

# Dairy Kindergarten Fee Subsidy

## Question and Answers

The Victorian dairy industry is currently experiencing challenging economic and seasonal conditions. The Victorian Government and the dairy industry are working together to support dairy farmers through this tough period.

The Victorian Government has announced a Dairy Response Package to support our dairy farmers, which includes supporting children in dairy farming families to participate in kindergarten.

### What support is available for dairy farming families?

Dairy farming families will be able to apply at their local kindergarten service for a Dairy Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS). The Dairy KFS will allow eligible dairy farming families to access free or low cost kindergarten for 15 hours a week for children attending kindergarten in their year before school in 2016.

The Dairy KFS funding is \$1,386 per child for 2016. This will enable most eligible families to access a free kindergarten program.

Families whose children are attending a kindergarten program in a long day care service, an independent school or a specialist service (such as Montessori or Steiner) will be able to apply to have the Dairy KFS amount deducted from their annual parent fees.

### Who is eligible?

The Dairy KFS is available to dairy farming families where one or both parents:

- own an operating dairy farm
- are share farmers on a property primarily operating as a dairy farm
- hold a lease for an operating dairy farm
- work as an employee on an operating dairy farm and this is their main source of employment.

Dairy farming families already receiving a free kindergarten program through the standard KFS or the Drought KFS will not be eligible.

### How do families apply?

Application forms will be provided to kindergarten services. Families that apply will be asked to show evidence they meet one of the eligibility requirements listed above.

This evidence must be sighted by the kindergarten service to confirm eligibility for the Dairy KFS.

Evidence may include:

- confirmation from a school that an older sibling has been approved for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund on the basis of being an eligible dairy farming family
- a dairy industry license issued by Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFS) (DFS)
- lease documentation
- share farming contract
- agreement with a dairy production/supply company
- a letter from an employer
- a statutory declaration stating the family's main business or employment is on an operating dairy farm (in cases where other forms of evidence are not available).

### When will the support be available?

Eligible dairy farming families will be eligible for a free or low cost kindergarten program for the 2016 calendar year.

The Department will pay the Dairy KFS as an annual grant back-dated to 1 January 2016. Similar to the Standard KFS, a pro-rata payment may apply if the child is not enrolled for the full calendar year.

### Will the Dairy KFS be paid directly to families?

Kindergarten services will receive the Dairy KFS from the Department of Education and Training on behalf of eligible dairy farming families.

Funding will be paid to the kindergarten service so that eligible families can access the kindergarten program for free or low cost.

Kindergarten services will be required to reimburse or offset any parent fees already paid by eligible families for 2016, depending on the service type.

### Is there a closing date for applications?

Families will need to apply for the Dairy KFS before 30 October 2016.

### How can I find out more information?

Detailed information will be provided to kindergarten service providers in the coming days.

Further information about the Government's Dairy Response Package is available at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/dairy/dairy-support>

Kindergarten services with urgent enquiries can contact the Department of Education and Training at [kindergarten.funding@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:kindergarten.funding@edumail.vic.gov.au)