



Seeking to address barriers to Kindergarten attendance

Selection Criteria

The Kinder + Program is designed to make 4 year old kindergarten more affordable accessible for all families in Boroondara.

1. Financials

- 1.1 All applicants are required to provide evidence of financial need or hardship to the Kindergarten service provider OR referral Agency. **Kinder + will not take direct applications.**
- 1.2 This may be done in the form of relevant Centrelink documentation.

2. Selection Criteria

- 2.1 The first priority of Kinder + is to assist families of children who are NOT currently enrolled in a **4 year old program** in a community managed kindergarten or long day care with a funded 4 year old kinder program and who would otherwise not be able to afford a funded kinder place.
- 2.2 The second priority is to assist low income families on the relevant Government cards such as Health Care Cards, Pension Concession Cards and Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785, or 786 with additional charges over 10 hours per week.
- 2.3 The third priority is to assist families who DO NOT hold a relevant Government card but can demonstrate financial hardship.
- 2.4 The fourth priority is to assist families who can demonstrate need for financial assistance with additional charges over 10 hours per week but do not fall into the above categories.

3. Time frame

It is expected that the majority of applications will request an annual subsidy. Term applications will also be accepted.

- 3.1 Subsidies will be allocated on a term basis or annually.
- 3.2 The selection committee which comprises of a representative from Foundation Boroondara, a local support agency and Council will review all applications
- 3.3 Decisions are expected within a six week period.

4. Administration

- 4.1 Subsidies will be paid to the kindergarten and MUST directly benefit the family.
- 4.2 All applications will be treated confidentially.

4.3 The Kinder + subsidy of up to \$250 per child per year may not cover the full cost of attending a 4 year old kinder program in Boroondara.

4.4 All applications for financial assistance may not be successful.

4.5 The committee reserves the right to seek additional information.

5. Reporting

5.1 Every November, each kindergarten/agency will be asked to contribute feedback on how the scheme is operating and suggestions for improvement.

6. Selection process

6.1 A two step process as follows:

- a) The project officer will review all of the applications and make recommendations to the selection committee.
- b) The selection committee will make the final decision, funds permitting.

Privacy Statement: Any personal information requested is being collected by the Kinder + partnership in order to administer the fee subsidy scheme. The Kinder + partnership will keep this information private & confidential unless required by law. **Disclaimer:** The Kinder + subsidy may not cover the full cost of 4 year old kinder.