

The Leongatha Early Learning Centre will address the demand for children's services in South Gippsland – particularly with the introduction of three-year-old kindergarten.

During 2019/20, funding for three-year-old kindergartens was a Victorian Government election commitment. South Gippsland Shire was chosen as a pilot for the program which required Council to consider and develop adequate facilities to accommodate the funded program. It was determined that there was a need for development of a new facility in Leongatha based on a needs assessment undertaken across the South Gippsland.

Project Outline

- The Leongatha Early Learning Centre project will see the construction of a 121-place integrated children's facility in Symmons Street, Leongatha providing long daycare, kindergarten, maternal and child health and allied health services.
- This facility will provide additional capacity to meet current and future demand. Building the new centre will reduce pressure on other services in Leongatha and other towns that are experiencing high demand.

- Council's Contribution: \$3 million
- State Government Contribution:\$2,375,291
- Project Status: Shovel ready

Benefits

- Increased Childcare Opportunities: The
 Leongatha Early Learning Centre will provide
 much-needed childcare and kindergarten services
 for families in South Gippsland.
- **Employment Opportunities**: It is anticipated that the project will offer employment during and post-construction contributing to our rural economy.
- Reduced Pressure on Other Facilities: Building
 the new centre will reduce pressure on other
 services in Leongatha and other towns that are
 experiencing high demand.
- Community Connection to Place: Image and identity enhancement of Korumburra.

Timeline

Seed Funding Approved June 2020

Construction Starts 2021 **Project Start**January 2020

Project Planning
July 2020

Construction Complete 2022

