Moreland City Council’s
Preschool Field Officer Program

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Moreland Language Link

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D19/72714 2019/21FEB/DSD11
The Preschool Field Officer (PSFO) Program

The PSFO program provides practical support and advice to State-funded kindergarten programs in long day care centres and sessional kindergartens, supporting the inclusion of children with additional needs.

PSFO’s work within the context of the early childhood program, acting as a consultant to the early childhood teacher and educators.

The program is provided by Moreland City Council and funded by the Victorian Department of Education and Training at no cost to families or kindergartens.

Preschool Field Officer Key Roles

- Observing children with diverse needs and providing specialised and practical advice.
- Consultancy support to kindergarten staff with planning, implementation and review of developmentally appropriate programs for all children.
- Supporting and building capacity of early childhood teachers and educators with strategies and resources to ensure inclusive practices, such as providing specialised information on children’s specific additional needs and identifying appropriate training.
- Supporting referrals and linkages to specialist services for children and their families.
- Assisting the application process for additional funding (KIS) if required.
- Providing an independent opinion as required when considering a second year of funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten.

The PSFO Program assists children:

- Of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.
- With a disability or developmental delay – including children with mild language delays, diverse needs and children with multiple disabilities.
- With additional needs from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Who have experienced trauma.
- Who have diverse learning needs.
- Who are experiencing social and/or emotional difficulties at kindergarten.

Other PSFO support for kindergarten teachers and educators

- Resources.
- Guidance on inclusion practices.
- Information on specific additional needs.
- Meeting with staff.
- Program support: working with services to strengthen principles and practices embedded in the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and National Quality Standards.
- Identifying appropriate professional development opportunities.
- Assistance to implement recommendations.
- Linking with other agencies.
- Early years network meetings.

The referral can be made by:

- Parent/Guardian.
- Kindergarten teacher.
- Paediatrician.
- Allied Health (Speech, Occupational Therapy).
- Maternal and Child Health Nurse.
- Inclusion professional.
- Family Support agencies.

The PSFO referral form is completed jointly by the professional and the parent/guardian and signed by both parties (where applicable).

For more information please refer to education.vic.gov.au

PSFO referral forms are available from:

E: psfo@moreland.vic.gov.au