

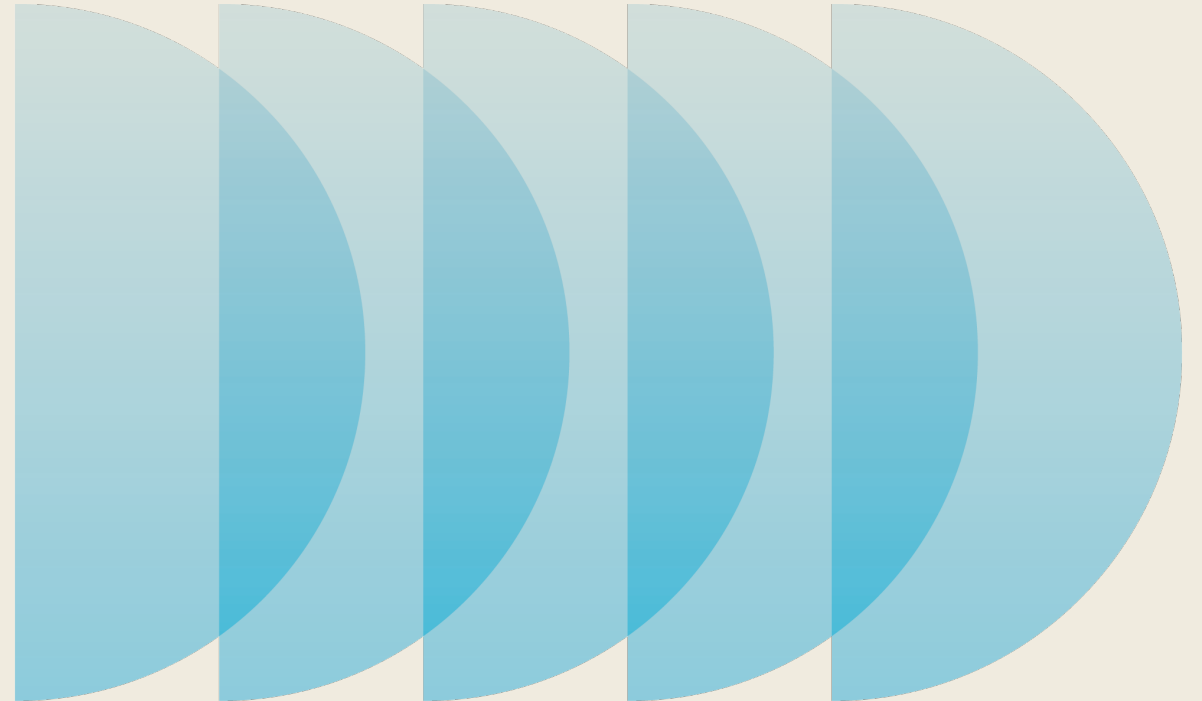


**VECRA**

Victorian **Early Childhood**  
Regulatory Authority

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

Adam Fennessy, Interim Regulator



# VECRA's purpose

The safety, rights and best interests of children are **paramount** and guide our regulatory focus, decision-making and operations.

VECRA oversees and regulates Victoria's early childhood education and care services to **protect children from harm** and to ensure they **deliver quality education and care** that supports children to learn, grow and thrive.

## **National legislation:**

[Education and Care Services National Law](#)

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)

## **Victorian state-based framework:**

[Children's Services Act 1996](#)

[Children's Services Regulations 2020](#)

[Early Childhood Legislation Amendment \(Child Safety\) Act 2025](#)

[Child Safe Standards](#)



# VECRA's key responsibilities

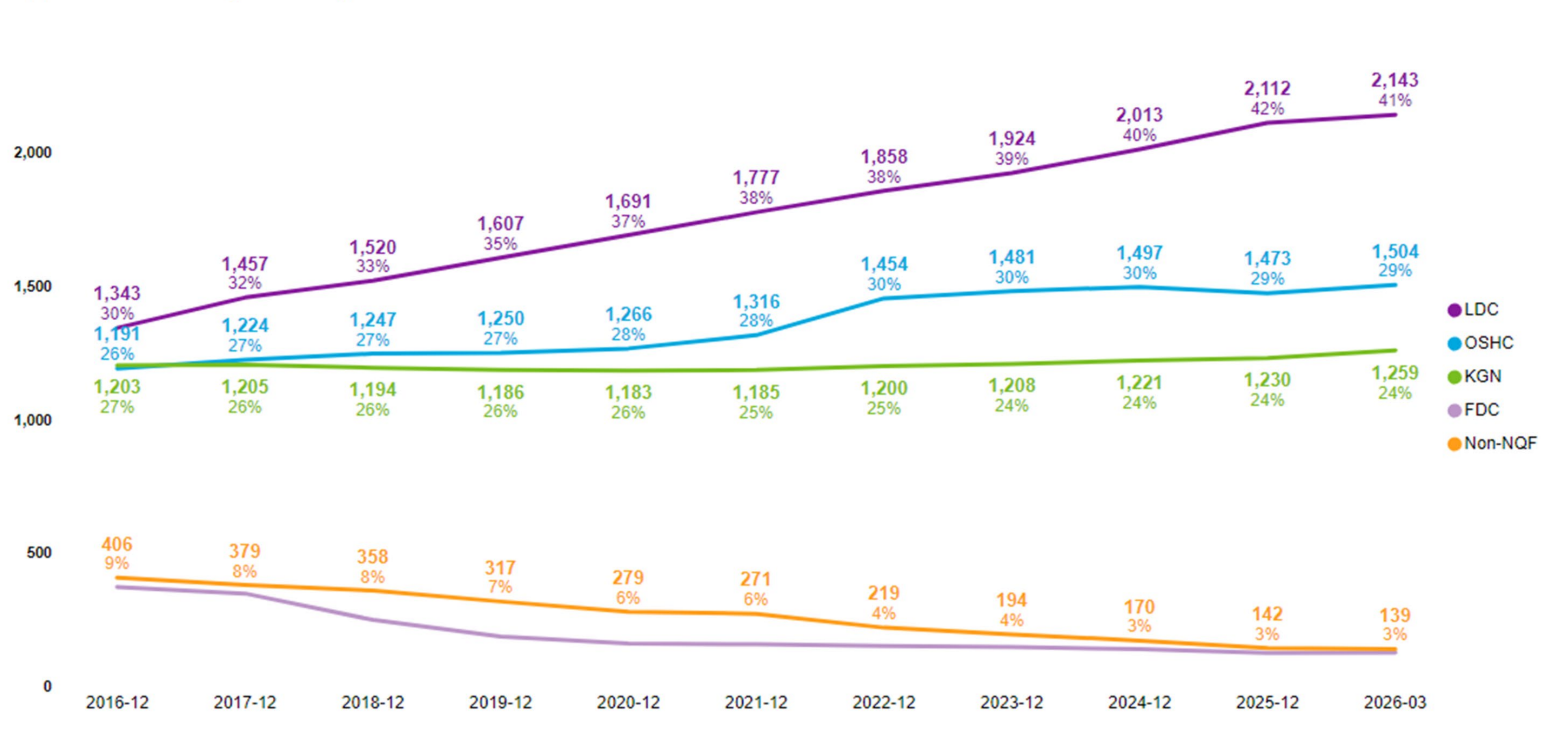
**VECRA has a number of core responsibilities to collectively support the regulation of ECEC services in Victoria. These include:**

- Informing and educating
- Setting standards and building confidence in the sector
- Supporting quality
- Monitoring compliance
- Enforcing the law



# ECEC: a rapidly growing sector

Approved services by service type



## Victorian Rapid Child Safety Review found:

- **95.2%** of the growth in pre-school early childhood services since 2015 has been amongst Long Day Care services.
- Traditional sessional kindergartens made up just **4.8%** of the growth since 2015.
- Almost **90%** of the growth among the for-profit sector

There are **362,048** early childhood and care places across **5,171** approved services in Victoria. By service type:

2,143 - Long Day Care  
126 - Family Day Care

1,504 - Outside of School Hours Care  
139 - Children's Services Act services

1,259 - Kindergartens

# VECRA's achievements since 1 January



**1921** services visited, including **434** assessment and rating visits

**799** compliance actions (Q1 2026), building on **4494** compliance actions in 2025

Joint compliance blitz with NSW, visiting **254** services over **2** days, with **43** compliance notices issued

More than **5487** participants attended online education sessions about the new National and Victorian law changes

More than **98%** services have submitted information to the National Register on more than **170,000** workers

Met with over **25** peak organisations, large providers and advocacy groups and over **20** other regulators in both Victoria and interstate



# VECRA's regulatory priorities for 2026

The safety, rights and best interests of children are paramount in guiding everything VECRA does. This principle guides regulatory decisions, actions and priorities and reflects our core responsibility to always act in the best interests of children.

VECRA is focusing its work to minimise the two highest risk harms:

## **Abuse caused by adults to children, with focus on sexual abuse, and other serious physical and psychological harms**

VECRA strives every day to ensure ECEC services are child safe, and that educator interactions are appropriate. We support ECEC services to do this through regular monitoring, inspections and education sessions. VECRA also takes strong and swift action when children's safety is at risk.

*Keeping our children safe*

## **Poor quality education and care environments**

The first five years of a child's life are critical for their future outcomes. VECRA works to ensure that Victoria's ECEC services are quality services, so Victorian children develop and prosper, and families have the information they need to make the best choice for their child.

*High-quality education and care*

# Thank you

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