

Kindergarten Upgrade Package – FUNDED

Lucas Community Hub Expansion

Project Cost

\$2.5 million

Investment Needed

- \$1.5 million

City of Ballarat Investment

- \$1 million

Project Description

Expansion of the Lucas Community Hub to include an additional 33 place kindergarten room and an increase to outdoor space. A redesign of the entrance and kindergarten foyer, a laundry, storeroom, additional toilets and a staff planning room.

Community Benefit

The expansion will give the kindergarten capacity to provide additional programs, providing families with a high-quality, accessible, early years services close to home, supporting children in Lucas and surrounding areas to be 'school ready'.

Why should Governments invest in this project?

Economic impact

- \$1.6 million

Job creation

- 12 jobs during construction

Respond to growth

The population of Lucas nearly trebled between 2016 and 2021 (ABS Census 2021), with a higher than the Victorian average number of children in the 0–4-year-old age group.

Respond to Victorian Government policy

Delivering essential infrastructure to support demand created by the Victorian Governments Best Start, Best Life Reforms which make kindergarten free for both three and four-year-olds from 2023.

Location

- 17 Coltman Plaza, Lucas

Status

- Currently working to negotiate a Building Blocks partnership with the VSBA
- Awaiting the outcome of a \$1.5 million application to the capacity building grant stream

Timeline and Next Steps

- **Construction**
Planned for 2024 and is expected to take nine months



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