

17th December 2021

UPDATED 3YO KINDERGARTEN FEES IN 2022

Dear Families,

Earlier this year we communicated updated fees for 2022. These fees were based on an understanding that 3YO kinder would be subsidised by the Victorian Government (you may have heard about “free 3-year-old kinder” in the media). This week we learned that our Kinder will receive 5 hours of funding subsidy for 3-year-old children. This means that fees for children attending in our 8-hour group will be slightly higher than previously communicated, to make fees equitable and ensure our Kinder remains financially viable. Westgarth Kinder is absorbing some of the cost of running the 8-hour group.

The following table outlines fees for Government funded children:

Group	Current fees (per term)	2022 fees (per term)
4YO – 15 hours per week	\$495	\$525
3YO – 5 hours per week	\$475	\$175*
3YO – 8 hours per week	\$575	\$380*

*introduction of Victorian Government funded 3YO kinder subsidy allows us to reduce fees in 2022.

- Changes to DET funding and relief packages are frequent and may result in changes in fee structures when future funding announcements are made (particularly for 3YO funded Kinder and COVID-19 relief).
- Westgarth offers families of twins a 10% discount.
- The Kindergarten Fee Subsidy (KFS) is available for some children to attend kindergarten for free or at low cost. Your child is eligible if they are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, are a triplet or quadruplet, or if you (or your child) hold an eligible concession card. Please notify us if you believe your child may be eligible for the KFS.
- If your child is attending multiple services, you will need to nominate which service receives Government funding to deliver 3YO and 4YO kinder to your child. In 2022 your child is enrolled to attend Westgarth Kindergarten and we will be claiming funding for your child on your behalf. It is your responsibility to advise other services that we will be claiming funding for your child.
- For further information please refer to the ‘Fees’ policy or ‘Hardship’ policy published on our website.

This is the first fee increase that the Kinder has introduced since 2018. Westgarth Kinder has not had a major fee increase since the introduction of Bush Kinder in 2015. The revised fees have been benchmarked against comparable sessional Kindergartens and will ensure that our not-for-profit organisation remains in a good position to continue delivering our programme into the future.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact enrolments@wgkg.vic.edu.au or treasurer@wgkg.vic.edu.au.

Did you know...?

- At Westgarth we operate a two-teacher model. That means that all children benefit from the leadership of two degree-qualified teachers during their sessions. This exceeds Government requirements and is well above standard practice.
- Many of our teachers and educators have been with our Kinder for more than 10 years.
- Westgarth Kindergarten operates one of Australia’s leading Bush Kinder programmes. Every year, we have educators and researchers visit and observe Westgarth in the bush, to learn from us and implement their own bush kinder programmes. We are regularly cited in research on the benefits of nature based learning.