

Victorian Kindergartens and Early Learning Centres

Recommended Funding Pathway

Building Blocks – Inclusion (Equipment Stream)

Grant Information:

<https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/building-blocks-grants-inclusion>

The **Building Blocks Inclusion (Equipment Stream)** is the **Recommended** external pathway for Victorian kindergartens. Administered by the **Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA)**, this recurring annual grant provides up to **\$10,000** specifically for inclusive education equipment. Because the grant is designed for "non-fixed" or "minor-works" assets that remove barriers to participation, it is the perfect fit for 1–2 of our specialised acoustic instruments. This stream typically requires no co-contribution from the centre, making it a "cost-neutral" way to upgrade sensory facilities.

Project Positioning

For this recommended pathway, the project should be positioned as **"Specialist Inclusion Equipment"**. Frame the instruments as a "Sensory Regulation Tool" required to meet the needs of children with disabilities or those supported by the **Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS)** programme. By referencing the **Victorian Autism Plan**, the application can demonstrate a proactive approach to creating the "safe, low-arousal spaces" mandated by the state's inclusive education reforms.

Avoid positioning the project as:

A general playground renovation or a musical "extra." Avoid focusing on the aesthetic or recreational value; instead, focus entirely on the **clinical and pedagogical necessity** of acoustic engineering for children who experience sensory overload in traditional playground settings.

Project Title

[Insert Kindergarten Name] Specialist Sensory Equipment: Enabling All-Abilities Participation

Service Overview

[Insert Kindergarten Name] is a community-based centre dedicated to providing a high-quality, inclusive learning environment for all Victorian families. We are committed to the principle of **"Universal Design,"** ensuring that our physical environment is accessible to every child, regardless of their sensory profile. This application seeks funding for specialised inclusion equipment to ensure that our neurodiverse learners can participate fully and safely in our outdoor educational programme.

Project Description

This project involves the procurement of professional-grade, acoustically engineered sensory instruments designed to facilitate **"Active Resets"** during outdoor play. These tools are specifically tuned to provide a gentle, low-decibel auditory experience, allowing children to engage in calming, rhythmic play to regulate their nervous systems. The "Zero-Surfacing" design of the instruments ensures they can be integrated into our existing yard without the need for expensive construction or soft-fall upgrades, providing an immediate inclusive benefit.

Community Need

Our centre has noted a rising number of children presenting with sensory processing sensitivities and emotional regulation challenges. Traditional high-stimulus playground environments can trigger "sensory shut-down" or distress for these children, leading to exclusion from outdoor learning. This project addresses the urgent need for "Low-Arousal" inclusive equipment that allows every child to remain engaged with their peers while managing their own sensory wellbeing.

Community Benefit

This project provides a permanent inclusion resource for the local [Insert Suburb] community. By providing high-quality, specialist equipment in the early years, we are fostering a more inclusive society and ensuring that children with disabilities have the same opportunities for success as their peers. As these instruments carry a **25-year structural warranty**, this grant represents a long-term investment in the social and emotional health of Victorian children for decades to come.

Outcomes

The project aims to achieve a documented increase in inclusive participation rates for children with additional needs and a measurable reduction in sensory-related distress incidents. We expect to see improved social interaction between children of all abilities and a stronger alignment with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF) outcome of fostering a strong sense of wellbeing.

Project Delivery

The project will be managed by the Kindergarten Management Committee. We will procure the specialist instruments and place them in a strategically selected quiet zone within our yard. The "Zero-Maintenance" nature of the equipment ensures that no further financial burden is placed on the centre, allowing staff to focus entirely on integrating these new tools into their daily pedagogical practice.

Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Specialist Sensory Instruments (Explorer/Composer)	2	\$9,000
Freight and Handling (Indicative to VIC)	1	\$450
Site Works Provision (Indicative Installation)	1	\$1,500
Total Project Cost		\$10,950
Funding Requested (Building Blocks)		\$10,000
Kindergarten Contribution		\$950

Pricing Note

Costs provided are indicative to support funding applications. Final pricing, including freight and installation, may vary depending on location and site requirements. Schools are encouraged to obtain a formal quote to confirm project costs.

Budget Justification

This budget focuses on high-durability, specialist assets that offer the lowest "Total Cost of Ownership." We have included a **provisional sum for indicative installation** to ensure the project is fully funded from delivery to completion. By utilising "**Zero-Surfacing**" technology, the project eliminates the \$10,000+ cost typically required for rubber soft-fall or specialised drainage, ensuring that the vast majority of the funding is spent on the therapeutic instruments themselves.

Sustainability

The instruments are crafted from **316L marine-grade stainless steel** and require zero ongoing maintenance. This is a "one-off" capital investment that does not require recurrent funding for repairs or surfacing replacement. The 25-year warranty ensures the equipment will remain a functional and safe inclusion asset for the next quarter-century.

Evaluation

Success will be evaluated through educator observations and "Learning Stories" that track children's use of the instruments for emotional regulation. We will also monitor feedback from families and inclusion professionals to ensure the space is effectively meeting the inclusive goals of our service.

Application Considerations

Building Blocks Inclusion grants are highly competitive; ensure your application focuses on how the equipment **removes barriers** to play. Explicitly mention the number of children currently requiring sensory adjustments or supported by KIS funding to strengthen the "Community Need" section.