

Helping Every Child Get the Best Start

The CALD Outreach Initiative

The CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) Outreach Initiative helps children from multicultural, migrant and refugee families access kindergarten and early childhood services.

The program is funded by the Victorian Government through the Best Start, Best Life reforms and coordinated by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) in partnership with local councils.

CALD Outreach Workers are employed by councils and work directly with families and community services.

Why kindergarten matters even more for migrant and refugee families

Many migrant and refugee families face barriers to kindergarten, including limited English, difficulty navigating services, and a lack of information about available support.

Yet kindergarten is especially important for children from CALD backgrounds, helping them to:

- develop language and social skills,
- build confidence and friendships,
- prepare for school, and
- feel connected to their local community.

Children from CALD backgrounds are **less likely to attend early childhood education** than other children.



CALD Outreach Workers help families to:

- ✓ Understand kindergarten
- ✓ Register and enrol their children
- ✓ Access interpreters and translated information
- ✓ Connect with local services and supports
- ✓ Navigate education, health and community systems
- ✓ Support children to transition to school



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for case
studies

mav.asn.au

The CALD Outreach Initiative Working Together for Better Outcomes

The CALD Outreach Initiative succeeds because it is **community-based, local and collaborative**

2025 PROGRAM IMPACT

4,200 children supported to register and enrol in kindergarten

1,500 children supported to attend and participate in kindergarten

2,000 children supported to engage with early childhood services

700 children supported to successfully transition to school



Interested in partnering or sharing information?
Contact us at caldkindergartenparticipation@mav.asn.au
or visit mav.asn.au

CALD Outreach Workers work with:

- Community services
- Multicultural organisations
- Education and care providers



Working together, we can:

- Increase kindergarten participation
- Reduce barriers for migrant and refugee families
- Improve educational outcomes
- Strengthen community belonging
- Create more welcoming and inclusive services