

Langwarrin Community Centre and Early Years Project

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) – October 2024

Why didn't Council identify Langwarrin Community Centre (LCC) as a viable location earlier in the process?

The Langwarrin Community Centre Incorporation approached Council in June 2023 to explore the opportunity to provide early years services at the Langwarrin Community Centre at 2 Lang Road, Langwarrin. The Centre currently provides a range of community programs and occasional care.

Subsequent investigations to explore this opportunity were undertaken by Council, exploring a range of traffic, parking, and feasibility assessments to determine the site's suitability.

Council also carefully considered the community's feedback during engagement on the Long Street Reserve in its review of the suitability of LCC. The LCC site reflected the community's preference for:

- The kindergarten to be co-located with other community services and existing infrastructure.
- Minimising the loss of open space/biodiversity/wildlife/vegetation
- Minimising impact on traffic and parking.

Why didn't you consult on the new location?

Over the past 12 years, Council has investigated several sites for a new early years service in Langwarrin to cater for the growing demand, and more recently to meet the Victorian Government's Kindergarten Reforms.

Following analysis and feasibility studies of several sites across Langwarrin over the past 12 years, Council in 2022 determined that Long Street reserve could be the most suitable new location.

Between early December 2022 and late March 2023, Council held a range of engagement activities to seek the community's feedback on this location, including face-to-face community pop-ups, an online survey, and map contributions.

An estimated total of 514 people participated in the engagement, 290 online surveys, 32 through the environmental mapping activity, 25 through the traffic question on the engagement portal, 122 emails written to Council, 22 handwritten letters and 23 at Community drop-in sessions. A petition with 1751 signatures was also received by Council at the 30 January 2023.

Council engaged an independent consultant to review and analyse the findings of the engagement on the proposed Long Street Reserve location, and a detailed Engagement Report is published here: engage.frankston.vic.gov.au/early-years-infrastructure/new-kindergarten-langwarrin

Following a review of the detailed findings of the 2022-2023 community engagement, Council determined that it needed to identify a different proposed site in Langwarrin. The decision not to proceed with the Long Street Reserve site was made after careful consideration of several

factors, including site suitability and community feedback. Most respondents (54.9%) opposed the proposed kindergarten at Long Street Reserve.

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Won't this make traffic around the Langwarrin Community Centre even worse?

Council has undertaken a thorough traffic assessment of the area, this indicated that the daily drop off and pick up routines for families and those travelling along Lang and Warrandyte Roads is expected to be a smooth and efficient process once the new facility is operational.

What does this mean for parking at the community centre? Are you making more parking available?

During construction, parking is limited and will be required for centre staff, users, and construction requirements.

Once the project is complete, restrictions will be in place to ensure centre users have access to parking, including safe pick up and drop off for families using the on-site services.

How noisy will construction be?

Due to the nature of works, there will be some noise and dust from the project – which is common for all building sites. Every effort will be made by Council and the contractor to mitigate this as much as possible, but locals should expect some impacts and should avoid the site unless they need to access the centre.

Will the community centre be closed during the construction?

The community centre will remain operational during construction and centre users will be informed about the project as it progresses.

Will the existing pre-school on Long Street be closed once this new facility is operational?

At this stage, the kindergarten on Long Street will continue to operate in its current form once the new centre is opened.

How many hours/places for three-and four-year-olds will the new Langwarrin Child and Family Centre have capacity for once operational?

The facility will have three registered kindergarten rooms and will have the capacity to offer two groups of three-year-old and two groups of four-year-old kindergarten. This will cater for up to 33 children for each group.

The operational hours are yet to be determined and will be planned in consultation with the approved provider of the kindergarten (Langwarrin Pre-school).

What will this mean for the existing childcare services offered by the Langwarrin Community Centre?

The kindergarten will be offering sessional hours for three and four-year-olds only. Existing childcare services at Langwarrin Community Centre with occasional care - *for children from 0-6 years* - will continue to be offered by the centre.

Are these changes supported by the Langwarrin Community Centre?

Yes, the Langwarrin Community Centre’s Management Committee initially approached Council requesting that the site be considered for the integration of kindergarten services. Since that time, we have been working closely with the community centre and all decisions are made in consultation with the centre’s management committee.

What is the Building Blocks Partnership?

The Building Blocks Partnership Agreement is a collaboration between Frankston City Council and the Department of Education (DE) to provide infrastructure that will result in additional kindergarten places for children in Frankston City.

What does the Building Blocks Partnership Agreement with the Victorian Government mean for Frankston City families?

Frankston City Council and the Department of Education (DE) have committed to working in partnership to deliver infrastructure for up to 246 newly funded kindergarten places by 2026 to support the roll out of the Best Start, Best Life (BSBL) reforms.

To support this commitment, the Victorian Government will co-contribute up to \$14.25 million for early childhood infrastructure across Frankston City over the course of the BSBL reforms through to 2032. Council will contribute up to \$7.25 million towards the projects. This commitment follows work between DE and Council to develop a Building Blocks Partnership Agreement, a forward plan for kindergarten infrastructure provision in Frankston City. This forward planning will provide more children with the opportunity to access two years of funded kindergarten from 2023 onwards.

The first part of this package will see the Victorian Government contribute up to \$14.25 million across three major kindergarten infrastructure projects in Frankston City, providing up to 246 funded kindergarten places delivered for the 2025 - 2026 kindergarten years. These projects include both new and expanded early learning centres:

Area to benefit from projects	Operational year	Funded kindergarten places (at 15 hours provision)
Frankston South	2025	84
Langwarrin	2026	119

Where can I find out more?

- Project construction:
Building Infrastructure - Frankston City Council
1300 322 322
info@frankston.vic.gov.au
- Frankston City Council's Early Years activities: [Early Years Projects | Engage Frankston!](#)
- Vic Government Best Start Best Life: [Kinder | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](#)