira City Council	Committee of Management	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition	Standalone building in a community precinct	Minor works could increase licensed capacity from 25 – 33.
	Bentleigh Kindergarten	1 program room	34	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition	Standalone building in a community precinct	Capacity for second program room and facilities to support MCH.
McKinnon	**McKinnon MCH**	2 consulting rooms	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Ageing building with functionality limitations.	Standalone building in a community precinct co-located with McKinnon Kindergarten.	The site has good capacity to accommodate expanded or consolidated infrastructure.
	McKinnon Kindergarten	2 program rooms	66	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition	Standalone building in a community precinct co-located with McKinnon MCH.	Capacity for a third program room.
Bentleigh East	**Moorleigh MCH**	3 consulting rooms	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Ageing and functionality could be improved.	Located in a shared community precinct (Moorleigh Community Village)	Ideally it would be good to have three MCH consulting rooms and programming space located together.
	Centre Road Kindergarten	1 program room	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition.	Standalone building.	Capacity for a second program room but main road location and lack of parking means it is unsuitable.
	Brady Road Kindergarten	1 program room	36	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition.	Standalone building.	Capacity for a second program room on the neighbouring Council owned block.
	Glover Street Kindergarten	1 program room	32	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition.	Standalone building.	Capacity for a second program room.
	Bentleigh East Kindergarten	1 program room	33	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition.	Standalone building in a broader community precinct (GESAC).	No capacity for expansion.
	GESAC Occasional Care	1 program room	30	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition	Room in GESAC.	No capacity for expansion.
	Moorabbin Area Toy Library	1 room	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Committee of Management	Ageing facility but fit for purpose.	Located in a shared community precinct (Moorleigh Community Village)	No capacity or need for expansion.
	East Bentleigh Childcare Centre (kinder & childcare)	4 program rooms	37	Glen Eira City Council	Committee of Management	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition	Standalone building in a community precinct	The site has capacity for expansion.

Location	Infrastructure / Service	Program / Consulting Rooms	Licensed capacity	Land / Building Owner	Service Provider	Facility Condition, Accessibility, Functionality	Integrated / Co-located or Precinct	Expansion opportunities
Ormond	**Ormond Community Kindergarten**	1 program room	33	Glen Eira City Council	Committee of Management	Ageing but fit for purpose.	Standalone building.	No capacity for expansion and retaining the site is important for meeting community needs.
Glen Huntly	**Glen Huntly MCH and playgroups**	3 consulting rooms 1 community room	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Ageing but functional.	Standalone building in the Glen Huntly Activity Centre.	Capacity for expanded infrastructure and a need for office space and potentially space for other services.
Carnegie	**Carnegie Early Learning Centre – not in use**	3 program rooms	Previously 35	Glen Eira City Council	N/A the service is closed	Ageing but functional.	Standalone building on the edge of the Carnegie Activity Centre.	Could accommodate kindergarten but changes to infrastructure will be needed.
	Carnegie Children's Multipurpose Room – occasional care and playgroups	1 program room	26	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Functional and fit for purpose.	Standalone building in a broader community precinct (Carnegie Library)	Council has a broader aspiration to establish a community hub in the precinct.
	Carnegie Toy Library	Unknown	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Committee of Management	Functional and fit for purpose.	Standalone building in a broader community precinct (Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool)	Capacity for expansion but relocation to another multi-use facility could be considered.
Murrumbeena	**Murrumbeena MCH**	2 consulting rooms 1 community room	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Ageing but functional.	Murrumbeena Family Centre including kindergarten close to the Murrumbeena Activity Centre.	Good capacity to expand, both at the ground floor level and by developing a multi-story facility.
	Murrumbeena Road Kindergarten	2 program rooms	66	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Ageing but fit for purpose with recent renovation works being completed.	Murrumbeena Family Centre including MCH and close to the Murrumbeena Activity Centre.	Good capacity to expand, both at the ground floor level and by developing a multi-story facility.
Caulfield South	**Caulfield South Kindergarten**	1 program room	30	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition.	Standalone building in a broader community precinct.	No opportunity for expansion, and flood inundation constraints.
Caulfield	**Caulfield MCH – formerly Caulfield ELC**	2 consulting rooms 2 community rooms	N/A	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Eira City Council	Ageing, in poor condition, poor disability access, asbestos etc.	Standalone building in a community precinct.	Building condition is so poor it needs to be demolished and replaced.
Elsternwick	**Elsternwick MCH**	2 consulting rooms 1 community room	N/A	Privately owned / commercial premises	Glen Eira City Council	Functional and fit for purpose.	Standalone building in a commercial precinct.	Lease will end in 18 months to 2 years. A new premises needs to be found.
	Orrong Road Kindergarten	2 program rooms	51	Glen Eira City Council	Glen Education	Fit for purpose and generally in good condition.	Standalone building in a broader community precinct.	Council has a broader aspiration to establish a community hub in the precinct.

Table 4.2: Summary of Council owned facilities supporting early years services and activities

4.2 Non-Council facilities supporting early years services and activities

Complementing Council's role are the multitude of facilities owned by schools, faith-based organisations and not for profit and for-profit operators. Figure 2 below shows where non-Council owned early years facilities and services are located.

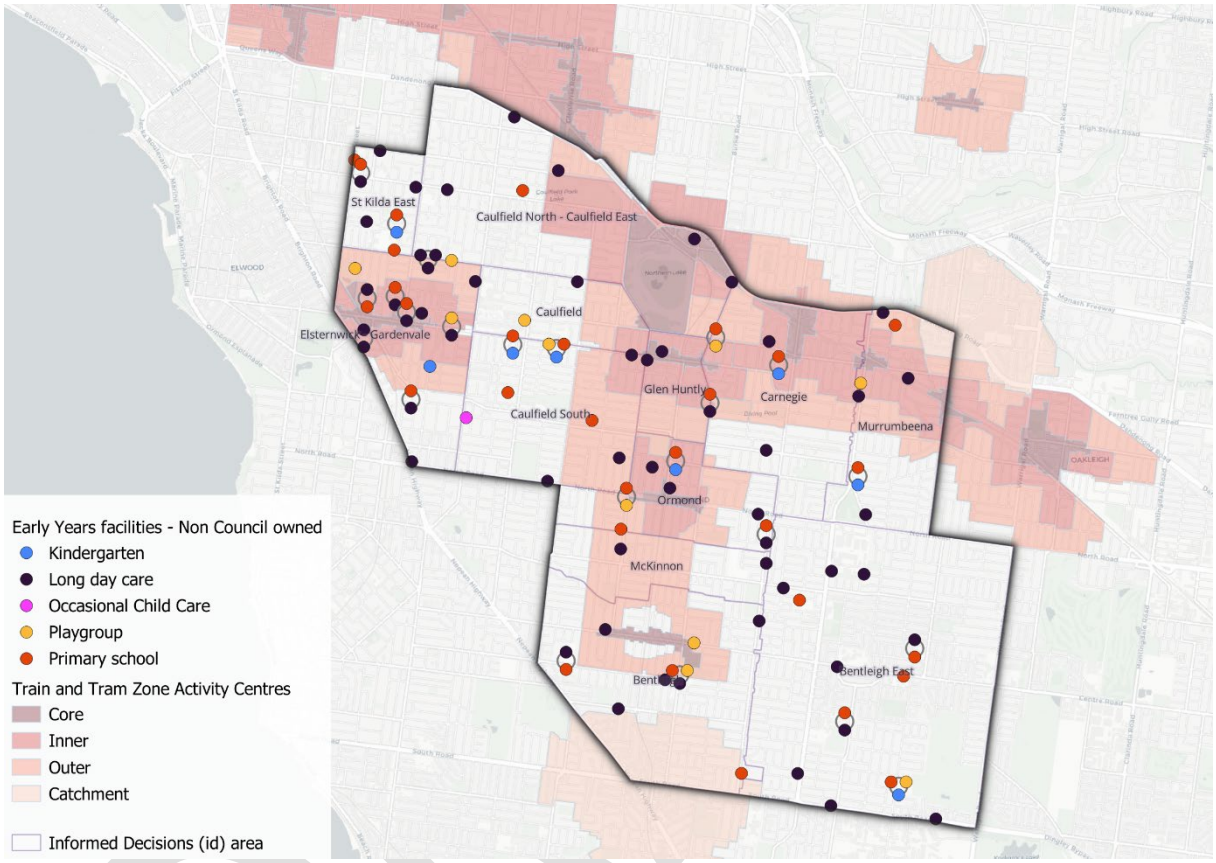


Figure 2: Non-Council owned or managed early years sites in the City of Glen Eira, May 2026

Key features of non-Council owned or managed facilities are:

- There is a significant concentration of long daycare services in Bentleigh East (10 sites) and Elsternwick (10 sites), and Caulfield (9 sites).
- A number of services particularly in Elsternwick, St Kilda East and Caulfield are operated by independent schools or faith-based organisations. As noted in the Glen Eira KISP (Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plan), Glen Eira is home to the largest Jewish community in Greater Melbourne and there is a concentration of faith-based education and care services in this area. While faith-based services are valued by families who share those beliefs, they may not align with the preferences and needs of all residents.
- There are no facilities or early years services operated or owned by Council in Caulfield North and St Kilda East. In these areas, families are reliant almost entirely on private long daycare services for kindergarten and access MCH services in Elsternwick or Caulfield. The lone sessional kindergarten program in the area is Ripponlea Kindergarten (kindergarten on a school site) which has only one program room and 24 licensed places.

5.0 Demand analysis

5.1 Scope of the analysis

This section draws together the findings from background research to examine the current and future need for kindergarten, MCH, playgroup and toy library services and infrastructure in Glen Eira.

A range of evidence and research informs the analysis including:

- The current and projected demographic profile of the Glen Eira community.
- Information from the Early Childhood Education (ECE) report issued annually by the Department of Education.
- The Glen Eira Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) prepared through a partnership between the Department of Education and Council.
- Data from Council's kindergarten central registration system including family preferences for accessing sessional kindergarten.
- Birth notification data.
- Modelling of service hours by location for MCH services and applying this to population projection data.
- The availability of playgroups, toy libraries and occasional care services in Glen Eira.

Key information to help understand the analysis

Kindergarten is typically delivered in one of two forms:

- ***Sessional kindergarten:*** This is where kindergarten services operate on set days and times and the service is usually closed during school holidays. A sessional program is typically delivered by Early Years Managers, a community-based committee of management, a private school or faith-based organisation.

  In Glen Eira, there are 11 services offering a community based sessional kindergarten program in a Council building, 5 from primary school sites and 4 a further from private schools.

- ***Kindergarten integrated with long daycare****:* This is where kindergarten is included as part of a long daycare program and families have access to a longer day of care, for more weeks of the year including school holidays. An integrated program is typically delivered by for not for profit and for profit childcare providers, private schools and faith-based organisations. In Glen Eira there are 52 services offering kindergarten integrated with childcare. There are also a handful of other long daycare services who offer childcare only.

Accessing free sessional kindergarten

Access to free sessional kindergarten through a service participating in the Glen Eira Kindergarten Central Registration System is typically restricted to residents of the City of Glen Eira and some families where parents or carers work in the municipality. Also, families in Glen Eira are typically not eligible or

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very low on the priority list for accessing free sessional kindergarten outside the City of Glen Eira. This means families who miss out on a place in free sessional kindergarten in Glen Eira, are very unlikely to be able to access a place outside Glen Eira.

State Government Housing Targets

The analysis does not address the impact of the Victorian State Government housing targets which propose an additional 65,000 dwellings in Glen Eira by 2051. The current population projections for Glen Eira do not account for this growth, and while the impact of this change will be significant, it is more likely to be felt beyond the life of this Plan i.e. 2036 onwards.

5.2 Summary of the analysis

Kindergarten: There is clear evidence of current and forecast unmet demand for kindergarten, particularly for sessional kindergarten. An additional 21 - 22 program rooms, each licensed for 33 places will be needed by 2036 to address the overall unmet demand. This will require the combined efforts of Local and State government, private schools, faith-based organisations, and not for profit and for provide long daycare providers.

Currently 37.1% of children access kindergarten from a Council facility. To maintain this level of provision, Council will need to provide an additional 7 - 8 program rooms out of the total 21 – 22 rooms required by 2036.

Maternal and Child Health: The demand for MCH services is projected to grow consistently and significantly over the next decade, requiring additional consulting rooms, multipurpose programming spaces, and administrative / meeting space. It is estimated that up to 6 additional consulting rooms will be needed by 2036.

Playgroups: Demand for playgroups is likely to grow as the population increases but playgroups operate from a mix of Council owned buildings and church and school halls, demonstrating Council does not need to be solely responsible for providing infrastructure for playgroups.

Toy Libraries: Demand for toy libraries is likely to grow as the population increases, but additional infrastructure will not be needed as the existing services have capacity to absorb additional demand.

Occasional Care: Demand for occasional care in Glen Eira has been stable in the last 2 years, and it is somewhat difficult to predict what will happen in the future. The GESAC service is likely to experience consistent or growing demand because it specifically supports activities occurring in the centre, whereas demand for the service in Carnegie may remain stable or reduce because of the changing needs of families and the availability of long daycare and kindergarten.

5.3 Kindergarten

There is clear evidence of unmet demand for kindergarten (see table 5.1 below), particularly for sessional kindergarten. This is driven by a combination of population growth, and the State Government Best Start Best Life reforms which include free 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten and transitioning from 15 to 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten by 2036.

- The move to 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten means the capacity of services will be significantly reduced. For example, currently a single program room licensed for 33 children and offering 15 hours of kindergarten for both 3- and 4-year-old children per week has the capacity to support 82 children. Once 30 hours per week is rolled out for 4-year-old kindergarten, the capacity will reduce to 41 children.
- Most sessional kindergartens in Glen Eira participate in the free kindergarten initiative which means families with children attending these services do not pay a fee. By comparison, if a child attends kindergarten through a long daycare service, the family continues to pay the childcare fee. This is a key factor influencing the demand for free sessional kindergarten which is much higher than the number of places available. In 2026, a total of 2,112 children applied to access free sessional kindergarten through Council's Kindergarten Central Registration System, and only 1,378 children received a place. While the children who missed out may have been able to access a place through long daycare or other services, there is a significant risk they will miss out in the future, if additional facilities are not provided.
- An estimated 37.1% of all children (1,000 – 1,100 children) participating in kindergarten in Glen Eira do so through a sessional program from a Council facility, highlighting how significant Council's footprint and impact is. Overall, 57% of 4-year-old children (800 children) and 47% of 3-year-old children (640 children) access sessional kindergarten in the City of Glen Eira. 2024 data.
- While there is an option to rely on the private sector to address the current and future unmet demand, this is very unlikely to provide additional sessional kindergarten services. Given the community's preference for sessional kindergarten and the importance of having a robust early education system which offers families a genuine choice about where, when and how their children can access kindergarten, there is a clear need to investigate opportunities for more infrastructure to support sessional kindergarten. The key question is what is Council's role in this? This will be explored in Section 6 of this Plan.

Further information about the demand for and supply of kindergarten can be found in **Appendix C.**

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KISP	2026	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Demand for kindergarten	3,129	3,635	3,687	3,740	4,253	4,774	5,653
Unmet demand	62	135	142	152	335	676	1,347
Where the rooms are needed	Carnegie Caulfield – South	Bentleigh – McKinnon Carnegie Caulfield – South	Bentleigh – McKinnon Carnegie Caulfield – South	Bentleigh – McKinnon Carnegie Caulfield – South	Bentleigh – McKinnon Carnegie Caulfield – South	Bentleigh – McKinnon Carnegie Caulfield – South Bentleigh East – North Caulfield – North	Bentleigh – McKinnon Carnegie Caulfield – South Bentleigh East – North Bentleigh East – South Caulfield – North
Total additional 33 place rooms needed	**1**	**2 – 3**	**2 – 3**	**2 – 3**	**5 – 6**	**10 - 11**	**21- 22**
Carnegie	1	1	1	1	1 – 2	2 – 3	4
Caulfield South	1	1	1	1	1 – 2	2 – 3	4
Bentleigh – McKinnon		1	1	1	2	2 – 3	5
Bentleigh East – North						1 – 2	4
Caulfield North						1	3 - 4
Bentleigh East - South							1

Table 5.1: Unmet demand for kindergarten Note: unmet demand is expressed as 15-hour places

5.4 Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

Demand for MCH services remained steady between 2023 and 2025 with 1,300 to 1,400 birth notifications per annum, but this is expected to grow to around 1,500 in 2025/2026. This increase is most notable for the MCH centres in Glen Huntly, Caulfield, Bentleigh, and McKinnon and creates longer and unacceptable wait times for appointments, particularly in Caulfield.

Population projections indicate that birth notifications will increase further over the next 10 years, with the most notable increases expected in the catchments supported by the Elsternwick, Caulfield and Murrumbeena MCH centres. Rising births will increase demand for all MCH programs including Key Ages and Stages visitations, new parent groups, breast feeding support services, parent education programs, Enhanced MCH, outreach programs e.g. sleep and settling, and supported playgroups. See **Appendix C** for more information about historical and forecast birth notifications.

The increasing demand for MCH services is being driven by:

- Population growth and change. For example, the residential development projected in Carnegie will drive increased demand for the Murrumbeena and Glen Huntly MCH centres as

these are the closest services to Carnegie. It also raises the question of whether an MCH service will be needed in Carnegie in the future.

- The high levels of vulnerability and developmental delays amongst children in Elsternwick and Glen Huntly, driving demand for Enhanced MCH and outreach services.
- State Government reforms which most recently included increasing the Key Ages and Stages visitations from 6.45 to 8 hours per child across 10 visits between birth and 5 years of age. This means longer consultations and fewer children / families are able to be seen at each Centre.
- The co-location of kindergarten services with the MCH in Murrumbeena. Staff have found demand is increasing for this service and they believe this is connected to the exposure and interest generated by kindergarten being co-located at the site.
- The make-up of the community in the surrounding area and the proximity to other MCH centres. For example, the McKinnon centre is the quietest centre, largely because the area has a popular high school which tends to attract families with older children to the area. It is also located only 1.2km from the Bentleigh MCH centre.
- Changes to key systems and processes. For example, the co-location of Murrumbeena Kindergarten with the MCH service will support MCH staff to undertake the 3–5-year-old key ages and stages visit in the kindergarten room while children attend kindergarten.

The rising demand for MCH services will drive an increase in the infrastructure needed to support MCH services and programs. Infrastructure needs will include:

- **More consulting rooms**: It is estimated the service needed between 17 - 19 consulting rooms in 2025, increasing to 18 -22 rooms by 2036. Currently the service has 17 consulting rooms including 3 with functionality constraints which limit how effectively they can be used. The number of rooms needed is expressed as a range because:
  - projecting spatial needs is impacted by a range of factors including family preferences about where they access services, and managing workforce availability, preferences and safety e.g. nearly all MCH staff work part time, and many prefer to work Tuesday to Thursday. With shortages in the availability of MCH staff, it is not always possible for the use of consulting rooms to be maximised 5 days a week.
  - of the proximity to other MCH centres and the need to consider a network approach e.g. if there is an extra consulting room at the Caulfield MCH centre then this may reduce or delay the need for an additional room at the Elsternwick MCH centre;
  - of the importance of having some flexibility in the service network to respond to unexpected circumstances e.g. flooding or maintenance issues, or an unexpected spike in birth notifications in a particular area.

  See table 5.2 for more information about the projected number of consulting rooms needed.
- **More multipurpose / activity space**: Currently, there are multipurpose spaces at 5 of the 7 MCH centres including Bentleigh, Caulfield, Murrumbeena, Elsternwick and Glen Huntly. Ideally, any facility where MCH operates from will have access to a multipurpose space for programming such as new parent groups. This means additional multipurpose spaces are needed, noting that the space can be shared and used for activities other than MCH programs.
- **Administrative space:** Currently 2 of the 7 MCH centres (Glen Huntly and Caulfield) offer separate space to support staff when undertaking administrative activities. The Glen Huntly

MCH Centre is used extensively as a base for outreach work which requires administrative work to be completed once staff return to the Centre. These staff do not need access to a consulting room but do need access to a quiet, private space to complete their work and protect the privacy of client information. There can be up to 8 staff a day in the Glen Huntly Centre, and the current space does not support this effectively. While administrative space may not be needed at each MCH centre, it would be beneficial to have space in key locations.

Like kindergarten, Council needs to consider what its role is in responding to the increased demand for MCH services and infrastructure. The key difference for MCH is that Council is currently directly responsible for the delivery of MCH services and therefore has different obligations to provide infrastructure which is fit for purpose and supports the delivery of quality MCH services and programs.

MCH Centre Consulting rooms needed	**Current provision of MCH consulting rooms**	**2025**		**2036**	
		Modelled rooms	**Practical application of rooms needed**	**Modelled rooms**	**Practical application of rooms needed**
Bentleigh	2	1.6 – 19.	2	1.8 – 2.1	2 – 3
Caulfield	3	2.2 – 2.5	3	2.4 – 2.8	4
Elsternwick	2	2.3 – 2.6	3	2.7 – 3.1	3– 4
Glen Huntly	3	2.5 – 2.9	3	2.7 – 3.0	3
McKinnon	2	1.3 – 1.5	2	1.4 – 1.6	2
Moorleigh	3	1.8 – 2.0	2– 3	1.9 – 2.2	2– 3
Murrumbeena	2	1.8 -2.1	2– 3	1.9 – 2.2	2 – 3
Total estimated rooms		**13.6 – 15.5**	**17 - 19**	**14.9 - 17**	**18 - 22**
Current consulting rooms	**16 in total but only 13 are fully functional / fit for purpose.**				

Table 5.2: Estimated consulting rooms needed to support the delivery of MCH services in Glen Eira in 2025 and 2036

More information about the modelling for projected MCH facilities can be found in **Appendix C.**

5.5 Playgroups

Overall, demand for playgroups is likely to increase as the population grows, but this will be impacted by changing family and community needs and interests. For example, during Covid-19 there was a significant decline in the number of community led playgroups across Victoria, and this has not returned to pre-Covid levels. In total there are 20 known playgroups operating in Glen Eira including:

- Six directly led by Council - Small Talk Supported Playgroups in Carnegie, Glen Huntly and Ripponlea, Lamm Jewish Playgroup in Caulfield, Mothergoose in Carnegie, and a Dad's playgroup in Glen Huntly
- Two playgroups led by a combination of Playgroup Victoria and Council
- Twelve community led playgroups.

See table 5.3 below for a list of playgroups and their location.

Of the 20 playgroups, 10 operate from church and school halls or other community spaces, and the remainder from Council multipurpose activity spaces including Carnegie Library and Community Centre, Carnegie Children's Multipurpose Room, Glen Huntly MCH Centre, and Moorleigh Community Village.

This demonstrates Council does not need to be solely responsible for providing infrastructure for playgroups, however, where new early years infrastructure is being developed, providing spaces which can support playgroups should be a key consideration including having both indoor and outdoor spaces which are connected, storage, and tea and coffee making facilities.

Location	Name	Where	Council building	Program delivery
Elsternwick	Elsternwick Toddlers Playgroup	St Johns Uniting Church	No	Community
Ripponlea	Ripponlea SmallTalk Playgroup	Ripponlea Estate	No	Council
Caulfield	Acorns Community Playgroup	Oaktree Anglican	No	Community
	Lamm Jewish Library Playgroup	Lamm Library	No	Council
Caulfield South	Melbourne Montessori Parent & Toddler playgroup	Melbourne Montessori College	No	Community
Carnegie	Mothergoose	Carnegie Library & Comm. Centre	Yes	Council l
	Australian Breast Feeding Association Chat and Play	Carnegie Children's Multipurpose Room	Yes	Community led
	Supported playgroup		Yes	Council
	Pop up playgroups		Yes	Council / Playgroup Vic
Glen Huntly	Glen Huntly Playgroup	Glen Huntly MCH Centre	Yes	Community
	Supported Playgroup	Glen Huntly MCH Centre	Yes	Council
	Dad's playgroup	Glen Huntly MCH Centre	Yes	Council
	St Anthony's Glen Huntly Playgroup	St Anthony's Glen Huntly	No	Community
Bentleigh	Bentleigh Playgroup	Uniting Church Hall	No	Community
Bentleigh East	Taraleigh Steiner Playgroup	Moorleigh Comm. Centre	Yes	Community
	Eastleigh Playgroup	Eastleigh Community Church	No	Community
Murrumbeena	Murrumbeena Playgroup Inc	Murrumbeena Uniting Church	No	Community
	Murrumbeena Playgroup	Murrumbeena Baptist Church	No	Community
	Pop up playgroup	Murrumbeena Family Centre	Yes	Council / Playgroup Vic.
	SEMBA Playgroup, Connect and Grow		Yes	Community

Table 5.3: Known playgroups in the City of Glen Eira, May 2026

5.6 Toy libraries

Overall, demand for Toy Libraries is likely to increase as the population grows, but this does not mean additional infrastructure will be needed. Currently there are two Toy Library Services in Glen Eira and both operate in Council owned buildings:

- Moorabbin Area Toy Library operates from Moorleigh Village 4 sessions per week. Session times are 2 – 3 hours. The Toy Library is located opposite the Moorleigh MCH centre.
- Carnegie Toy Library operates from a standalone community building in Koornang Park beside the Carnegie Memorial Swimming Pool, 3 sessions per week. Session times are 2 – 3 hours.

Both services operate from dedicated space, i.e. the space is not used by other groups or individuals because of the collection size which requires significant storage and display space.

Given the limited number and length of sessions, both services have good capacity to absorb additional demand by increasing the number of sessions offered. While it is important to note that the number and length of sessions reflect the volunteer nature of the service, there is no evidence to suggest additional infrastructure will be needed. However, Council could consider the potential relocation of Carnegie Toy Library to enable integrated co-location with key early years facilities and services e.g. within Glen Huntly MCH Centre or as part of the future community hub proposed in Carnegie. This would be subject to service planning, feasibility assessment, and community and stakeholder engagement prior to any decision being made.

5.7 Occasional care

Demand for the occasional care services operated by Council has been stable over the past 2 years (see table 5.4), but broadly demand for occasional care services has reduced over the last decade as the needs of families have changed (both parents working), the availability of long daycare has improved, and the Best Start Best Life reforms have made kindergarten more available and accessible for families.

Council operates two occasional care services, one in Carnegie and one in East Bentleigh as part of the Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC) (see Appendix D service details). The purpose and structure of the service at GESAC differs somewhat from the service in Carnegie. The GESAC service operates 5 days a week and has very short sessions which are designed to support parents and carers accessing health and fitness programs in the Centre. The Carnegie service has a more traditional model operating two mornings per week and broadly supporting families in Carnegie and surrounds.

In the future the GESAC service is likely to experience consistent or growing demand because it specifically supports activities occurring in the centre, whereas demand for the service in Carnegie may remain stable or reduce because of the changing needs of families and the availability of long daycare and kindergarten.

	2024			2025		
Location	**Capacity**	**Booked**	**Utilisation**	**Capacity**	**Booked**	**Utilisation**
Carnegie	1,239	722	58%	1,260	683	54%
GESAC	8,966	5,392	60%	8,364	5,606	67%

Table 5.4: Occasional Care services in the City of Glen Eira, 2024 and 2025 utilisation data

6.0 Recommendations

This section sets out the detailed directions and recommendations arising from the evidence and analysis in the Early Years Network Plan.

The recommendations informed, and align with, the early years recommendations in the **Community Infrastructure Plan 2026–2030**. They provide additional early years detail that may be used to guide service planning, advocacy, funding applications, partnership discussions and future project development.

Recommendations are grouped into:

- **network-wide strategic directions**, which establish Council's intended longer-term role and approach;
- **capital planning and investment priorities**, which identify matters requiring further planning, feasibility and potential funding; and
- **operational and service actions**, which may be progressed through service planning, partnerships, existing programs or operating budgets.

Inclusion of a recommendation does not mean that a capital project is funded or approved. Capital proposals remain subject to:

- updated evidence and service planning;
- assessment through the Community Infrastructure Plan investment process;
- feasibility and options assessment;
- stakeholder and community engagement;
- external funding;
- Council's annual budget; and
- Council approval.

6.1 Network wide strategic direction

These recommendations articulate the nature and extent of the role Council will have in providing facilities to support early years services and activities. They:

- Respond to current and future community needs for early years services and activities.
- Are consistent with the principles and framework of the Community Infrastructure Plan.
- Provide overarching guidance for Council when making decisions about investing in facilities to support early years services and activities.

Service / activity	Recommendation	Supporting information
Kindergarten	Expand facilities to retain 37.1% of children accessing sessional kindergarten through Council owned buildings.	Council will need to expand facilities on existing kindergarten sites and include kindergarten as part of community hubs. A total of 7 – 8 additional program rooms will be needed.

	Advocate to the Victorian State Government about increasing the availability of kindergarten on school sites in Glen Eira and about partnering with developers to include kindergarten as part of new residential developments	Advocacy to focus on both existing schools and any new schools developed in response to State Government housing targets. It may include advocating for additional land to support kindergarten on school sites, and it needs to be targeted where the unmet demand for kindergarten is highest and the opportunities to address it are lowest e.g. Caulfield.
	Advocate to and partner with the Victorian State Government to secure funding to implement Council's preferred strategic direction for kindergarten.	Advocacy and partnering will be centred on the Building Blocks Funding program with the aim of securing a funding pipeline for capital works and minimizing the cost to Council.
Service / activity	**Recommendation**	**Supporting information**
Maternal and Child Health	Address the condition and functionality of existing facilities and increase the capacity of facilities to more effectively support the community and deliver a more sustainable service model.	This includes co-locating MCH with complementary services, providing fit for purpose and more facilities which are well located to meet growing needs and support contemporary service models.
	Implement a network model for MCH services and facilities.	This means providing larger scale MCH facilities in Bentleigh, Caulfield and Glen Huntly and smaller scale MCH facilities in Elsternwick, Murrumbeena, Bentleigh East (Moorleigh) and Carnegie.
Playgroups, toy libraries and occasional care	Pursue opportunities to co-locate with complementary services and for services and activities to operate from multi-use spaces with supporting infrastructure.	Examples of supporting infrastructure include storage, kitchen / kitchenette facilities, accessible amenities, and connected outdoor spaces. This recommendation acknowledges Council has a role in providing facilities for these activities and services which are complemented by facilities owned and managed by others.

Additional information regarding the network model for MCH

The ***network model*** approach for MCH is based on the following:

- Larger / more facilities are provided in some locations to support higher birth notifications, programs, outreach services, administrative functions, and respond to overflow demand from

other MCH centres in Glen Eira. The proposed location for larger scale facilities are Bentleigh, Caulfield and Glen Huntly. This includes a minimum of 3 – 4 consulting rooms, large scale programming space, preferably with connected oudoor space, and administrative / meeting space to support outreach staff who use these sites as a base.

- The larger sites are complemented by sites with smaller / fewer facilities to meet localised needs and respond to population growth. The proposed locations for smaller scale facilities are Elsternwick, Murrumbeena, Bentleigh East (Moorleigh) and Carnegie (potential future site). This includes 2 - 3 consulting rooms and smaller scale programming space designed to support new parent groups.

The network model seeks to balance the need for MCH services being available in local catchments, with the location and suitability of existing sites where MCH services are delivered from, and reasonable and realistic investment by Council in community infrastructure.

6.2 Short term capital investment recommendations

These recommendations identify specific infrastructure initiatives which will enable Council to implement the network wide strategic directions to provide facilities for early years services and activities in the **short term (1 – 4 years)**.

The recommendations have been developed after examining a range of opportunities which have been assessed against the following impacts:

- Resourcing including external funding available and indicative cost impacts for Council.
- Community needs including population growth, demand for services and activities, and disadvantage and vulnerability in the community.
- Consistency with the principles from the Community Infrastructure Plan such as addressing evidence-based community needs, a preference for integrated and multipurpose facilities, partnering with others, existing infrastructure which is fit for purpose and well used.
- Risk to Council and the community.

The recommendations outlined do not commit Council to funding, timing or delivery. Each recommendation is subject to:

- More detailed planning and design work, including engagement with affected stakeholders.
- Assessment through Council's capital investment and budget process.
- Securing funding from the Victorian State Government for kindergarten projects.

Service / activity	Overarching recommendation	Supporting recommendation	Year
Kindergarten	Repurpose or undertake minor expansion of existing facilities to increase their licensed capacity.	Repurpose Carnegie ELC creating 2 program rooms with 44 licensed places.	1 - 2
		Expand Bentleigh West Kindergarten by 8 licensed places (from 25 to 33).	1 - 2
	Expand existing kindergarten facilities to provide additional program rooms.	Expand Brady Road Kindergarten onto 82 Brady Road (Council owned) to provide a second program room.	2 - 3
Maternal and Child Health	Address the short-term need for MCH facilities in Caulfield and Elsternwick.	Refurbish the existing Caulfield MCH facilities (former Caulfield Early Learning Centre) to provide fit for purpose facilities and establish it as a large scale MCH site.	1 - 2
		Lease and fit out a commercial premises for MCH service in Elsternwick, securing a medium to long term lease to allow the service to operate from the site until the Elsternwick Community Hub is developed.	1 - 2

Service / activity	Overarching recommendation	Supporting recommendation	Year
Playgroups	Provide large scale multipurpose space as part of large scale MCH facilities	Provide multipurpose programming space as part of refurbished and upgraded MCH facilities in Caulfield.	1 - 2

How recommendations help to address short term unmet demand for kindergarten

- A total of 2 - 3 additional program rooms are needed by 2031 to meet the projected unmet demand for kindergarten. Collectively the recommendations outlined above will provide the equivalent of 2.6 additional program rooms which is almost 100% of the additional program rooms needed across Glen Eira by 2031. **Note:** The calculation about the number of additional program rooms needed is based on rooms each having 33 licensed places.

Additional information supporting kindergarten recommendations

- Repurposing Carnegie ELC for kindergarten is recommended as a short and medium term solution for addressing immediate unmet demand for kindergarten in Carnegie. Long term, there is the opportunity to decant kindergarten from the Carnegie ELC site and include it in the proposed future Carnegie Hub. This will provide Council with an opportunity to reconsider the long term role and need for the Carnegie ELC site.
- Expansion of Brady Road Kindergarten is recommended in the short term to both address unmet demand and to position Council to pursue medium and longer term capital investment opportunities in southern Glen Eira. The expansion of Brady Road Kindergarten will enable services to be decanted to the site as works are undertaken at other kindergartens across Glen Eira. This will both minimise the cost of relocating services while works are occuring and allow Council to maintain a consistent level of access to sessional kindergarten while works are undertaken at various sites.

Additional information supporting MCH recommendations

- The MCH service in Elsternwick is currently located in a commercial premises. This lease will cease within 18 months requiring an alternate premises to be secured for MCH. Council staff have been unable to identify any Council owned premises in the area which could accommodate MCH services, requiring a new commercial premises to be found. The new site will provide medium to long term accomodation for the service until the Eslternwick Community Hub is developed.

6.3 Operational and service actions

These actions are operational or service related initiatives which can be progressed through service planning, existing programs or operational budgets. They do not require an infrastructure led response, but may support facilities to be used more effectively to meet community needs or assist Council in planning for future facilities which support early years services and activities.

Service / activity	Overarching recommendation	Supporting recommendation	Year
Kindergarten	Maximise places for kindergarten in Council owned facilities.	Review and update the service agreement Council has with kindergarten service providers. Key aspects to be considered: • Acknowledging that service viability may impact on the ability of services to maximise places. • Requiring services to participate in the Kindergarten Central Registration System. • Capturing the notion that Council is actively pursuing the expansion of facilities to increase the availability of kindergarten places, and service providers will be required to support and accept these capacity enhancements.	1 - 2
	Undertake further planning to confirm the pipeline of capital works initiatives for kindergarten and lay the groundwork to secure capital funding.	Seek a Building Blocks Planning Grant from the Victorian State Government to support more detailed planning to confirm priorities for implementation and provide a pathway for Building Blocks Partnership funding.	1
MCH	Maximise use of MCH facilities.	Pursue opportunities for MCH facilities to be used for complementary activities and services when they are not being used for MCH services e.g. consulting rooms supporting allied health services.	Ongoing
Toy libraries	Work in partnership with Toy Libraries to increase their accessibility to the community.	Engage with Carnegie and Moorabbin Area Toy Libraries to identify how the accessibility and visibility of the services can be improved for families.	1 – 2
General	Proactively engage with stakeholder organisations where infrastructure changes are being considered which affect their service or activity and the communities they support.		1 - 4

7.0 Medium to long term opportunities

This section identifies potential medium and long-term opportunities that may contribute to Council's preferred early years network direction.

The opportunities provide:

- a basis for future service and infrastructure planning;
- an indicative pipeline for government advocacy and funding discussions;
- context for community hub planning;
- possible responses as demand and government policy change; and
- a starting point for future feasibility and business case development.

These opportunities are not approved projects or capital commitments. Inclusion does not mean Council has decided to expand, retain, consolidate, relocate or redevelop a particular facility.

Each opportunity will require:

- updated demand and service analysis;
- assessment against the Community Infrastructure Plan;
- site and feasibility assessment;
- options and cost analysis;
- engagement with affected service providers and communities;
- consideration of external funding;
- Council's budget process; and
- Council approval.

Opportunities may be changed, deferred or not pursued where updated evidence identifies a more effective response.

Service / activity	Overarching option	Supporting option	Priority
Kindergarten	Expand existing kindergarten or childcare facilities to provide additional program rooms.	Expand Glover Street Kindergarten to provide a second program room.	Medium term
		Expand Bentleigh Kindergarten to provide a second program room.	Medium term
		Expand East Bentleigh Childcare to provide an additional program room.	Long term
		Expand Murrumbeena Road Kindergarten to provide a third program room.	Long term
		Expand McKinnon Kindergarten to provide a third program room.	Long term
	Include kindergarten program rooms as part	Include 2 kindergarten program rooms as part of the proposed Carnegie	Long term

	of future Community Hubs.	Community Hub. **Note:** The kindergarten service at Carnegie ELC would relocate to the Community Hub.	
		Include 2 kindergarten program rooms as part of the proposed Elsternwick Community Hub. **Note:** The existing Orrong Road Kindergarten will form part of the Community Hub site.	Long term
	Retain and upgrade existing kindergarten facilities in locations where expansion is not possible and risk factors are minimal.	Retain and upgrade Centre Road Kindergarten as a single room service.	Medium term
		Retain and upgrade Ormond Community Kindergarten as a single room service.	Medium term
		Retain and upgrade Bentleigh East Kindergarten as a single room service.	Medium term

Service / activity	Overarching option	Supporting option	Priority
Maternal and Child Health	Consolidate MCH services and facilities in response to changing community needs.	Consolidate Bentleigh and McKinnon MCH to one site in Bentleigh. Options to explore are: • Expand the existing Bentleigh MCH building. • Move MCH services to Bentleigh Kindergarten, developing new facilities for MCH as part of expanding Bentleigh Kindergarten.	Medium to long term
	Include facilities for MCH services as part of future Community Hubs.	Include 2 MCH consulting rooms and storage facilities as part of the proposed Elsternwick Community Hub and enable access to shared spaces such as multipurpose program rooms, kitchen and amenity facilities. **Note:** the MCH service would be relocated from the leased commercial premises to the Community Hub.	Long term
		Assess the need for MCH services to be included as part of the proposed Carnegie Community Hub.	Medium term
	Upgrade and where relevant, expand existing MCH facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities which respond to changing community needs and support contemporary service delivery models.	Upgrade and expand facilities at Glen Huntly MCH to provide additional administrative and meeting space and possibly space for a Toy Library. **Note:** Having a Toy Library at this site outlined as part of the recommendations for toy libraries.	Medium to long term
		Upgrade MCH facilities at Moorleigh Community Village.	Medium to long term
		Upgrade and expand MCH facilities at Murrumbeena Family Centre to include a third consulting room. Note: the need for an additional consulting room is tied to future planning for MCH services in Carnegie.	Medium to long term
Playgroups	Enable playgroup activity as part of future Community Hub facilities.	Include multipurpose, shared use programming space and support facilities (e.g. storage, kitchen, bathrooms and outdoor space) in the future Carnegie Community Hub.	Long term
		Include multipurpose, shared use programming space and support facilities (e.g. storage, kitchen, bathrooms and outdoor space) in the future Elsternwick Community Hub.	Long term

Service / activity	Overarching option	Supporting option	Priority
Playgroups	Maintain and upgrade existing multipurpose spaces to continue supporting playgroup activity.	Maintain and upgrade the multipurpose space at Glen Huntly MCH.	Medium to long term
		Maintain and upgrade the multipurpose space at Moorleigh Community Village.	Medium to long term
		Maintain and upgrade the multipurpose space at Murrumbeena Family Centre.	Medium to long term
Toy Libraries	Explore opportunities to co-locate toy libraries with complementary services.		Medium to long term

How opportunities will help address unmet demand for kindergarten

- A total of 21 – 22 additional program rooms are needed by 2036 to meet the projected unmet demand for kindergarten. Collectively the opportunities outlined above will provide the equivalent of 5 - 6 additional kindergarten program rooms. This, combined with the short term recommendations outlined in section 7 will deliver 36 – 38% of the additional program rooms needed across Glen Eira by 2036. But the provision of these rooms will be unevenly spread across Glen Eira because Council owns more sites in the south rather than the north of the City.
- There is also a misalignment between where demand will be highest and where opportunities for additional infrastructure are located. A key area of concern is Caulfield North and South where demand will be high (7 – 8 additional program rooms are needed by 2036) and there is only one Council owned site and this has no capacity for expansion. Adding to this, is the lack of space on existing school sites to accommodate infrastructure for kindergarten.

Additional information supporting kindergarten opportunities

- Sites supporting existing kindergarten services have been assessed at a high level to determine whether expansion is possible. More detailed planning and design work will be needed to determine the most effective way of delivering additional infrastructure on each site, including whether modular facilities or adding onto existing facilities will deliver the best outcome.
- The inclusion of the Orrong Road Kindergarten site as part of the proposed Elsternwick Community Hub site will require the kindergarten service to be decanted to another site while the new Hub is built.

Additional information supporting MCH opportunities

- The opportunity about MCH services in Carnegie focuses on the need for a further assessment to understand how demand for MCH services is changing and whether facilities will be needed as part of Carnegie Community Hub in the long term. This assessment would occur in the medium term e.g. 5 years to both allow time to understand how demand is changing in that locality and and to support planning work for Carnegie Community Hub.

APPENDIX A: Policy and planning context

Federal and State policy framework

- **Federally,** the National Quality Framework outline both service and infrastructure standards which must be adhered to for the delivery of early childhood education and care, and outside school hours care services. Complementing this, the 2023-2024 Productivity Commission Inquiry identified what a universal early childhood education and care system would look like, and the reforms needed to achieve this. Many of the recommendations relate to reducing costs and improving access to and the quality of childcare services.
- **At a State level**, the Victorian Government has introduced a range of policies and reforms in the last decade designed to strengthen the provision of services, supports and safeguards for children and their families. In addition, the State Government is seeking to increase population growth through the Victorian Activity Centre Program and new Housing Targets. Collectively these are having significant impacts on the demand for services and by extension the infrastructure needed to support the delivery of services and reforms. Key policy initiatives relevant to the EYIP include:
  - **Best Start Best Life Reforms (2024 – 2036)** which include making free kindergarten available for all children participating in 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten; 3-year-old children having access to 15 hours of 3-year-old kindergarten per week by 2029; and 4-year-old children having access to 30 hours a week of 4-year-old kindergarten (or pre-prep) by 2036. As part of these reforms the State Government has committed significant funds to expanding existing or developing new infrastructure. This is underpinned by Kindergarten Infrastructure and Service Plans (KISP) which model the expected additional demand generated by the reforms in each local government area.
  - **Reforms to Maternal and Child Health** services including an increase in key ages and stages hours per child from 6.45 hours to 8 hours, increased investment in parenting supports, expansion of Enhanced Maternal and Child Health programs, additional resourcing to address the risk of family violence, flexible funding to support people experiencing vulnerabilities, investment in workforce development and attraction and improvements to the Maternal and Child Health line, expansion of the supported playgroup program, specific initiatives to support Koori families and children, additional support for children with a disability.
  - **Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years (2017-2027).** This is a compact agreement between the State Government and Local Government (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)) with the aim of giving all children the best start in life. It is designed to strengthen collaboration between State and Local Government in the planning, development and provision of early years services. The compact outlines the roles and responsibilities of State and Local government in the planning, funding and delivery of early years services. A separate agreement was also established about the partnership between the MAV and State Government about the delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services.
  - **Victorian Child Safe Standards 2022** require organisations involving children to have policies, procedures and practices to keep them safe. There are 11 child safe standards.

1. Establishing a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
2. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
3. Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

- **The Activity Centre Program and Housing Targets**. The State government has established a target of 63,500 additional dwellings in Glen Eira by 2051. The activity centres in which they propose the additional dwellings will be located are Carnegie Station, Murrumbeena Station, Hughesdale Station, Elsternwick Station, Glen Huntley Station, Ormond Station, Bentleigh Station, and Caulfield Station.

Glen Eira City Council additional relevant plans and policies

- **Asset Plan 2022 – 2032** aims to communicate the importance and magnitude of the infrastructure assets managed by Council through detailing the types of assets Council controls and how Council will manage the assets over the next ten years to meet the current levels of service. It identifies that Council owns 511 buildings and community facilities. Key issues identified include:
  - Responding to the impacts of climate change
  - Legislative and policy influences, particularly the need to meet statutory obligations and cap on rate increases constraining revenue generation.
  - The increasing cost of providing assets and services and managing community expectations while keepings assets and services affordable.
  - The growing population and changing profile of the community.
  - Ageing infrastructure and the significant cost of renewal.
  - Technological advancements which are driving changes to the way services are delivered and assets are managed.

  Key improvement initiatives outlined in the Plan concentrate on:
  - Climate resilience and environmental sustainability
  - Governance and culture
  - Information management and reporting

- Lifecycle and long-term planning.

- **Financial Plan 2025 – 2035** Councils are required to prepare a 10-year financial plan following each Council election, to ensure long term financial sustainability is embedded into strategic planning and governance practices. The Plan identified that Council's financial position is challenging due to rising costs, asset renewal needs and low financial reserves. The Plan focuses on the following to change this position:
  - Examining services including what we deliver, how we deliver it and how we can be more efficient through innovative service models.
  - Strategic asset management including whether underused assets can be repurposed, consolidated or sold to reinvest funds into other community priorities.
  - Advocating for fairer and more sustainable funding from the State and Federal governments including addressing the inequities and sustainability issues created by rate capping.
  - Investigating fairer user-pay models, so that those who use a service contribute more directly to its cost.
  - The organisations ambition is to build a financially resilient organisation that can continue to deliver high-quality services and infrastructure for the community, now and into the future.

- **Financial Sustainability Strategy 2025 – 2029** The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a roadmap for resetting Council's financial future, including how the organisation will keep delivering the services and infrastructure the community values the most, while staying financially strong. It acknowledges the organisations currently has a steady financial position but does not have enough in reserve to fund future strategic goals and respond to emerging and changing needs. Key factors impacting on Council's financial position are:
  - Rate capping. This is impacting on all Council's but particularly on Glen Eira because when rate capping started, Council already had one of the lowest rates in the sector. Rate capping has widened the gap and impacted us more than councils with higher rates.
  - Cost shifting from State and Federal governments to local councils without matching funding. In recent years, Glen Eira has absorbed over $18 million in unfunded service transfers from other levels of government.
  - Covid-19 has had a lasting financial impact, particularly with revenue from leisure services. Glen Eira Leisure was closed for extended periods, and Council provided community relief without JobKeeper support. The overall impact was a $55 million loss.
  - Major projects and service changes including redevelopment of the Carnegie Memorial swimming pool ($73.78 million) which Council funded through $58.8 million in loans and transitioning out of early learning centre and in home independent living services. The transition costs were $6 million.

  The Strategy identified that rising debt repayments and low revenue will push Council's cash and working capital to unacceptable levels over the next 10 years. To respond to this, Council will focus on 5 strategic goals:
  - **Balance future budgets**: Capital works and other expenditure will align with available funding and focus on priorities set in adopted strategies and plans

- **Boost revenue and drive efficiency**: Review charges for services and have a transparent pricing policy reflecting user pay principles, explore options to address rate capping, leverage Councils property portfolio, service reviews assessing services against community need and value for money, and efficiency through smarter ways of working, technology and innovation.
- **Strengthen reserves**: To gives Council the flexibility to respond to unexpected events and fund future infrastructure without relying on debt.
- **Manage debt responsibly**: Including avoiding new borrowings where possible for major capital projects and rephrase existing loans over a longer period to reduce short term impacts.
- **Build a funding pipeline for capital works**: Council needs to increase the funding available for capital works without compromising our financial health by aligning capital works priorities with Council's Asset Management Framework and community needs, making sure maintenance and renewal programs are fit for purpose and cost effective, achieving better value for money and advocating for external funding.

- **Strategic Property Plan 2025 – 2030** Council manages 156 pieces of land and 572 buildings. 240 buildings are dedicated to community services, and 186 hectares of land are used for parks, reserves, sports fields and car parks. The total value of the assets is 1.46 billion. The Plan guides Council's long-term thinking about:
  - What services and spaces the growing Glen Eira community will need
  - How Council will balance different priorities
  - How Council will use its resources wisely to benefit everyone.

  The vision outlined in the Plan is '*ensure a balance of net community benefit and financial sustainability in planning for and delivering high quality, accessible, fit-for-purpose and well-utilised community services and facilities*.'

  The goals of the Plan are:
  - Make better decisions: Use data and community feedback to understand what people need and plan ahead.
  - Guide investment and management: Help us decide where to spend money and how to manage our land and buildings effectively
  - Stay flexible for the future: Make sure we can adapt to new information, challenges, and opportunities.
  - Be transparent and accountable: Set up clear processes and report regularly on how we're doing.

To deliver on the goals, Council will focus on 5 key areas

1. **Set clear goals for our property portfolio**: The strategy will be updated as needed to stay on top of new challenges and priorities.
2. **Fair and transparent leasing**: Council will review and improve how leases are managed to make sure community groups have fair access and that there's good value for the community.
3. **Get the most out of our spaces**: Council will keep track of how buildings are being used so they don't sit empty or under-used

4. **Involve the community**: Council will make sure residents have a say in decisions that affect local infrastructure.
5. **Make the most of what we've got**: Council will look for opportunities to improve, share, or repurpose spaces — and work with others when it benefits the community.

Planning for community spaces is about more than just managing buildings. It's about understanding the needs of our community and making thoughtful, fair choices about how we use our shared spaces

Key strategic sites identified which have relevance to the Early Years Network Plan include:

- Former Carnegie Early Learning Centre
- Elsternwick Library precinct including Orrong Road Kindergarten and car park
- Civic precinct (Glen Eira Town Hall, Gallery, Caulfield Library, MCH, former Caulfield Early Learning Centre, Oak Tree House 1 and 2)
- Vacant land to the east of Bentleigh West Primary School.
- Shepparson Street car park and Carnegie Library and Community Centre, including Carnegie Multipurpose Children's Room.
- Former Spurway Aged Care facility, Murrumbeena
- MCH and Murrumbeena Early Learning Centre, Murrumbeena
- The Elsternwick Club.

- **Climate Emergency Response Strategy 2025 – 2029** Glen Eira Council declared a climate emergency in May 2020 and since then has been actively advancing climate action by focusing on emissions reduction. This means Council is increasing its energy efficiency, adopting renewable energy sources and embracing innovative technologies in buildings, facilities and operations to reach the ambitious target of reducing all emissions under Council's direct control to zero by 2031. Five climate principles underpin Council's work in this space:
  - **Exploring indigenous ecological knowledge**: In partnership with Traditional Owners, Council will explore knowledge of the environment and climate change to inform Council's response, while considering the impacts on First Nations people's health, livelihoods, community, and connection to Country.
  - **Applying the climate lens**: Council will embed climate action into its daily work, communicating openly about impacts and solutions, and working with the community to amplify action.
  - **Leadership by example**: Council will reduce emissions, using renewable energy, improving efficiency, and applying circular economy principles, while being transparent to inspire others to act.
  - **Magnify Councils impacts through partnerships and collaboration**: Council will collaborate with partners to extend its reach and impact, by working together on joint projects and advocating together for climate action.
  - **Empowering everyone to take action on climate change**. Council will work with its diverse community to ensure everyone can participate in climate action by removing barriers, tailoring engagement, and co-designing solutions for a fair and sustainable future

APPENDIX B: Profile of the Glen Eira community[10]

Population size	**Consistent growth occurred in Glen Eira between 2011 and 2021** with the population growing from 131,015 to 148,908 (13.7% and 17,893 people). *Note: usual resident population data used.* Proportionally the localities which experienced the largest growth were McKinnon (21%), Bentleigh East (18.6%), Bentleigh (17.6%), Caulfield North – Caulfield East (15.1%), and Carnegie (14.2%). The locality which experienced the highest growth in total population was Bentleigh East which grew by nearly 5,000 people. **Consistent growth is projected to continue in Glen Eira between 2021 and 2036** with the total population projected to increase by 22.2% reaching 181,976 by 2036. The most significant growth is projected to occur in: • Elsternwick – Gardenvale 31.7% (from 11,904 to 15,678) • Bentleigh East 31.2% (from 30,159 to 39,559) • Caulfield North – Caulfield East 28.8% (18,202 to 23,445) • Bentleigh 18.1% (from 18,384 to 21,713) • Carnegie 17.9% (from 17,907 to 21,112).
0 – 4-year-old population	**Between 2011 and 2021, the 0 – 4-year-old population in Glen Eira declined by 8.6% (727 children)** with the most significant declines occurring in: • Ormond 24% (119 children) • Elsternwick – Gardenvale 21.1% (168 children) • Carnegie 10.6% (101 children) The decline means the 0 – 4-year-old population went from accounting for 6.5% of the Glen Eira population to 5.2%. **Between 2021 and 2036, the 0 – 4-year-old population is projected to increase by 25.7% and account for around 5.4% of the total Glen Eira population.** The growth is expected to be highest in: • Elsternwick – Gardenvale 67.3% (422 children) • Carnegie 40.1% (343 children) • Caulfield North – Caulfield East 33.9% (318 children) • Bentleigh 28% (253 children) • Bentleigh East 11.3% (193 children) • Murrumbeena 11.7% (159 children)

[10] .idcommunity: demographic resources, Glen Eira community profile and population forecast. Accessed February 2026. Home | City of Glen Eira | Community profile

SEIFA **Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas**	**Overall, Glen Eira LGA has lower levels of disadvantage (1,075) than most other local government areas in Victoria.** But the levels of disadvantage vary across different localities. • **The localities experiencing the lowest levels of disadvantage** are Caulfield South (1091.2), Caulfield North – Caulfield East (1088.1), Elsternwick - Gardenvale (1085.3). • **The localities experiencing the highest level of disadvantage** are Glen Huntly (1056.2), Carnegie (1062.7), and Bentleigh (1068.5), but these communities are still notably less disadvantaged than the averages for Greater Melbourne (1018) and Victoria (1010). **Note:** SEIFA measures the relative levels of advantage and disadvantage in a community based on key demographic characteristics such as education, employment, and income levels. The more disadvantaged a community is, the lower the SEIFA score is, the less disadvantaged a community is, the higher the SEIFA score is.
AEDC[11] **Measures the developmental vulnerability of children in their first year of school across 5 domains**	Overall, the proportion of children who are developmentally vulnerable in their first year of school in Glen Eira is notably lower than wider Victoria and Australia in both 2021 and 2024, however, **an increasing number of children in the Glen Eira LGA are identified as being developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more and 2 or more domains.** Between 2021 and 2024 developmental vulnerability in children across the City of Glen Eira increased and was most significant in **Carnegie** and to a lesser extent in Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Caulfield North, and Caulfield South. • **In Carnegie,** the developmental vulnerability of children increased significantly across 4 of the 5 domains. • **In Bentleigh East and Caulfield South,** the developmental vulnerability of children increased across 2 of the 5 domains (physical health and wellbeing and communication skills and general knowledge). • **In Caulfield North** the developmental vulnerability of children increased across 1 of the 5 domains (comm. skills and general knowledge). • **In Bentleigh** the increase in vulnerability is not significant in any of the individual domains, but collectively there is a notable increase in vulnerability across one or more domains. The only locality to see a notable decrease in vulnerability between 2021 and 2024 was Caulfield. The proportion of children vulnerable on one or more domains decreased by 26.4 points and the proportion vulnerable on 2 or more domains decreased by 13.2 points during this time. In other communities, developmental vulnerability remained stable.

[11] Australian Early Development Census 2021 and 2024, Community Data Explorer, East Gippsland, Victoria and Australia. Available online Community Data Explorer | Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

	Location	Vul. on 1 or more domains	Vul. on 2 or more domains
	Glen Eira - 2021	15.48%	6.63%
	Glen Eira - 2024	18.91%	9.30%
	Victoria – 2024	22.3%	11.8%
	Australia - 2024	23.5%	12.5%

Household make up	**The proportion of Glen Eira households with dependent children remained stable at around 40% between 2011 and 2021.** This is made up of 32% couple households with children and 8% single parent families. By comparison, in 2021, 33.1% of households in Greater Metropolitan Melbourne were couple households with children and 10.2% were single parent families. The localities in Glen Eira with a higher proportion of households with dependent children include Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Caulfield South, McKinnon, Ormond and St Kilda East. Population forecasts for Glen Eira project the average household size will decrease from 2.44 to 2.39 persons per household between 2021 and 2046. While there is no data available about the projected household make up, a declining number of persons per household suggests the proportion of family households with children may reduce.
Cultural diversity	**Cultural diversity in Glen Eira is generally consistent with Greater Melbourne.** In 2021 • 37% of the Glen Eira was community born overseas, compared with 35.7% in Greater Melbourne. The top places of birth outside Australia were China, India, United Kingdom and South Africa. • 30.9% of the community speak a language other than English at home compared with 34.1% in Greater Melbourne.
Need for assistance	**The number of people with a need for assistance in their daily lives is increasing steadily** in Glen Eira. In 2016 4.4% of the population needed daily assistance for core activities and this increased to 4.8% in 2021. The number of children aged 0 -4 years with a need for assistance in their daily lives is very small in comparison to older age groups i.e. 59 children in 2021 compared with 2,073 people aged 85 years and older.

	2016	2021	Change 2016 - 21	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2021 - 2036		2041
															No.	%	
Total pop.	148,583	150,638	**2,055**	160,500	162,312	164,350	166,345	168,624	170,882	173,121	175,409	177,573	179,769	181,976	**33,068**	**22%**	190,327
0 – 4 years	8,601	7,772	**-829**	8,883	8,893	8,915	8,978	9,060	9,164	9,300	9,448	9,605	9,766	8,743	**971**	**12.5%**	10,941
% of pop.	6.1%	5.2%	**5.4%**	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%	5.4%	**N/A**	N/A	5.7%
0 – 2 years	5,043	4,681	**-362**	5,289	5,287	5,292	5,300	5,341	5,414	5,501	5,596	5,689	5,788	5,892	**1,211**	**25.9%**	6,322
0-year-old	1,623	1,540	**-83**	1,772	1,773	1,769	1,761	1,771	1,800	1,833	1,864	1,895	1,930	1,961	**421**	**27.3%**	2,139
3-year-old	1,795	1,647	**-148**	1,644	1,784	1,785	1,790	1,798	1,805	1,806	1,820	1,849	1,879	1,906	**259**	**15.7%**	2,076
4-year-old	1,762	1,592	**-170**	1,671	1,808	1,812	1,816	1,832	1,840	1,840	1,854	1,878	1,911	1,938	**346**	**21.7%**	2,071

Table X.1: Historical and forecast population data for the City of Glen Eira: Total population and 0 – 4-year-old population at February 2026

Glen Eira Historical and forecast 0 – 4-year-old population by locality[12]

0 – 4 year old pop.	2016	2021	Change 2016 - 2021	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2021 - 2036	2041
Glen Eira	**8,601**	**7,772**	**-829**	**8,883**	**8,893**	**8,915**	**8,978**	**9,060**	**9,164**	**9,300**	**9,448**	**9,605**	**9,766**	**8,743**	**971**	**10,941**
Bentleigh	1,015	903	-112	1,007	1,027	1,039	1,048	1,060	1,073	1,087	1,103	1,120	1,138	1,156	253	387
Bentleigh East	1,850	1,709	-141	1,702	1,694	1,658	1,656	1,667	1,690	1,723	1,764	1,811	1,857	1,902	193	1,927
Carnegie	1,056	855	-201	1,123	1,151	1,155	1,155	1,156	1,156	1,159	1,165	1,174	1,186	1,198	343	1,342
Caulfield	310	262	-48	304	307	309	310	313	315	318	322	326	330	334	72	373
Caulfield North - Caulfield East	903	937	34	1,131	1,144	1,154	1,148	1,154	1,162	1,175	1,192	1,211	1,232	1,255	318	1,506
Caulfield South	700	688	-12	723	736	748	754	763	769	775	785	792	800	809	121	900
Elsternwick - Gardenvale	688	627	-61	787	817	832	849	871	900	926	957	987	1,019	1,049	422	1,233
Glen Huntly	307	248	-59	286	288	282	280	278	278	278	280	281	284	286	38	323
McKinnon	300	296	-4	366	374	379	382	385	389	412	395	399	402	406	110	443
Murrumbeena	595	514	-81	641	668	669	669	669	668	668	667	668	671	673	159	725
Ormond	445	376	-69	411	415	406	404	401	401	401	404	408	413	420	44	501
St Kilda East	426	358	-68	261	262	263	260	260	261	263	266	269	273	278	-80	318

Table X.1: Historical and forecast 0 – 4-year-old population data for the City of Glen Eira, February 2026

[12] .idcommunity: demographic resources, Glen Eira community profile and population forecast. Accessed February 2026. Home | City of Glen Eira | Community profile

Forecast population by locality[13]

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2026- 2036	2041
Bentleigh 0 – 4 years	**1,007**	**1,027**	**1,039**	**1,048**	**1,060**	**1,073**	**1,087**	**1,103**	**1,120**	**1,138**	**1,156**	**149**	**387**
0 – 2 years	593	600	607	612	619	628	638	650	661	671	684	**101**	747
0-year-old	192	195	195	198	201	205	208	213	217	219	224	**36**	244
3-year-old	209	213	215	217	219	220	223	225	229	233	236	**37**	258
4-year-old	204	214	218	219	222	224	225	228	230	234	236	**36**	258
Bentleigh East 0 – 4 years	**1,702**	**1,694**	**1,658**	**1,656**	**1,667**	**1,690**	**1,723**	**1,764**	**1,811**	**1,857**	**1,902**	**200**	**1,927**
0 – 2 years	956	933	922	923	934	950	975	1,002	1,030	1,058	1,084	**74**	1,101
0-year-old	292	285	285	284	292	299	306	317	325	335	343	**38**	346
3-year-old	386	364	360	357	358	362	364	376	384	393	403	**51**	410
4-year-old	360	397	376	377	376	378	383	386	397	405	415	**59**	425
Carnegie 0 – 4 years	**1,123**	**1,151**	**1,155**	**1,155**	**1,156**	**1,156**	**1,159**	**1,165**	**1,174**	**1,186**	**1,198**	**75**	**1,342**
0 – 2 years	705	711	709	705	706	708	713	718	724	732	741	**48**	791
0-year-old	246	246	244	243	245	246	248	249	253	255	259	**15**	275
3-year-old	219	220	225	224	224	222	222	224	226	227	229	**34**	245
4-year-old	199	220	221	225	225	225	223	223	225	227	228	**41**	243

[13].id community, City of Glen Eira Community Profile and Population Forecast Home | City of Glen Eira | Community profile

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2026- 2036	2041
Caulfield 0 – 4 years	**304**	**307**	**309**	**310**	**313**	**315**	**318**	**322**	**326**	**330**	**334**	**30**	**373**
0 – 2 years	183	184	185	185	187	189	192	195	197	199	202	**19**	215
0-year-old	62	62	62	63	64	64	66	66	68	68	70	**8**	74
3-year-old	61	61	61	62	62	62	63	63	64	65	65	**5**	70
4-year-old	61	61	63	62	64	64	63	64	64	66	66	**4**	70
Caulfield North - Caulfield East 0 – 4 years	**1,131**	**1,144**	**1,154**	**1,148**	**1,154**	**1,162**	**1,175**	**1,192**	**1,211**	**1,232**	**1,255**	**124**	**1,506**
0 – 2 years	690	684	683	682	685	693	704	716	729	742	758	**80**	841
0-year-old	232	231	230	230	234	237	242	245	251	255	261	**27**	288
3-year-old	220	235	231	232	233	232	234	237	240	245	248	**29**	275
4-year-old	221	224	240	235	236	237	237	238	242	245	250	**17**	275
Caulfield South 0 – 4 years	**723**	**736**	**748**	**754**	**763**	**769**	**775**	**785**	**792**	**800**	**809**	**86**	**900**
0 – 2 years	438	444	450	453	456	463	468	474	479	484	491	**65**	518
0-year-old	151	153	151	153	155	159	161	162	165	166	168	**23**	178
3-year-old	141	147	146	151	152	151	153	154	156	156	158	**17**	167
4-year-old	145	145	151	150	155	156	154	156	156	158	160	**14**	168

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2026- 2036	2041
Elsternwick – Gardenvale 0 – 4years	**787**	**817**	**832**	**849**	**871**	**900**	**926**	**957**	**987**	**1,019**	**1,049**	**262**	**1,233**
0 – 2 years	510	518	526	534	548	571	591	611	631	650	669	**167**	756
0-year-old	181	183	183	188	195	204	212	218	224	231	239	**60**	266
3-year-old	152	151	158	161	165	166	172	177	183	190	195	**69**	222
4-year-old	125	148	149	155	158	162	163	169	173	179	185	**70**	209
Glen Huntly	**286**	**288**	**282**	**280**	**278**	**278**	**278**	**280**	**281**	**284**	**286**	**0**	**323**
0 – 2 years	170	168	167	165	164	165	166	167	168	170	172	**-4**	186
0-year-old	57	56	55	55	55	55	56	57	57	57	58	**1**	63
3-year-old	62	57	57	57	57	56	55	56	57	57	57	**4**	61
4-year-old	54	62	58	57	57	57	56	56	56	57	57	**1**	61
McKinnon	**366**	**374**	**379**	**382**	**385**	**389**	**412**	**395**	**399**	**402**	**406**	**40**	**443**
0 – 2 years	220	222	225	227	228	231	233	236	238	241	243	**28**	255
0-year-old	72	74	74	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	**10**	85
3-year-old	75	76	77	78	78	78	79	80	80	81	82	**11**	86
4-year-old	72	76	77	77	79	79	79	79	80	81	81	**10**	85

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2026- 2036	2041
Murrumbeena	**641**	**668**	**669**	**669**	**669**	**668**	**668**	**667**	**668**	**671**	**673**	**32**	**725**
0 – 2 years	407	412	411	410	411	411	411	412	412	414	416	**16**	436
0-year-old	142	141	142	142	142	143	143	143	143	144	145	**4**	152
3-year-old	124	128	129	129	128	129	127	127	129	128	129	**22**	134
4-year-old	110	128	129	129	130	129	129	127	127	129	128	**18**	133
Ormond 0 – 4 years	**411**	**415**	**406**	**404**	**401**	**401**	**401**	**404**	**408**	**413**	**420**	**9**	**501**
0 – 2 years	261	257	255	252	250	251	253	256	259	262	266	**-1**	297
0-year-old	94	92	90	90	90	92	92	94	94	96	98	**4**	108
3-year-old	83	78	77	77	76	75	75	76	76	76	78	**9**	87
4-year-old	68	80	74	75	75	74	73	73	73	75	75	**2**	83
St Kilda East	**261**	**262**	**263**	**260**	**260**	**261**	**263**	**266**	**269**	**273**	**278**	**17**	**318**
0 – 2 years	156	154	153	152	152	153	155	158	160	163	166	**11**	180
0-year-old	52	51	50	50	51	52	52	53	54	55	56	**4**	60
3-year-old	52	55	54	53	53	53	53	54	55	55	55	**3**	61
4-year-old	52	53	56	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	57	**1**	61

Table B.1: Historical and forecast population data for the City of Glen Eira, February 2026

AEDC Developmental vulnerability data[14]

Red = significant increase	Orange = no significant change	Green = significant decrease

Glen Eira community	Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable (%)						
	Physical health and wellbeing	Social competence	Emotional maturity	Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	Communication skills & general knowledge	Vulnerable on **one** or more domains	Vulnerable on **two** or more domains
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	5.3	7.2	7.4	3.0	4.7	15.48	6.63
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	7.0	8.4	9.4	3.8	6.6	18.91	9.30
2021 vs 2024 (%)	1.7	1.2	2.0	0.8	1.9	3.4	2.7
Bentleigh							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	1.1	4.8	4.3	1.1	4.8	8.51	3.72
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	4.9	6.1	6.1	4.3	4.9	14.11	6.75
2021 vs 2024 (%)	3.8	1.3	1.8	3.2	0.1	5.6	3.0
Bentleigh East							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	6.2	6.0	6.2	2.3	3.6	14.58	5.99
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	10.3	6.4	7.1	2.8	7.1	21.63	6.74
2021 vs 2024 (%)	4.1	0.4	0.9	0.5	3.5	7.1	0.8
Carnegie							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	2.5	7.4	8.0	3.1	4.9	14.20	6.17
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	9.2	11.8	12.5	2.6	9.2	20.92	13.82
2021 vs 2024 (%)	6.7	4.4	4.5	-0.5	4.3	6.7	7.7

[14] Commonwealth of Australia, Australian Early Development Census, 2022. Accessed February 2026. Available online: AEDC

Glen Eira community	Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable (%)						
	Physical health and wellbeing	Social competence	Emotional maturity	Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	Communication skills & general knowledge	Vulnerable on **one** or more domains	Vulnerable on **two** or more domains
Caulfield							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	14.3	12.2	14.3	4.1	10.2	32.65	16.33
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	3.1	3.1	0.0	3.1	3.1	6.25	3.13
2021 vs 2024 (%)	-11.2	-9.1	-14.3	-1.0	-7.1	-26.4	-13.2
Caulfield North							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	5.5	5.5	7.9	3.1	3.1	13.49	6.25
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	6.4	8.5	10.6	5.3	8.5	17.02	12.77
2021 vs 2024 (%)	0.9	3.0	2.7	2.2	5.4	3.5	6.5
Caulfield South							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	8.3	6.6	10.8	5.8	5.0	21.67	6.61
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	6.0	18.0	17.3	7.0	7.0	26.53	17.00
2021 vs 2024 (%)	-2.3	11.4	6.5	1.2	2.0	4.9	10.4
Elsternwick - Gardenvale							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	2.9	4.3	7.1	2.9	4.3	12.86	4.29
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	3.2	9.84	6.45
2021 vs 2024 (%)	1.9	0.5	-2.2	1.9	-1.1	-3.0	2.2
Glen Huntly							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	13.3	23.3	6.7	3.4	13.3	26.67	13.33
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	7.1	4.8	9.5	7.1	9.5	21.43	7.14
2021 vs 2024 (%)	-6.2	-18.5	2.8	3.7	-3.8	-5.2	-6.2

	Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable (%)						
	Physical health and wellbeing	Social competence	Emotional maturity	Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	Communication skills & general knowledge	Vulnerable on **one** or more domains	Vulnerable on **two** or more domains
McKinnon							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	5.1	10.26	2.56
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	2.0	4.0	8.0	2.0	6.0	18.00	4.00
2021 vs 2024 (%)	-0.5	1.5	5.4	-0.5	0.9	7.7	1.4
Murrumbeena							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	6.7	14.6	10.1	5.6	7.9	21.35	12.36
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	7.1	13.1	14.3	2.4	4.8	21.43	11.90
2021 vs 2024 (%)	0.4	-1.5	4.2	-3.2	-3.1	0.1	-0.5
Ormond							
Developmentally vulnerable in 2021 (%)	6.0	10.4	9.0	3.0	0.0	16.42	7.46
Developmentally vulnerable in 2024 (%)	3.8	6.3	10.3	2.5	5.1	16.67	7.59
2021 vs 2024 (%)	-2.2	-4.1	1.3	-0.5	5.1	0.3	0.1

Table B.2: Australian Early Development Census data, Glene Eira 2021 and 2024

Appendix C: Demand analysis

Kindergarten

Participation in and demand for both 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten is increasing, and this will continue over the next decade. Key drivers of the increased participation are:

- Population growth with the number of 3- and 4-year-old children in Glen Eira projected to increase by around 2.5% between 2021 and 2026, and then by a further 16% between 2026 and 2036. See table D.1 below.
- The Best Start Best Life reforms which include free kindergarten and children having access to 15 hours of 3-year-old kindergarten by 2029 and 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten by 2036. This change will drive a substantial increase in demand for licensed places to support kindergarten. Currently 1 licensed place can support 2 – 2.5 four-year-old children to access kindergarten depending on the service model. When 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten is in place, this will halve 1 – 1.25 four-year-old children. This means, the number of licensed places needed to support kindergarten will increase dramatically.

Year	2021	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Change 2026 - 36
3 yr old	1,647	1,644	1,784	1,785	1,790	1,798	1,805	1,806	1,820	1,849	1,879	1,906	**262**
4 yr old	1,592	1,671	1,808	1,812	1,816	1,832	1,840	1,840	1,854	1,878	1,911	1,938	**267**

Table D.1: Actual and projected 3- and 4-year-old population in Glen Eira, 2021 - 2036

The increasing participation in and demand for kindergarten is evident through:

- **Kindergarten participation data provided by the Department of Education** which shows between 2021 and 2024 the percentage of children participating in 4-year-old kindergarten increased from 88% to 99% and the percentage participating in 3-year-old kindergarten increased from 83% to 94%. See table D.2 below. In addition, many services in Glen Eira have already implemented the full 15 hours of kindergarten for 3-year-old children, further increasing the demand for licensed places to support kindergarten.
- **Data from Council's Kindergarten Central Registration System** (CRS) which shows that demand for both 3- and 4-year-old sessional kindergarten is substantially outstripping the supply of places available through Council's Kindergarten CRS. See Table D.3 below.
- **Data from the Glen Eira Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP)** which shows unmet demand for kindergarten in Glen Eira from 2025 onwards, with a steep increase between 2034 and 2036 when the full roll out of 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten occurs. Localities where unmet demand is occurring now include Bentleigh – McKinnon, Carnegie, and Caulfield South. Localities where unmet demand is expected to occur from 2035 – 2036 are Bentleigh East, and Caulfield North. See Table D.4 below. **Note**, the unmet demand documented in the KISP is expressed as 15-hour places. As a rough guide, up to an additional 21 - 22 program rooms each licensed for 33 places will be needed in Glen Eira by 2036 to address the unmet demand.

Glen Eira ECE Profile		2021	2022	2023	2024
Total children enrolled in funded kinder in Glen Eira	3-year-old	N/A	1,188	1,337	1,356
	4-year-old	1,621	1,437	1,396	1,409
	Total	**N/A**	**2,625**	**2,733**	**2,765**
4-year-old participation rate	Glen Eira	88%	92%	92%	99%
	Victoria	93%	92%	96%	96%
3-year-old participation rate	Glen Eira	N/A	83%	96%	94%
	Victoria	N/A	78%	89%	90%
% of enrolments in sessional kinder	3-year-old	N/A	42%	47%	47%
	4-year-old	N/A	59%	60%	57%

Table D.2: Glen Eira ECE Profile, Department of Education 2023 and 2024

Glen Eira Kindergarten Central Registration		2024	2025	2026
3-year-old	Registrations received	930	1,015	858 (to date)
	Places available	597	616	578
	Gap	**-333**	**-399**	**-280**
4-year-old	Registrations received	1,215	1,169	1,254 (to date)
	Places available	740	697	790
	Gap	**-475**	**-472**	**-464**

Table D.3: Glen Eira Kindergarten Central Registration data 2024 - 2026

KISP	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Total for Glen Eira												
Demand for kindergarten	2,863	3,129	3,227	3.398	3,483	3,580	3,635	3,687	3,740	4,253	4,774	5,653
Unmet demand	**84**	**62**	**83**	**107**	**134**	**126**	**135**	**142**	**152**	**335**	**676**	**1,347**
Unmet demand by small area (SA2)												
Bentleigh - McKinnon	6	0	5	18	30	28	35	39	43	118	193	325
Bentleigh East – North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	260
Bentleigh East – South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Carnegie	42	34	39	43	51	50	52	55	60	111	163	247
Caulfield – North	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	211
Caulfield – South	36	28	38	46	53	48	48	48	50	105	162	261
Elsternwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murrumbeena	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ormond Glen Huntly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table D.4: Glen Eira KISP data, 2025 - 2036

Additional participation and demand factors to be considered

- ***Families preferencing sessional kindergarten as opposed to kindergarten integrated with childcare***. Table D.5 below shows that less than 30% of licensed places for kindergarten are available in sessional kindergarten settings, but 47% of children enrolled in 3-year-old kindergarten and around 60% of children enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten participate in a sessional kindergarten program. This preference for sessional kindergarten is reinforced by the data from Glen Eira's kindergarten central registration program which as noted above, shows the demand for sessional kindergarten is far outstripping the number of places available.

  There are many reasons why families may preference sessional kindergarten, but a key driver is the free kindergarten initiative. Most sessional kindergartens in Glen Eira are participating in free kindergarten which means families with children attending these services do not pay a fee. By comparison, if a child attends kindergarten through a long daycare service, the family continues to pay the childcare fee.

Glen Eira ECE Profile		2021	2022	2023	2024
% of enrolments in sessional kinder	3-year-old	N/A	42%	47%	47%
	4-year-old	N/A	59%	60%	57%
% of places	In sessional kinder	30.6%	30.6%	28.4%	27.3%
	In long daycare	69.4%	69.4%	71.6%	72.7%

Table: D.5: Glen Eira ECE Profile, Department of Education 2023 and 2024

Kindergarten supply

There are a substantial number and diversity of services delivering funded kindergarten in the City of Glen Eira. Key features of the supply of kindergarten services are:

- ***The prevalence of long daycare services***, particularly privately owned and operated services. Long daycare services are where significant capacity for kindergarten exists. As outlined in **table D.5 above**, around 70% of places for kindergarten are available in long daycare, but only 40% of enrolments in 4-year-old kindergarten 50% of 3-year-old enrolments occur in long daycare settings, with the remainder occurring sessional kindergarten.
- ***The number of faith-based services***. As outlined in the KISP, Glen Eira is home to the largest Jewish community in Melbourne, concentrated in Elsternwick, Caulfield North, and Caulfield South. Of the 28 education and care services in Elsternwick – Caulfield 10 are faith based including Jewish community preschools. While faith-based services are valued by families who share those beliefs, they may not align with the preferences and needs of all residents.
- A handful of services (6) which do not provide a funded kindergarten program.

Table D.6 below outlines the mix of services offering funded kindergarten at the time of completing the 2025 KISP. In addition, there were a number of planning applications for new long daycare services, however at the time of completing this report, none of the planning applications have progressed to development of new infrastructure.

Service type	No.
Private long day care services	37
Community operated long daycare	8
Community operated sessional kindergartens	17
Independent school early learning centres or long day care services	7
Services who do not offer a funded kindergarten program	6
Total	**75**

Table D.6: Early education and care services in the City of Glen Eira, 2025

Sessional kindergarten supply and demand and Council's role

Table D.7 below provides information about the location, licensed places and capacity of sessional kindergarten services in Glen Eira. It shows services are spread right across Glen Eira, but there is more limited access to sessional kindergarten in Carnegie, Bentleigh East - North and Caulfield North.

In reviewing the information, it is important to understand:

- **Licensed places** are the maximum number of children a service can have in the centre at any one time.
- **Actual and estimated capacity** is the number of children who can access kindergarten at a service across a week.

For example, Bentleigh East Kindergarten has 33 licensed places. This means a maximum of 33 children can attend kindergarten at the same time. As children currently attend kindergarten generally around 15 hours per week and the service operates 6 days per week, this means up to 98 children can attend kindergarten at the service across a week.

The roll out of 30 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten will reduce the capacity of services i.e. the number of children who can attend kindergarten at a service across a week will be lower. This reduction means more licensed places and more infrastructure will be needed for kindergarten, and population growth will increase this further.

As highlighted earlier, the demand for 3- and 4-year-old sessional kindergarten already far outstrips the number of places available in Council's kindergarten central registration system. As the capacity of services to accommodate children reduces, the gap between available places and the number of children seeking a place in sessional kindergarten will grow, unless additional infrastructure and licensed places can be made available.

While there is an option to rely upon the private sector to address the gap, this is very unlikely to be in the form of sessional kindergarten. Given the community's preference for sessional kindergarten and the importance of having a robust early education system which offers families a genuine choice about where, when and how their children can access kindergarten, there is a clear need to investigate opportunities for more infrastructure to support sessional kindergarten. The key question for Council is what is their role in this?

In answering this question, it is important to understand Council's existing footprint in kindergarten. Table D.8 below shows that 37.1% of children attending 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten do so through a sessional program operating from a building owned by Glen Eira Council. A higher percentage of children attend 4-year-old kindergarten in a Council owned building compared with 3-year-old kindergarten and this is consistent with broader participation rates for kindergarten where more 4-year-old children are participating in sessional kindergarten compared with 3-year-old children.

Geographic catchment (SA2)	Kindergarten	Licensed places	Actual / est. capacity in 2026
Bentleigh - McKinnon	Bentleigh	34	98
	Bentleigh West	24	69
	McKinnon	64	163
	Subtotal	**122**	**330**
Bentleigh East - North	Bentleigh East	**33**	**98**
Bentleigh East - South	Brady Road	32	79
	Centre Road	36	95
	Glover Street	33	82
	Taraleigh Steiner	24	66 *
	Subtotal	**125**	**322**
Carnegie	Carnegie P. School	**33**	**98**
Caulfield - North	Ripponleigh	**24**	**54***
Caulfield - South	Caulfield South	30	74
	Caulfield P. School	44	120
	Subtotal	**74**	**194**
Elsternwick	Orrong Road	51	126
	Adass Israel	22	44*
	Wesley College	66	100*
	Subtotal	**139**	**270**
Murrumbeena	Murrumbeena	66	101
	St Patrick's P School	33	82
	Subtotal	**99**	**183**
Ormond – Glen Huntly	Ormond	33	80
	Kilvington Grammar	60	100*
	Subtotal	**93**	**180**
Total		**742**	**1,729**

Table D.7: Licensed places and actual or estimated capacity in sessional kindergarten in Glen Eira, February 2026

Note: Capacity figures with an * beside them are an estimate

2024	Total no. children participating in kinder (Glen Eira ECE profile)	Children accessing kinder in a Council building	% of children participating in kinder in a Council building	Children accessing kinder through the Glen Eira CRS	% of children participating in kinder through the CRS
3-year-old	1,356	437	32.2%	597	44.0%
4-year-old	1,409	590	41.8%	774	54.9%
Total	**2,765**	**1,027**	**37.1%**	**1,371**	**49.6%**

Table D.8: Children attending kindergarten in a building owned by Glen Eira Council and in Council's central registration system,

Based on 2024 data	3-year-old		4-year-old	
Kindergarten	**Capacity**	**Number of Registrations**	**Capacity**	**Number of Registrations**
Council buildings				
Bentleigh	44	71	55	82
Bentleigh East	43	54	54	97
Bentleigh West	22	58	44	81
Brady Road	40	57	40	67
Caulfield South	35	62	40	64
Centre Road	38	48	60	71
Glover Street	38	49	44	73
McKinnon	65	104	85	140
Murrumbeena	33	44	34	52
Ormond	32	63	50	72
Orrong Road	47	63	84	108
Total in Council buildings	**437**	**673**	**590**	**907**
% of CRS enrolments and registrations in Council building	**73.2%**	**72.4%**	**76.2%**	**74.7%**
Non-Council buildings				
Carnegie Primary School	43	91	55	101
Caulfield Primary School	56	74	54	90
St Patrick's	41	54	41	63
Ripponlea	20	38	34	54
Total in non-Council buildings	**160**	**257**	**184**	**308**
Total in CRS	**597**	**930**	**774**	**1,215**

Table D.9: Glen Eira Central Registration System capacity and registrations, 2024

Glen Eira ECE Profile		2021	2022	2023	2024
% of enrolments in sessional kinder	3-year-old	N/A	42%	47%	47%
	4-year-old	N/A	59%	60%	57%
% of places	In sessional kinder	30.6%	30.6%	28.4%	27.3%
	In long daycare	69.4%	69.4%	71.6%	72.7%
Aboriginal children		<10	13	12	25
Children with a disability or developmental delay		55	72	110	105
ESK / AEL enrolments		6	13	18	27

Table D.10: Glen Eira ECE Profile, Department of Education 2023 and 2024

Maternal and Child Health

Birth notification data

MCH Centre	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Estimated total year 2025/2026	2025/2026 at Jan 26
McKinnon	118	102	103	**101**	**135**	79
Moorleigh	258	205	226	209	225	131
Bentleigh	220	187	171	**170**	**207**	121
Glen Huntly	290	187	252	**220**	**279**	163
Caulfield	245	207	225	**238**	**264**	154
Elsternwick	275	235	254	247	245	143
Murrumbeena	218	176	142	191	182	106
Total	**1,624**	**1,299**	**1,373**	**1,376**	**1,538**	**897**

Table D.11: Birth notification data for Glen Eira MCH Centres 2021/2022 – 2025/2026

MCH Centre	Estimated 2025/2026	Projected 2027	Projected 2029	Projected 2031	Projected 2033	Projected 2036
McKinnon	135	168	168	173	177	184
Moorleigh	225	211	210	221	235	254
Bentleigh	207	224	226	236	246	262
Glen Huntly	279	285	282	287	292	303
Caulfield	**264**	305	305	314	323	**341**
Elsternwick	**245**	317	321	341	359	**389**
Murrumbeena	**182**	259	259	261	263	**269**
Total	**1,538**	**1,769**	**1,771**	**1,833**	**1,895**	**2002**

Table D.12: Projected birth notifications for Glen Eira MCH Centres 2025/2026 - 2036

Modelling the MCH consulting rooms needed

The number of MCH consulting rooms needed is modelled based on the following:

- Apportioning population localities across each of the 7 MCH Centres. Table D.11 below shows how population localities are allocated across the centres. This is then applied to the projected births (0-year-old children) in Glen Eira between 2025 and 2036. See Table D.12 below.
- Inputting the projected births into Council's MCH staff and room utilisation model for each MCH Centre to identify the estimated number of hours needed for consulting rooms in each Centre. The model identifies both a perfect scenario where no allowance is made for factors such as cancellations, and staff or rooms being unavailable, and a more realistic scenario where these factors are considered. This model is provided as a separate Excel attachment to this report.
- The number of staffing hours needed at each Centre is then applied to a model which identifies how many days consulting rooms can be used across a year, and consequently the number of consulting rooms needed. The range of rooms captures the perfect and more realistic scenario. In addition, a practical application of room numbers is identified e.g. it is not possible to have 2.5 rooms, so in practice, 3 rooms are needed. This model is provided as a separate Excel attachment to this report.

Suburbs / localities in Glen Eira	MCH Centre	Apportionment of localities to MCH centres
St Kilda East	Elsternwick	100%
Elsternwick	Elsternwick	100%
Caulfield North - Caulfield East	Caulfield	64%
	Elsternwick	36%
Caulfield	Caulfield	100%
Caulfield South	Caulfield	62%
	Glen Huntly	38%
Glen Huntly	Glen Hunty	100%
Carnegie	Glen Huntly	52%
	Murrumbeena	48%
Ormond	Glen Huntly	47%
	McKinnon	53%
Murrumbeena	Murrumbeena	100%
McKinnon	McKinnon	100%
Bentleigh	Bentleigh	77%
	McKinnon	23%
Bentleigh East	Moorleigh	74%
	Bentleigh	26%
	Elsternwick	100%

Table D.13: Apportioning population localities across the 7 MCH Centres in Glen Eira

MCH Centre	2025	2027	2029	2031	2033	2035	2036
Elsternwick	315	317	321	341	359	378	389
Caulfield	302	305	305	314	323	334	341
Glen Huntly	283	285	282	287	292	298	303
Murrumbeena	258	259	259	261	263	266	269
McKinnon	164	168	168	173	177	181	184
Bentleigh	226	211	210	221	235	248	254
Moorleigh	226	211	210	221	235	248	254
Total	**1772**	**1769**	**1771**	**1833**	**1895**	**1961**	**2002**

Table D14: City of Glen Eira projected birth notifications 2025 – 2036

Occasional Care

Occasional care services in Council buildings

Location	Name	Where	Council building	Licensed capacity	Operating hours	Program delivery
Carnegie	Carnegie Occasional Care	Carnegie Children's Multipurpose Room	Yes	26	Wed and Thurs 9.30am – 12.30pm School term	Glen Eira Council
Bentleigh East	GESAC Occasional Care	Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre	Yes	30	Mon to Fri 9.15am – 11.50am	Glen Eira Council

Table D.15: Occasional care services operated by the City of Glen Eira, March 2026