

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS
VICTORIA (KPV) 2007
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY
REPORT



Parenting Research Centre
raising children well

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1 Introduction

This report presents findings from the 2007 Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) member survey. KPV seeks member input annually to gather information relevant to service review and planning for the future. A number of different aspects of managing a Centre were explored through the survey, including the different services offered, fees and fundraising levies, administration support, committee members' experiences and responsibilities and perceptions of KPV member services.

There were a number of specific questions to be addressed by this report, and these are numbered consecutively throughout. Although 176 surveys were returned to KPV, not all questions were answered in every survey. Thus when percentages are presented in this report, they reflect the proportion of the number of Centres that responded to the item, which was not necessarily the total 176. For example, in Table 1 below, only 172 surveys included their postcode (used to classify Centres by DHS region), so in Table 1 where 34 Centres were classified into the Southern Metropolitan Region, the percentage was calculated by 34/172 and not 34/176, showing that 20% of those Centres who provided their postcode came from the Southern region. It should be noted that throughout the report several measures of central tendency are used: *average (range in parenthesis)* represents the mean and minimum and maximum of responses, while *n* indicates the number of responses. Median is the middle score of the distribution, and mode represents the most frequent response.

2 Centres

Six hundred and twenty-one surveys were sent out to KPV members in Independent Centres across Victoria in November 2007 (thirty-five of these were long-day care Centres). 176 Centres responded, representing approximately 28% of the membership base. The 28% response rate needs to be kept in mind when interpreting the results presented here as they only offer a snapshot of what is happening in the Centres who responded. Of those who completed the survey; Eighty-five (48%) were committee Presidents, twenty-four (14%) were Directors, twenty (11%) were Administration staff, fifteen (9%) were Committee Secretaries, eight (5%) were Committee Treasurers, four (2%) were Co-ordinators, two (2%) were Managers, four (2%) were Committee Vice Presidents, two (1%) were Assistant Principals, two (1%) were team leaders and the final 10 (6%) had a variety of other roles/titles at the Centre.

Funding categories: Standard= one hundred and thirty-four (84%); Rural= twenty-four (15%); Small rural= two (1%). Centres were located in approximately fifty-three out of the seventy-nine local government areas (LGAs). Given the large number of LGAs, for the purposes of comparison, the Centres are categorized according to the eight DHS regions in Table 1. The second column has the number of surveys returned by way of DHS region, with percentages showing the proportion per region of the total of returned surveys. The third column has the number of surveys sent to each region, with percentages representing the proportion of returns from surveys sent out. The majority (74%) of responses came from the Metropolitan regions. Based on the number of surveys sent out to each region, a slightly smaller than expected percentage of survey responses were received from the Southern Metropolitan, North and Western Metropolitan and Hume regions, while a greater response was received from the Eastern Metropolitan, Barwon-South Western and Loddon Mallee regions.

Table 1. Response rates from DHS regions

	Number of Centres responding (%)	Number surveys sent to Centres in Region (% total sent out)
Southern Metropolitan	34 (20%)	172 (28%)
North and West Metropolitan	32 (19%)	136 (22%)
Eastern Metropolitan	61 (35%)	176 (28%)
Hume	7 (4%)	32 (5%)
Barwon-South Western	14 (8%)	39 (6%)
Gippsland	11 (6%)	28 (5%)
Grampians	4 (2%)	14(2%)
Loddon Mallee	9 (5%)	24 (4%)

3 Services

The average number of services per Centre was 2.3 (range= 1-7). As all Centres had a four-year-old Kindergarten program, the average number of services in addition to four-year-old Kindergarten per Centre was 1.3 (range= 0-6).

Table 2 displays information about the different services and programs offered within Centres; number of programs offered, duration, fees and enrolments. It shows that three- and four-year-old Kindergarten were the most commonly offered services. Centres with long daycare services offered the longest programs (in hours) and had the most children (on average) enrolled per Centre. Long daycare services also had the largest average number of children unsuccessful in receiving a place for 2008, with one Centre reporting that 163 children did not receive a place.

Table 2. Services and programs offered at Centres

	Number of Centres offering this service	Number of programs offered	Length of program (hours per week)	Number of weeks per year the program operates	Fees (\$) charged for programs per term	Average number of children enrolled in 2007	Average number of children with additional needs in 2007	Average number of children not successful in receiving a place for 2008
Three-year-old Kindergarten	156	2 (1-5)	5 (2-15)	40 (27-50)	Average: 187 Range: 60-610 Median: 183 Mode: 110	31 (10-95)	1 (0-8)	13 (0-180)
Four-year-old Kindergarten	176	2 (1-5)	12 (3-55)	41 (37-51)	Average: 196 Range: 40-895 Median: 173 Mode: 180	43 (5-130)	2 (0-14)	13 (0-100)
Long daycare*	10	3 (1-5)	46 (2-58)	48 (37-50)	-	66 (8-117)	4 (1-8)	79 (21-163)
Care before/after/ between Kindergarten Sessions*	15	3 (1-10)	13 (2-52)	42 (40-50)	-	21 (5-38)	1 (0-4)	12 (0-30)
Occasional Care*	10	2 (1-5)	10 (3-23)	40 (40-40)	-	39 (2-80)	1 (0-3)	3 (0-10)
Playgroup (parent supported) *	16	2 (1-7)	4 (1-11)	40 (40-43)	-	23 (6-38)	0 (1-0)	1 (0-4)
Playgroup (staff supported) *	8	2 (1-3)	2 (2-2)	38 (30-42)	-	23 (6-60)	1 (0-3)	9 (0-27)
Early Intervention*	8	3	2	-	-	20	-	-
Other*	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There was a large amount of missing data for the questions in the survey about services for those marked with an asterisk (*) in Table 2, meaning the sample size for many of these questions was much smaller than the overall sample size of 176. It is assumed that the missing data means that respondents ignored questions about services they did not have at their Centre. Average fees could not be calculated for programs other than Kindergarten due to missing data and different ways of reporting fees (i.e. some respondents gave amounts per hour, per day, or per term).

The total number of children enrolled in three-year-old Kindergarten in 2007 was 4,401 across the 140 Centres who responded to the question about number of enrolments. The total number of children enrolled in four-year-old Kindergarten in 2007 across the 161 Centres who responded to this item was 6,953. This represents approximately 12% of four-year-old Kindergarten enrolments in 2008 (enrolments = 60,000; media release 31.01.08, Minister for Children and Early Childhood).

Question 1. Does having additional services affect committee workload?

The number of Centres with additional services (i.e. services in addition to four-year-old kindergarten) was 166 (94%). Overall there was no statistically significant relationship between the number of additional services in a Centre and committee members' ratings of whether the workload was onerous.

Question 2. Do fees charged for three- and four-year-old Kindergarten differ across regions?

There was considerable variation in the fees charged per term, ranging from \$60 to \$610 for three-year-old Kindergarten and \$40 to \$514 for four-year-old programs. Statistical analysis revealed that, overall, there was a significant difference between regions in the fees charged for three-year-old Kindergarten ($F(7, 127) = 5.97, p = .000$) and four-year-old Kindergarten ($F(7, 142) = 2.77, p = .01$) (see Table 3). Visual inspection suggests that the highest fees for three-year-old Kindergarten were in the Eastern Metropolitan region and the lowest in the Gippsland and Loddon Mallee regions. The highest fees for four-year-old Kindergarten were in the Eastern Metropolitan regions while the lowest were in the Grampians region.

Table 3. Average (range), median and mode for fees across DHS regions

	Three-year-old Kindergarten		Four-year-old Kindergarten	
	<i>n</i> programs	Fee (\$)	<i>n</i> programs	Fee (\$)
Southern Metropolitan	13	Average:127 (60-391) Median: 90, Mode:90	34	Average:195 (110-170) Median: 170, Mode:170
North and West Metropolitan	26	Average:197 (90-400) Median: 198, Mode:240	32	Average:185 (120-430) Median: 175, Mode:180
Eastern Metropolitan	58	Average:234 (90-610) Median: 220, Mode:220	61	Average:218 (115-470) Median: 198, Mode:195
Hume	5	Average:133 (115-130) Median: 135, Mode:115	7	Average:144 (120-170) Median: 135, Mode:120
Barwon-South Western	13	Average:127 (60-391) Median: 90, Mode:90	14	Average: 177 (110-514) Median: 138, Mode:130
Gippsland	9	Average:111 (85-150) Median: 110, Mode:110	11	Average:132 (110-150) Median: 133, Mode:140
Grampians	*	*	4	Average: 121 (40-190) Median: 126, Mode:40
Loddon Mallee	8	Average:109 (75- 161) Median: 105, Mode:75	9	Average:194 (104-500) Median: 138, Mode:101

Note. * average could not be calculated due to only having one response

Table 4 displays Kindergarten fees by three funding categories. Statistical analysis revealed a significant difference between funding categories for three-year-old Kindergarten fees ($F(2, 125) = 11.9, p = .00$) and four-year-old Kindergarten fees ($F(2, 137) = 7.2, p = .001$), so that rural Centres on average charged lower fees for Kindergarten programs than Centres in the standard category.

Table 4. Average fees (\$) (range), median and mode *n* across funding categories

	Standard	Rural	Small Rural
Three-year-old Kindergarten	Average: 208 (70-610) Median:200, Mode: 200, <i>n</i> = 106	Average: 113 (73-150) Median: 110, Mode: 100, <i>n</i> = 21	*
Four-year-old Kindergarten	Average: 214 (110-895) Median:183, Mode: 180, <i>n</i> = 116	Average: 137 (90-180) Median:135, Mode: 150, <i>n</i> = 22	*

Note. * could not be calculated due to only having 1 or 2 responses

4 Fundraising and Levies

The average fundraising profit across the 127 Centres that responded to this item was \$6178 (range= \$196 - \$20,000, median= \$5704, mode= \$6000). The most common successful fundraising activities listed were trivia nights, Bunnings BBQs, chocolates, and raffles.

Table 5 presents information about levies charged by Centres. The most commonly charged levy was the maintenance levy (59% of Centres), followed by the excursion (31%) and then fundraising levies (28%). Costs of levies ranged from \$5 to \$150, and while the majority of maintenance levies were potentially refundable, most fundraising and excursion levies appeared not to be. It should be noted that only a small number of Centres listed their levy costs.

Table 5. Details of levies charged across Centres

	Fundraising	Maintenance	Excursion	Other*
Number of Centres charging this levy	43 (28%)	92 (59%)	45 (31%)	14 (27%)
Average cost (\$) (range)	Average: 47 (<i>n</i> = 36) Range: 5-100 Median: 40 Mode:20	Average: 51 (<i>n</i> = 83) Range: 5-150 Median, Mode: 50	Average: 33 (<i>n</i> = 26) Range: 5-150 Median: 30 Mode:10	Average: 45 (<i>n</i> = 12) Range: 10-100 Median, Mode: 50
Number of Centres potentially refunding this levy	4 (12%)	64 (74%)	3 (10%)	4 (44%)

Note. *such as enrolment, working bee, equipment, combination of levies.

Thirty-two, or 20% of Centres charged both the fundraising and maintenance levies, fourteen Centres (9%) charged both fundraising and excursion levies, thirty (19%) charged both maintenance and excursion levies, and fourteen Centres (8%) charged all three levies.

If Centres charged a compulsory fundraising levy, this levy replaced all fundraising activity for fifteen (29%) out of the 51 Centres who responded to this question. Common reasons for charging a compulsory fundraising levy included convenience, reducing workload for the generally small number of parents who were involved in the Centre, it was voted in or supported by parents, and to encourage parent participation.

Question 3. Do the levies charged differ across DHS regions?

The only statistically significant difference across regions was for the maintenance levy cost ($F(6, 81) = 2.8, p = .015$) (Table 6). The exact nature of the differences could not be established statistically due to the large number of groups and different number of responses across regions, but visual inspection of the information in Table 6 shows that the levies charged for maintenance appeared to be higher in the metropolitan regions than other regions. There was no significant difference across regions in fundraising or excursion levy cost across regions.

Table 6. Details of levies charged across DHS regions

	Fundraising		Maintenance		Excursion	
	<i>n</i>	Cost \$	<i>n</i>	Cost \$	<i>n</i>	Cost \$
Southern Metropolitan	6	Average: 52 Range: 30-100 Median: 40 Mode: 30	15	Average: 56 Range: 30-100 Median: 50 Mode: 50	3	Average: 22 Range: 10-30 Median: 20 Mode: 5
North and West Metropolitan	7	Average: 34 Range: 5-80 Median: 25 Mode: 20	12	Average: 60 Range: 20-150 Median: 40 Mode: 50	*	
Eastern Metropolitan	16	Average: 53 Range: 10-100 Median: 50 Mode: 100	41	Average: 56 Range: 20-120 Median: 50 Mode: 50	11	Average: 45 Range: 10-110 Median: 40 Mode: 40
Hume	*		*		*	
Barwon-South Western	*		6	Average: 31 Range: 10-85 Median: 20 Mode: 20	3	Average: 22 Range: 10-30 Median: 25 Mode: 10
Gippsland	*		5	Average: 25 Range: 5-40 Median: 20 Mode: 20	*	
Grampians	*		*		*	
Loddon Mallee	*		*		*	

Note. * could not be calculated due to only having ≤ 2 responses

Question 4. Is there a relationship between fundraising profit, levies and program fees?

There was no statistically significant relationship between fundraising profit per year and fees charged for three-year-old Kindergarten ($r = .15$, $p = .14$), but charging higher fees for four-year-old Kindergarten was associated with reporting a higher fundraising profit per year ($r = .22$, $p = .02$). There was no association between fundraising levies and the fees charged for three- and four-year-old Kindergarten, apart from a relationship between maintenance levies and fees charged for three-year-old Kindergarten ($r = .47$, $p = .00$). Centres charging higher maintenance levies were also likely to charge higher fees for three-year-old Kindergarten, but, from the data collected by this survey, it is not possible to know how or why one fee may affect the other.

5 Children with Additional Needs

Members were asked about children with additional needs at their Centres (see Tables 2 and 7). Table 2 shows that the number of children per service with additional needs ranged from zero to 14. There were 9 Centres with 3 or more children with additional needs (indicated by the number of applications submitted for Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services (KISS) funding and 72 Centres with fewer than 3 children with additional needs.

Table 7 gives details about the applications for KISS funding. One hundred and four Centres applied for funding for 118 children. One hundred applications were successful in 2007, with an average of seven hours support received for each child. Perceptions of whether the funding received was adequate were almost equal (49% yes, 51% no). It was reported that one hundred and sixty seven children (i.e. an average of two children per Centre), who were ineligible for the KISS funding would have benefited from such extra support.

Table 7. Details about children with additional needs across Centres

Applications for KISS funding	Total no. applications= 118 Average no. applications= 1 (0-5)
Number of KISS applications that were successful	Total no. successful= 100 Average no. successful= 1 (0-4)
Average number of hours of support received for each successful application	7 (0-15)
Were the hours of funded support adequate?	Yes: 34 (49%) No: 36 (51%)
Number of four-year-old children not meeting criteria for KISS funding who would have benefited from it	Total no. children= 167 Average no. across Centres= 2 (1-7)
Number of children an application would have been put in for if KISS funding were available for three-year-old Kindergarten	Total no. children= 92 Average no. across Centres= 1 (0-7)

Question 5. Is having children with additional needs at a Centre associated with fees?

Seventy-three (42%) Centres had children with additional needs attending their services (indicated by whether they had submitted an application for KISS funding). There was no significant relationship between the number of successful KISS applications at a Centre and fees charged for three-year-old Kindergarten ($r = -.12, p = .35$), but there was a relationship with fees charged for four-year-old Kindergarten ($r = -.28, p = .02$) so that having a higher number of successful KISS applications was associated with charging lower fees for four-year-old Kindergarten. There was no significant association between fees for three-year old Kindergarten fees and the number of children with additional needs attending three-year Kindergarten ($r = -.04, p = .74$) or the number of three-year-old KISS applications that would have been submitted if possible ($r = .04, p = .79$). Statistical comparison of those with three or more children with additional needs and those with less than three was not possible due to the difference in group sizes.

Question 6. Who paid for additional staff to assist children with additional needs in Centres?

Of those Centres that were unsuccessful in receiving KISS funding, 15 Centres (39%) employed additional staff while 23 Centres (61%) did not. Figure 1 has a breakdown of the source of funding for additional staff, showing that additional staff were most often paid for by Centres.

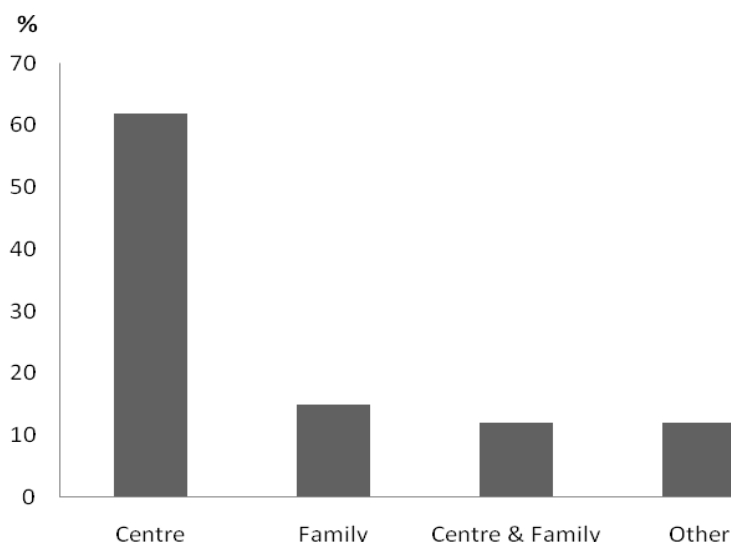


Figure 1. Representation of who paid the cost for additional staff across Centres.

Question 7. Is DHS region associated with who paid for extra staff?

There were no significant differences between DHS regions with regard to who paid for additional staff $\chi^2(2, N = 25) = 15.74, p = .61$.

6 Committees

Table 8 displays information about committee positions across Centres, the years and hours worked in these positions and ratings of how reasonable these hours were. Presidents tended to work the most hours (average of six per week) with Treasurers averaging four hours per week and most other committee members working 2-3 hours per week. The position of Payroll Officer was the least likely committee position to be filled, with the majority of Centres currently having the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary filled. The hours required by each position were most often rated as reasonable. Fewer respondents rated the hours worked by the President and Treasurer as reasonable (59% and 60% respectively) than the other committee positions.

Table 8. Committee details

	Centres with this position filled	Average hours per week worked	Number of years on committee (range 1-4+)	Overall response of perceptions of hours worked		
				Reasonable	Unreasonable	Not Sure
President	161 (94%)	6 (5-25)	Average: 2 Median: 2 Mode: 1	81 (59%)	38 (28%)	19 (14%)
Vice President	144 (87%)	3 (<1-20)	Average: 2 Median: 1 Mode: 1	82 (75%)	12 (11%)	15 (14%)
Treasurer	166 (98%)	4 (<1-18)	Average: 2 Median: 1 Mode: 1	77 (60%)	34 (27%)	17 (13%)
Secretary	164 (97%)	3 (1-30)	Average: 2 Median: 2 Mode: 1	93 (72%)	22 (17%)	15 (12%)
Enrolment Officer	113 (74%)	3 (1-10)	Average: 2 Median: 2 Mode: 1	60 (70%)	9 (10%)	17 (20%)
Payroll Officer	92 (59%)	2 (<1-10)	Average: 2 Median: 1 Mode: 1	53 (75%)	9 (13%)	9 (13%)
Fundraising Officer/Convener	129 (79%)	3 (1-12)	Average: 1 Median: 1 Mode: 1	68 (67%)	18 (18%)	15 (15%)
Maintenance Officer	110 (71%)	2 (1-8)	Average: 2 Median: 1 Mode: 1	59 (70%)	11 (13%)	14 (16%)

Question 8. Is there a relationship between size/complexity of a Centre and hours worked by committee members?

There was no statistically significant relationship between number of services at a Centre, funding category, or number of children attending four-year-old Kindergarten and average hours worked per week in any committee position.

However, there was a significant correlation between the hours worked by the committee President and the number of three-year-old Kindergarten programs being run at a Centre ($r = .23, p = .03$) as well as the number of children attending three-year-old Kindergarten ($r = .24, p = .02$). This shows that the more children attending three-year-old Kindergarten (and therefore the greater number of programs needed), the more hours worked by the President. Interestingly this relationship was not found for four-year-old Kindergarten.

The number of hours worked by the Fundraising Officer was significantly associated with total fundraising profit ($r = .37, p = .00$), so that increased Fundraising Officer hours were associated with greater fundraising profit.

Question 9. Is there a relationship between hours worked by committee members and having paid administration support?

There was a statistically significant relationship between perceptions of hours worked by Secretaries, Treasurers and Vice Presidents and whether their Centres had paid administration support or not. Paid administration support (PAS) was defined as those Centres indicating they had at least one paid administration position.

More specifically, Secretaries and Treasurers from Centres with PAS were more likely to rate their hours as reasonable compared to those from Centres without such support who were more likely to rate their hours as unreasonable or not sure ($\chi^2(2, N = 130) = 7.45, p = .02$ and $\chi^2(2, N = 128) = 8.93, p = .01$ respectively). In addition, Vice Presidents with PAS were more likely to rate their hours as reasonable compared to those without support who were more likely to rate their hours as unreasonable ($\chi^2(2, N = 109) = 7.57, p = .02$). There were no significant associations between average hours worked per week or average number of years on the committee for any of the committee positions and whether a Centre had PAS.

7 Administration Support

Based on the responses from 63 Centres (36% of total sample), the average annual cost of administration or clerical/bookkeeping across Centres was \$4995 (median: 3600, mode: 3000, range: 600-22000). One hundred and forty Centres (80%) had some form of paid administration. Table 9 presents details about paid administration support (PAS), including type of staff, average hours per week worked, and perceptions about the reasonableness of the hours worked. The most common form of PAS was Teacher time (management support/ancillary time), with the least common being Assistant oncall time or a combination of types of support. Most Centres rated the hours required by each administration position as reasonable, although almost a third believed the hours worked by Teachers and Assistants in administration support were unreasonable.

Table 9. Paid administration support across Centres

	Centres with this paid administration position	Average hours per week worked	Overall response of perceptions of hours worked		
			Reasonable	Unreasonable	Not Sure
Clerical/bookkeeping (onsite)	65 (44%)	8 (1-35)	39 (62%)	15 (24%)	9 (14%)
Clerical/bookkeeping (offsite)	66 (46%)	4 (1-20)	34 (65%)	4 (8%)	14 (27%)
Teacher (mgmt support/ancillary time)	71 (56%)	5 (1-20)	32 (59%)	17 (31%)	5 (9%)
Assistant (oncall time)	28 (25%)	4 (0.5-10)	16 (62%)	8 (31%)	2 (8%)
Combination of above	7 (16%)	13 (1-34)	-	-	-

Question 10. Is there a relationship between having PAS and fees?

There was no significant relationship between whether a Centre had PAS and fees for three- or four-year-old Kindergarten or total fundraising profit.

Question 11. Is there a relationship between size/complexity of a Centre and having PAS?

There was a statistically significant relationship between whether a Centre had PAS and the number of children in four-year-old Kindergarten, $F(1, 159) = 4.3, p = .04$). Centres with more children in four-year-old Kindergarten were more likely to have PAS. More specifically, the average number of children in four-year-old Kindergarten in 126 Centres with PAS was 45 (5-130), while the average for those who did not have PAS ($n = 35$) was 37 (5-75).

There was no significant relationship between whether a Centre had PAS and the number of children in 3-year-old Kindergarten, the total number of services at a Centre or funding category.

8 Committee Experience

Members were asked to indicate the level of benefit they received across a number of different areas from their time on the committee. Respondents were asked to rate six potential benefits on a 5-point scale from 'not at all' to 'extremely'. The 'very' and 'extremely' categories were collapsed into one category. Figure 2 shows the percentage of responses in the four categories. Most of the ratings for all categories of benefit were in the 'somewhat' or 'very/extremely' range. The most beneficial aspects of being on a Center's committee were contributing to the local community, increased self-confidence and personal development and social interaction with others.

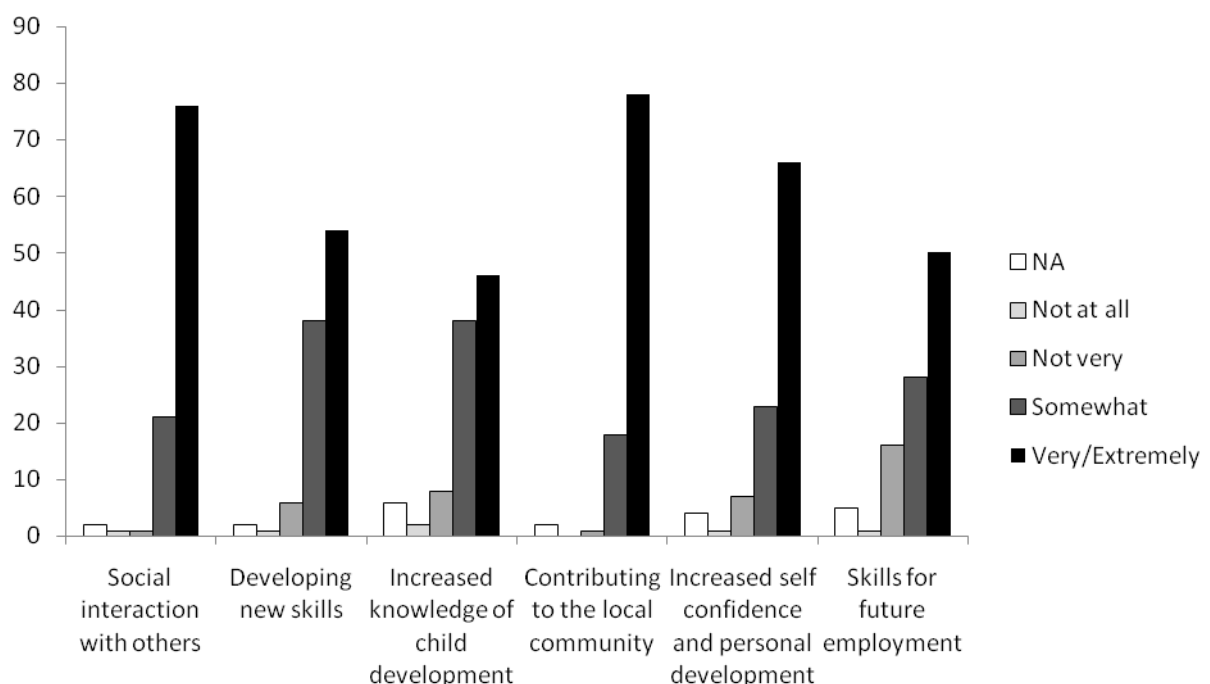


Figure 2. Committee ratings of the level of benefit they received in different areas.

9 Committee Responsibilities

Members were asked about a number of responsibilities that have been identified previously by KPV as potentially onerous for committees. Table 10 lists the responsibilities and the percentage of Centres who rated each responsibility as onerous. The four committee responsibilities most often listed as onerous were DEECD (DHS) Requirements (60%), Employer Responsibilities (53%), Industrial Relations (37%) and Managing Conflict (34%) or Record Keeping (34%).

Table 10. Selected committee responsibilities

	Number (%) rating this as onerous
DEECD (DHS) Requirements (e.g. licensing, data collection, reporting)	105 (60%)
Employer Responsibilities (e.g. employment conditions, letters, recruiting)	103 (59%)
Industrial Relations (e.g. performance management, disciplinary action)	65 (37%)
Managing Conflict (e.g. committee, parents, staff)	60 (34%)
Record Keeping (e.g. financial, employment)	59 (34%)
Management Processes (e.g. budgeting, program planning)	52 (31%)
Committee Processes (e.g. meetings, procedures, decision making)	52 (29%)
Occupational Health & Safety	31 (18%)
Support for Staff (e.g. professional guidance, mentoring)	26 (15%)
Consideration of Cluster Management	19 (11%)
Other	6 (3%)

Table 11 displays details of whether members approached and received support from KPV regarding the potentially onerous committee responsibilities listed above, and their ratings of how helpful this assistance was. The table also has a column with ratings of how helpful Centres believed four types of assistance would be for the ten areas of committee responsibility. This last column shows in brackets how many Centres responded.

The most common responsibilities for which committees approached KPV for assistance were employer responsibilities (74%), committee processes (49%), DEECD responsibilities (45%), and industrial relations (38%). Visual inspection of the results shows that KPV assistance for these responsibilities was generally viewed as 'helpful', with few differences between average ratings. With regard to types of assistance that Centres would find helpful there are few observable difference in the average helpfulness ratings, with the highest average rating for email/phone advice.

Table 11. Perceptions and actions around committee responsibilities

	Number (%) approached KPV for assistance	Average rating of how helpful KPV assistance was*	Average rating of how helpful the following would be*	
Committee Processes	79 (49%)	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 75)	Training	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 82)
			Tools & Resources	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 94)
			Consultancy	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 92)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.6 (<i>n</i> = 99)
DEECD (DHS) Requirements	76 (45%)	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 74)	Training	3.1 (<i>n</i> = 87)
			Tools & Resources	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 88)
			Consultancy	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 88)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.5 (<i>n</i> = 93)
Employer Responsibilities	120 (74%)	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 114)	Training	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 102)
			Tools & Resources	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 106)
			Consultancy	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 103)
			Email/Phone Advice	4.1 (<i>n</i> = 113)
Industrial Relations	58 (38%)	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 58)	Training	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 79)
			Tools & Resources	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 80)
			Consultancy	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 79)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.6 (<i>n</i> = 87)
Management Processes	37 (24%)	3.1 (<i>n</i> = 35)	Training	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 73)
			Tools & Resources	3.5 (<i>n</i> = 70)
			Consultancy	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 71)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.5 (<i>n</i> = 72)
Managing Conflict	47 (31%)	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 45)	Training	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 74)
			Tools & Resources	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 70)
			Consultancy	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 72)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.6 (<i>n</i> = 80)
Occupational Health & Safety	25 (16%)	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 24)	Training	3.1 (<i>n</i> = 63)
			Tools & Resources	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 64)
			Consultancy	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 63)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 65)
Record Keeping	48 (31%)	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 43)	Training	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 66)
			Tools & Resources	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 68)
			Consultancy	3.3 (<i>n</i> = 67)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.5 (<i>n</i> = 72)

Note. * 1 = very unhelpful, 2 = unhelpful, 3 = helpful, 4 = very helpful

Table 11. continued

	Number (%) approached KPV for assistance	Average rating of how helpful KPV assistance was*	Average rating of how helpful the following would be*	
Support for Staff	29 (20%)	3.0 (<i>n</i> = 25)	Training	3.1 (<i>n</i> = 61)
			Tools & Resources	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 60)
			Consultancy	3.2 (<i>n</i> = 59)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.4 (<i>n</i> = 63)
Consideration of Cluster Management	22 (15%)	3.1 (<i>n</i> = 20)	Training	2.9 (<i>n</i> = 52)
			Tools & Resources	2.9 (<i>n</i> = 49)
			Consultancy	2.9 (<i>n</i> = 50)
			Email/Phone Advice	3.1 (<i>n</i> = 55)

Note. * 1 = very unhelpful, 2 = unhelpful, 3 = helpful, 4 = very helpful

10 KPV Membership Support

Members were asked to rate their satisfaction with the services provided by KPV where 1 = very unsatisfied, 2 = unsatisfied, 3 = satisfied, and 4 = very satisfied. Table 12 shows the frequency of satisfaction ratings for seven types of KPV services. Members were most satisfied with the advocacy, payroll advice and resources provided by KPV. The least utilised service were conferences/seminars and training, while members indicated the highest level of dissatisfaction with training. It is important to note that overall a relatively large proportion of respondents indicated that they had not used these membership services.

Table 12. Average satisfaction ratings across KPV membership services.

	Did not use	Very unsatisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Advocacy/media (<i>n</i> = 113)	7 (6%)	2 (2%)	7 (6%)	64 (57%)	33 (29%)
Management advisory service (<i>n</i> = 159)	47 (30%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	49 (31%)	59 (37%)
IR/HR services (<i>n</i> = 156)	59 (38%)	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	43 (28%)	51 (33%)
Payroll advice (<i>n</i> = 158)	48 (30%)	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	41 (26%)	66 (42%)
Conference/seminars (<i>n</i> = 155)	87 (56%)	3 (2%)	2 (1%)	38 (25%)	25 (16%)
Training (<i>n</i> = 157)	73 (46%)	3 (2%)	44 (28%)	36 (23%)	1 (1%)
Resources (<i>n</i> = 158)	15 (9%)	3 (2%)	2 (1%)	69 (44%)	69 (44%)

11 Conclusion

Victorian parents whose children attend a Centre that is a member of KPV appear to make a significant contribution to the early childhood sector.

- Parents sending their three-year-olds to a Kindergarten program are paying on average \$187 per term, while those sending four-year-old children to Kindergarten are paying on average \$196 per term for the program.
- Parents were contributing on average \$6178 per Centre per year in fundraising, often in addition to compulsory fundraising, maintenance or excursion levies.
- Most committee members contributed on average 2-3 hours of their time every week to the running of the Centre, while committee Presidents contributed on average 6 hours per week to the sector.

There was considerable variation between Centres in fees and levies charged.

- Regional differences in fees were found for both three- and four-year-old kindergarten programs.

Kindergarten fees seemed to be associated with a number of aspects involved in running a Centre.

- Centres with greater numbers of children attending three-year-old Kindergarten were more likely to have committee Presidents who worked a greater number of hours per week.
- Charging higher fees for three-year old Kindergarten was associated with also charging a higher maintenance levy.
- With regard to four-year-old Kindergarten fees, charging higher fees was associated with reporting a higher fundraising profit per year.
- Charging lower fees was associated with having a higher number of successful KISS applications.

Whether or not a Centre had paid administration support also appeared as an important theme throughout the survey.

- Of the Centres surveyed, 80% had some form of paid administration support, with an average annual cost per Centre of \$4995.
- Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers more likely to rate their hours as reasonable if their Centre had paid administration support.

Centres reported on the degree of success with KISS applications for children with additional needs.

- Most applications were successful (100 out of 118).
- However, half of the Centres responding thought that the hours of funded support were inadequate.
- It was thought that 167 four-year-old children who were currently ineligible for KISS funding would have benefitted from funding for inclusion support.

It is important to remember that the findings in this report may not be representative of all Centres in Victoria as the response rate was 28% and some regions appeared to be over or underrepresented somewhat. However, the results do provide an important snapshot of what is happening for 176 Centres, and the trends presented here may very well be applicable to more Centres across Victoria.



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