

If your child will turn 6 years whilst attending a Kindergarten Program

If your child will turn **6 six years of age (compulsory school age)** before or while attending their **first or second** year of funded kindergarten you must obtain an exemption from attending school. Parents/guardians are responsible for seeking this exemption by applying to the Department of Education and Training using an *Exemption from school due to attendance in a kindergarten program* form.

First year of funded kindergarten

A parent/guardian may apply for an exemption from school for a child turning six before or during their first funded year of kindergarten if one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- the family has moved from interstate or overseas where the school entry age criteria are different from those in Victoria
- the child's early education has been delayed due to chronic illness, disability or development delay
- the child is a refugee/asylum seeker who has suffered trauma and would benefit significantly from a year of kindergarten before enrolling in school
- the child has not been able to access kindergarten previously due to transient family circumstances, or
- other special considerations.

The parent/guardian is required to obtain written confirmation from a relevant professional (e.g. kindergarten teacher, medical practitioner or an allied health professional) verifying the reason for exemption and why it is in the child's best interest to attend kindergarten rather than commence at school. A copy of this written evidence and any other written advice that supports the child's exemption from school must be attached to the *Exemption from school due to attendance in a kindergarten program* form.

Second year of funded kindergarten

A parent/guardian may apply for an exemption from school for a child turning six before or during their second funded year of kindergarten if a *Declaration of eligibility for a second year of funded kindergarten* has been submitted by the early childhood teacher in the Kindergarten Information Management system (KIM). This Declaration confirms the child is eligible for a second funded year of kindergarten because an assessment by an early childhood teacher has identified developmental delays in two or more key areas of development.

Exemption application process

The completed *Exemption from school due to attendance in kindergarten program* form must be forwarded by the parent/guardian to the Area Executive Director of the relevant Department of Education and Training regional office by 1 November in the year before the child turns six. The Department will provide written confirmation of the decision to the parent/guardian following consideration of the request.

The parent/guardian must provide a copy of the Department's decision to the child's kindergarten service and Warrnambool City Council as evidence of eligibility for kindergarten per capita funding.

Please note that the nominated parent/guardian has the option to withdraw the school exemption request.