Greens response to Goodlife Early Learning survey 2026

1. Ensure all children have access to quality kinder in a setting that suits their families' needs. *We seek a commitment that operational funding and fee relief for long day care and community kinders will be maintained in real terms over the next four years.*

Victorian's youngest learners should have access to high-quality, affordable and accessible early childhood education.

The Greens want to see more funding for community and not-for-profit early childhood education and care, this includes for community kinders and long day care.

The Greens support free, universal, and high-quality early childhood education and care.

2. Expand funded kinder hours to 30 hours in the year before school by 2036.
We seek a commitment that funded kinder to 30 hours in the year before school expand in line with the current rollout timetable utilising existing capacity wherever possible.

All children, no matter their primary carers' income, employment status or postcode, deserve the best start in life. We need a universal early years education system, just like we have with schools.

The Greens fully support universal access to preschool for 30 hours a week for all four-year-olds and three-year-olds, including expanded funding for 30 hours of kinder in the year before school.

3. Provide additional support for services supporting children who are vulnerable, disadvantaged or have additional needs.
We seek a commitment that centres servicing disadvantaged communities will continue to receive needs-based funding such as the School Readiness Funding program.

The Greens believe all children deserve a good start to life this includes access to important learning and development in their most critical years.

The Greens fully support needs-based funding including the School Readiness Funding program.

4. Invest to ensure there is the pipeline of qualified educators and teachers across the State and that they are supported to continue to build their capability.
We seek a commitment that the next Government develops a workforce strategy with the sector to ensure an adequate pipeline and support for educators across the State.

The Victorian Greens will continue to work to ensure that the next Government has an effective workforce strategy for the early education sector. The Greens led inquiry this year into the Early Childhood and Education Care Sector chaired by Greens MP Anasina Gray-Barberio made recommendation for the Government to develop workforce strategy, advocate for better professional development opportunities and fairer working conditions for educators.

Federally, the Australian Greens will implement the National Workforce Strategy in full and boost access to high-quality training — including support for First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse educators.

5. Provide stewardship ensuring services are built where needed and cost effectively.
We would encourage the next Government to comprehensively review its proposed builds of new ECEC services to ensure that they are in communities that genuinely need them, having regard to better utilising the unused capacity in current long day care.

Large swathes of Victoria, especially in regional areas, don't have enough early childhood education options for families.

The Victorian Greens will develop a plan to address early learning deserts, with more government-funded and not-for-profit centres in these early learning deserts.

6. Work with the sector to ensure that the Government is effectively supporting the delivery of affordable, quality and safe ECEC.
We would encourage the next Government to partner with the sector in the design of policy options that deliver our aspiration of high quality ECEC for all.

Yes, should the Victorian Greens form Government, we are ready and willing to work together with the early childhood education sector to ensure that all Victorian children have access to high-quality, affordable and accessible early childhood education.