Supplement to the Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria 2010–12

Supplement to Section 3: Programs for four-year-olds

Supplement date: September 2010

Changes

This policy supplement has been updated to include extended eligibility for the kindergarten fee subsidy in 2010.

Further information is provided below.

All other details in Section 3.2 of the Victorian kindergarten policy, procedures and funding criteria 2010–12 are unaltered.

3.2 Child based funding and how to apply

Kindergarten fee subsidy

Kindergarten fee subsidy eligibility criteria

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has abolished Temporary Protection/ Humanitarian Visas 447, 451, 785 or 786. In August 2008 these visas were replaced by the Resolution of Status (RoS) visa, Class CD, subclass 851. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has advised that some temporary protection/humanitarian visas may still be active if the RoS visa has not yet been applied for, or if other issues are awaiting resolution.

There is also the possibility that some persons may not have transferred to the new visa type; therefore eligibility criteria for the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy will continue to reference persons with the temporary protection/humanitarian visas, who continue to be eligible to access a free kindergarten program supported by the kindergarten fee subsidy.

The kindergarten fee subsidy is paid to funded organisations to directly reduce the kindergarten fee paid by eligible families.

An organisation is eligible to receive the kindergarten fee subsidy for each child who meets the following criteria.

The child:

• is eligible to attend a funded kindergarten program,

and

• individually holds, or has a parent or guardian who holds one of the following:
  – Commonwealth Health Care Card
  – Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card
  – Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card
  – Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785 or 786
  – Resolution of Status (RoS) visa, Class CD, subclass 851
  – Refugee/Special Humanitarian Visa 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, or 217
  – Asylum Seeker Bridging Visa A, B, C, D, E or F

or the child:

• is identified on the birth certificate as a triplet or quadruplet, and

• the other two or three children on the birth certificate are attending a funded kindergarten program.
or the child:

- is identified by a parent, carer or legal guardian as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and the family
- does not have ‘approved’ Commonwealth Child Care Benefit applied to the fee paid for the time spent in the funded kindergarten program.

Services should sight the relevant concession card, visa, travel document or letter of visa status and record the expiry date if it falls within the current term.

More information and examples of documents proving eligibility for the kindergarten fee subsidy can be found at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmanagement/careankinder/funding/subsidy.htm

**Applying for funding**

Services can claim the kindergarten fee subsidy for all eligible children from the start of the term in which they enrol and attend.

If a four year old child who individually holds, or has a parent or guardian who holds, a RoS visa was enrolled in a kindergarten program before the eligibility criteria was widened and the family has paid term fees in 2010, the service should refund any enrolment fees paid by the family for 10 hours of kindergarten or less per week, with the refund backdated to the start of the term in which the child enrolled. The service is not required to refund fees for additional hours beyond 10 hours per week.

Services wishing to apply for funding for eligible four year old children with a RoS visa who are currently enrolled should use Form PF05 – *Adjustment to confirmed kindergarten funding application*, entering the number of children with a RoS visa under category B. on the form.

Services are encouraged to communicate the change in criteria to eligible families.