

# Kindergarten Cluster Management

## New Policy Framework Summary

Kindergarten cluster management brings together a group of community managed kindergartens under the management of a single organisation. The initiative is actively supported, promoted and funded by the Victorian Government through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD).

Kindergarten cluster management is one of the key platforms in early childhood education and care from which integration of services, partnerships with local government and community and reform of the early childhood education and care workforce can be realised.

The new Kindergarten Cluster Management Policy Framework emphasises the importance of kindergarten cluster management as an important strategy for building a stronger, more responsive and effective kindergarten system across the State.

This framework progresses the Government's agenda for system improvement as outlined in the *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development*.

The framework outlines five key components of an exemplary kindergarten cluster management arrangement. These components will be instrumental in creating systemic and sustainable change to increase the effectiveness and quality of kindergarten cluster management in Victoria. They are:



- Geographically based clusters
- Robust governance and support infrastructure
- Participation in local partnerships
- Provision of professional development opportunities and career pathways for kindergarten staff
- Fostering a culture of continuous system improvement.

### What is different about the new policy framework?

The new policy framework redefines Victoria's approach to the management of kindergartens.

It acknowledges and promotes the lead role of local government in the planning and coordination of services for young children and their families, while recognising that community service organisations and parents are valuable partners in maintaining locally responsive kindergarten

services. The framework commits to the continuation of this partnership approach.

Significantly, implementation of the framework will also contribute to reforms in early childhood education and care by ensuring that kindergarten cluster managers are well placed to support implementation of a range of changes, such as Universal Access to 15 hours of Early Childhood Education, the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care, and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework.

The Kindergarten Cluster Management Policy Framework reaffirms the Government's commitment to kindergarten cluster management as a highly valued strategy that contributes to the ongoing reform of our early childhood education and care systems in Victoria.

For further information call your local DEECD regional office. Contact details are available at [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/regions.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/regions.htm)

Prepared by:  
Department of Education &  
Early Childhood Development  
Level 11, 35 Spring St,  
Melbourne Victoria, 3000

May 2010



Every  
child,  
every  
opportunity

