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|  | **FKA CHILDREN’S SERVICES** |

**WHAT IS FKA?**

FKA Children's Services has a long history of achievement in the provision of Early Childhood Services. FKA Children’s Services is a state-wide service that advocates for children’s cultural and linguistic rights and provides professional development and support to education and care services in the provisions of culturally rich environments.

FKA can support early childhood professionals in a variety of ways:

1. Professional learning
2. Multicultural Resource Centre
3. A helpful website that includes:
	1. Translated information to download for families
	2. Information Sheets for educators on specific cultures
4. Cultural Inclusion Support Program
5. **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Customised sessions are designed in collaboration with you and are delivered onsite or in a venue organized by you:

* Informed by the National Quality Framework
* Based on contemporary practice and pedagogy
* Underpinned by the UN Rights of the Child
1. **MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTRE**

Members of FKA are able to borrow:

* Multilingual children’s fiction and non-fiction books
* Story bags
* Games and puzzles
* Music & story CDs and DVDs
* Dramatic play resources
* Dolls
* Professional resources

Resources can be collected from FKA in Abbotsford, or mailed out to services (Members receive resource packs up to 5kgs delivered free of charge once per year)

1. **WEBSITE INFORMATION**
* Translated information sheets on maintaining the home language, learning through play and settling in to early childhood services are available in approx. 22 different languages
* Educator information sheets on specific CALD cultures are also available
1. **CULTURAL INCLUSION SUPPORT**

Cultural Inclusion Support Program is offered in a variety of ways to all Education and Care Services across Victoria:

1. Fee-for-service Inclusion Support
2. Inclusion Support Programme (ISP)
3. Victorian Kindergarten Inclusion Program
4. Cultural Inclusion Support for Supported Playgroups
5. School Readiness Program

a. **Fee For Service Cultural Inclusion Support**

Contact an fkaCS Consultant via phone to discuss your support needs and request a quote. Support options include Cultural Inclusion Support Consultancy, Bilingual Worker visits to your service as well as phone support, targeted strategies and resources.

b. **Inclusion Support Programme (ISP)**

Your service may be eligible for Australian Government funding towards the cost of Cultural Inclusion Support via the Inclusion Support Programme.

**Contact the** [**Victorian Inclusion Agency**](http://www.viac.com.au/)**on 1800 177 017 to find out more.**

c. **Victorian Kindergarten Inclusion Program**

The Department of Education and Training (DET) contracts fkaCS to provide The Victorian Kindergarten Cultural Inclusion Program to state funded Kindergartens.

The purpose of the program is to build the capacity of Victorian kindergartens to support the active participation of multilingual children and families in their early education.

Eligible Victorian Kindergartens can access a range of support including:

* Subsidised Professional Learning opportunities
* Individual short and long term cultural inclusion planning - reflecting on practice, embedding practice in everyday curriculum decision making
* Supporting and facilitating local solutions for bilingual (language) support
* Strategies to support English language learners
* Strategies to support individual children settle and participate in kindergarten
* Strategies to reduce any unintended barriers for multilingual children and families active participation in Kindergarten
* Onsite group facilitated conversation at existing networks or staff meetings
* Onsite language support

d. **Cultural Inclusion Support For Supported Playgroups**

For Playgroups who have received the Department of Education and Training one-off funding to include Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) families in Supported Playgroups, fkaCS can assist in playgroup engagement and outcomes.

1. **School Readiness Program -** Cultural Inclusion Support Packages

Victorian State Funded Kindergartens who are in receipt of School Readiness Funding can access ***fkaCS Cultural Inclusion Support Packages***, in recognition of the importance of Cultural Inclusion, and the diverse needs of the Victorian community. These are included on the Menu of Evidence as part of the Victorian Governments School Readiness Initiative.

You can include an *fka*CS Cultural Inclusion Support Package or support in building a Bilingual Library of Books to your Ready for School Annual Plan.

It is recommend that Kindergartens consider the number of hours they wish to commit to Cultural Inclusion to include in the Ready for School Annual Plan and touch base with *fka*CS to determine the best way to utilise these hours and design the right support to meet their needs.

**Support Available**

This new School Readiness Program of support sits alongside the Victorian Kindergarten Cultural Inclusion Program and gives the opportunity to work alongside Kindergartens to design a program of work that will support their needs and those of the children and families in their community.

fkaCS offers a holistic program of support that covers:

* WHY it is important to think about cultural inclusion (including the relationship to the VEYLDF);
* WHAT needs to happen to provide and demonstrate culturally inclusive practice; and
* HOW to implement changes in practice, reduce barriers to participation and celebrate our diverse community.

FKA works with kindergartens to apply critical reflection and thinking to practice at:

* Service level (e.g. policies); to ensure inclusion and equity.
* Curriculum level; to ensure each child is supported to actively participate in the program, exercise agency and develop confidence as learners - strong in their identity, wellbeing and connectedness to community - and is supported to learn English as an additional language.
* Relationship level; with families and children to ensure respectful, responsive and trusting relationships to support a sense of belonging.
* Personal level; to explore their own world view and enhance positive attitudes to differences.

Customised packages typically include a combination of the following activities and/or support based on the needs of your Kindergarten community:

* Cultural Inclusion action planning based on the Plan, Do, Study, Act cycle
* Professional Learning
* Onsite pedagogy and practice support and coaching
* Review of policies and procedures
* Online training (currently in development)
* Home language onsite visits (previously known as Bilingual support)
* Facilitating connections to local solutions and community
* Bilingual resource consultancy
* Access to the fkaCS Multicultural Resource Centre

**Refer to the website below to find out more:**

[www.fka.org.au/cultural-inclusion-support/school-readiness-program](http://www.fka.org.au/cultural-inclusion-support/school-readiness-program)

**Information sheet also available**:

<https://fka.org.au/cms_uploads/docs/information-sheet--fkacs-cultural-inclusion-support.pdf>

**For more information on how to become a member of FKA or to access and find out more information on the programs above contact FKA**:

Website: [www.fka.org.au](http://www.fka.org.au) Email: fkacs@fka.org.au Phone: 9428 4471

**UTOPIA REFUGEE & ASYLUM SEEKER HEALTH**

Utopia is a refugee and asylum seeker health service providing primary care (GP services) at no cost to refugees and asylum seekers regardless of their Medicare status.

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Utopia is a non-government organisation, established by people who believe in health as a human right and that refugees and asylum seekers require services tailored to their needs.

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Utopia has experience in refugee health. This is not simply some add-on service to a mainstream health centre. Our services are specialised for the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. We offer onsite treatment for many conditions that mainstream GPs would be unable to provide. Our patients can access treatment close to their homes and avoid the costs and inconvenience of specialist visits for many conditions.

Located in Hoppers Crossing and services offered are:

* Refugee Health assessments
* Assistance with Centrelink forms
* Womens and Childrens Health
* Psychology
* General Practice
* Immunisations/Catch up

**5 Alexandra Ave, Hoppers Crossing**

**Tel – 0406 704 662 Web:** [**www.utopiarefugeehealth.com**](http://www.utopiarefugeehealth.com) **Email:** **info@utopiarefugeehealth.com**

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| **MULTICULTURAL PLAYGROUPS in WYNDHAM****Supported by VICSEG New Futures and Wyndham City** |

Culturally diverse playgroups for parents and young children are an important part of Australia’s early childhood services system. VICSEG playgroups actively support hundreds of families throughout the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. Run in local schools and community centres, our playgroups support children’s bilingual language development and provide early learning experiences that promote positive pathways to kindergarten and primary school.

Parents also benefit from social support and friendship, as well as practical information about health, nutrition and child wellbeing. All our playgroups are free and facilitated by trained and experienced bilingual playgroup leaders.

Examples of some of the Playgroups which may be available in the community:

 Karen/Burmese

 Chin/Burmese

 Horn of Africa Women and Children’s Playgroup

 Indian

 Iranian

 Japanese

 Russian

 Chinese/Mandarin

 Spanish

 South Sudanese

 Pacific Island

 Sri Lankan

For more information about the groups, contact Karen Diacono at VICSEG or Betty Luong at Wyndham City:

**VICSEG**

Contact – Karen Diacono

Tel – 8754 0500

Email – kdiacono@vicsegnewfutures.org.au

Web - <http://www.vicsegnewfutures.org.au/vicseg-programs/playgroups-in-diverse-communities>

**Wyndham City**

Contact – Betty Luong, Child & Family Liaison Officer

Tel – 9742 8131

Email – betty-tuyen.luong@wyndham.vic.gov.au