



2023 VICTORIAN EARLY YEARS AWARDS INFORMATION PACK FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

Category 5: Continuity of Early Learning

Awarded to two or more early childhood services, schools and/or other organizations that support continuity of early learning through successful transitions.

Winner: Greater Dandenong Early Learning Alliance – Keysborough Primary School

In partnership with Fair Education, Schools Plus, Keysborough Primary School Kindergarten, Yarraman Oaks Primary School, Yarraman Oaks Primary School Kindergarten, Dandenong Primary School, Dandenong Primary School Kindergarten, Dandenong South Primary School, Dandenong South Primary School Kindergarten and Dandenong South Preschool.

The Greater Dandenong Early Learning Alliance (ELA) is a group of 4 schools and 5 kindergartens that employ a multi-disciplinary approach to improving language and literacy skills in 3–8-year-old children.

Australian Early Development Census data indicated that a large proportion of children in Greater Dandenong were developmentally at risk or vulnerable in relation to language, cognitive skills and communication when starting school. Almost 48% were assessed as at least 6 months behind in their literacy development compared to peers. The ELA project targets these critical areas.

A cornerstone of the approach is continuity of learning in language and literacy development between the kindergarten and the school. ELA strengthened collaborative partnerships, relationships and engagement between educators and educational settings, families and communities through co-design.

Teachers from participating kindergartens and schools collaborate to implement curriculum, monitor children's developmental progress, reflect on their practices and critically examine the results. These early interventions have supported significant language growth for all the children in the program.