

COHUNA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CHANGES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the Cohuna Kindergarten closing?

Council has carefully considered the future provision of early childhood education services in Cohuna. Following assessment of community demand and the planned opening of the new Early Learning Victoria Cohuna (interim name) centre, Council determined that operating both the existing kindergarten and the new centre would not be sustainable or viable in the long term. Council's final day as approved provider of the Cohuna Kindergarten will be 18 December 2026.

What is the Early Learning Victoria Cohuna (interim name) centre?

The Early Learning Victoria Cohuna (interim name) centre is a new purpose-built early childhood education facility being developed at Cohuna Consolidated School. It will offer long day care, three-year-old kindergarten and Pre-Prep programs for local families and operated by Early Learning Victoria.

When will Early Learning Victoria Cohuna open?

Early Learning Victoria Cohuna is expected to open in time for the start of Term 1, 2027.

What services will Early Learning Victoria Cohuna offer?

Early Learning Victoria Cohuna will provide:

- Long day care
- Three-year-old kindergarten
- Pre-Prep programs

These services will help meet the growing needs of Cohuna and district families, with kindergarten being offered as a sessional program.

Will there be enough places at Early Learning Victoria Cohuna?

Early Learning Victoria Cohuna will have capacity for up to 102 children, significantly increasing local early childhood education capacity and helping address existing service pressures.

My child was planning to attend Cohuna Kindergarten in 2027. What happens now?

Council's Children's Services Team will work closely with families who expressed interest in attending Cohuna Kindergarten in 2027 to support their transition to appropriate services, either at an alternative Council service or to the new Early Learning Victoria Cohuna Centre.

Will children continue to have access to kindergarten programs in Cohuna?

Yes. While the existing Cohuna Kindergarten will cease operating at the end of 2026, early childhood education services, including sessional kindergarten programs, will continue through the new Early Learning Victoria Cohuna Centre.

How will Council support children and families during the transition?

Council and its Children's Services Team have committed to supporting educators, children and families throughout the transition period. Their priority is to ensure a smooth transition and continued access to high-quality early childhood education and care services.

Will this change affect the quality of early childhood education available locally?

Early Learning Victoria Cohuna has been designed as a modern, purpose-built facility that will provide expanded opportunities for local children and families, including addressing the lack of childcare within and surrounding Cohuna. Council's goal is to ensure continued access to high-quality early childhood education and care services within the Cohuna community.

Who can I contact if I have questions or concerns?

Families are encouraged to contact Council's Children's Services Team on (03) 5452 1357 for information, support and assistance regarding future early childhood education arrangements in Cohuna.