

Is your child ready for four-year-old Kindergarten in 2017?

Enrolments for funded four-year-old Kindergarten in 2017 are currently being accepted. This year the enrolment process has been centralised; to simplify the process for parents, to help minimise the administrative burden on service providers, and to streamline the placement process.

Council is coordinating the Central Enrolment process with support from local Kindergartens. Parents simply complete a single enrolment form and nominate their first, second and third Kindergarten preferences. Children will then be allocated into Kindergarten programs in accordance with State Government Priority of Access guidelines. Where demand for a program exceeds the number of places available a waitlist will be created in partnership with Kindergarten service providers.

“The Central Enrolment scheme aims to ensure the maximum number of children secure their Kindergarten preference” said Shelley Fixter, Council’s Community Services Project Officer. “We want the process to be as transparent and equitable as possible.”

South Gippsland is following the lead of a number of other Councils that have already implemented a centralised system. These Councils have experienced benefits that have extended far beyond the streamlined enrolment process. Of particular benefit has been a better awareness of the communities needs when it comes to the provision of early-childhood education services.

“Knowing how many children require Kindergarten services, and from which locations, can help us plan for the future,” explained Ms Fixter. “This data will help support future applications for additional funded Kindergarten places.

There are currently 12 kindergartens operating in the South Gippsland region offering a mix of services. Some offer before or after care services. “Kindergarten is so important in encouraging childhood development,” said Ms Fixter.

“The programs offered give children a chance to solve problems, communicate and have fun. We hope that many parents will look at the opportunities Kindergartens present and start their enrolment process today.”

Kindergarten enrolments can be completed online at www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/centralenrolment. Hard copy enrolment forms can be collected from Council, local libraries and Maternal and Child Health Centres.

The enrolment period for 2017 four-year-old funded Kindergarten closes on 30 June, 2016.

PR1839 27/4/16