



Department
of Education

Parliamentary Inquiry into the Early Childhood Education and Care Sector in Victoria

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Secretary, Department of Education

Monday 25 May 2026

Victoria has made strong progress in implementing Rapid Review recommendations



Completed 31 of the 40 sub -recommendations of the Rapid Child Safety Review and the remaining **9 sub -recommendations** are on track for delivery



Ongoing actions to lift the safety and quality of ECEC by creating an independent, strengthened VECRA, successfully advocating for national reforms, and working to lift quality and strengthen child safety through the Victorian Government's role as kindergarten system steward



Advocating for Commonwealth action and leadership for policy and funding settings to incentivise and lift quality and safety across the sector

As our role as kindergarten steward, Victoria has been improving quality and safety in the sector

Around **\$8.2 billion** investment in Best Start, Best Life has **increased access and strengthened quality and safety** with **96% of Victorian early childhood education and care services** meeting or exceeding the National Quality Standard

Victoria's investments **improve quality and safety across all elements of the kindergarten system**, including **infrastructure**, **workforce** and **inclusion**:



\$3.8 billion investment for building and expanding kindergartens and early learning centres since the 2015-2016 budget

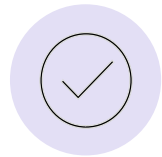


A workforce strategy to deliver workforce supply, retention and quality initiatives



Funding for quality, inclusion and safety programs (e.g. Kindergarten Quality Improvement Program and School Readiness funding), with the **Kindergarten Audit and Assurance program** expanding oversight of kindergarten funding

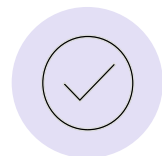
On 1 January 2026, the independent Victorian Early Childhood Regulatory Authority (VECRA) was established



VECRA is independent, headed by an **Early Childhood Regulator**, and reports directly to the **Minister for Children**



\$26.2 million over four years in the 2026-27 State Budget to **strengthen VECRA**, building on investment already provided to implement the Rapid Review findings



Legislative reforms have strengthened information sharing between regulators and authorities to prevent high risk individuals moving across the system



Victoria is continuing to advocate for the Commonwealth to **reinstate funding for state and territory regulators**

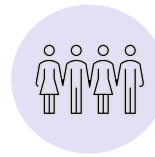
Victoria's advocacy and leadership has driven national reform to strengthen child safety

Led national legislative changes to strengthen the child safety legal framework, acquitting Rapid Review recommendations

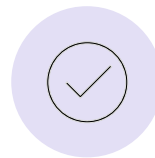
Swiftly established the **Victorian Workforce Register** and **mandatory child safety training** in 2025, setting the foundation for national change



Making the **interests of children paramount**, increasing **transparency**, and strengthening regulatory **enforcement powers** and **information sharing**



More than 58,000 Victorian workers have completed **national child safety training**, mandatory since 27 Feb 2026



More than **200,000** Victorian worker records now in the National Workforce Register

Commonwealth leadership is needed to improve child safety in ECEC settings



Rethink of the national ECEC system to prioritise quality and safety where the Commonwealth takes a more active stewardship role to manage the market



National funding arrangements must incentivise quality and safety, continue to support access and affordability, and provide for state and territory regulation of a rapidly growing sector



Growth in a quality workforce through improved training and placements, and Commonwealth action against poor quality registered training organisations

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