

# B4 Early Years Coalition Local Government Factsheet

Tasmanians 29 Local Governments can and do play an essential role in supporting children pregnancy to 4 years of age, their families and communities.

*“Local Government is the closet sphere of government to the community and therefore has enormous potential to influence a community that values and supports children in the early years and their families.”*

Reference: [https://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/Publications/Documents/EYN\\_Booklet.pdf](https://www.dlgc.wa.gov.au/Publications/Documents/EYN_Booklet.pdf)

## What is the B4 Early Years Coalition?

The B4 Early Years Coalition (B4) was announced by the Minister for Education and Training in June 2016, as part of the Tasmanian Governments commitment to provide quality early learning and developmental experiences for all young children.

B4 connects people and organisations from across Tasmania who are committed to supporting children pregnancy to 4 years of age, by working together with families and communities. The name B4 represents the early years of a child’s life from pregnancy to age four, the years ‘before’ a child begins full-time school. These early years are a time of rapid change and development for children, as they learn and grow and discover the world around them.

## B4 Vision and Goals:

***“Every child in Tasmania, is cared for and nurtured through the early years, no matter what.”***

### Goals

- Everyone values the early years
- Everyone supports the early years
- Everyone works together for the early years

## How does B4 work?

B4 supports the Tasmanian Government’s commitment to the early years and is an integral part of the Department of Education’s Strategy Pregnancy to Eight Years. B4 is Co- Chaired by Elizabeth Daly former Chair of the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation and consists of three mutually supporting groups:

- **Leaders** - influential individuals from diverse backgrounds who after a public expression of interest have been appointed by the Minister for Education and Training in 2017. Leaders represent and engage groups and individuals across identified sectors.

- **Members** - Organisations taking action to improve outcomes for children in the early years, working together with families and communities.
- **Supporters** - Individuals who are committed to supporting children in the early years, working together with families and communities.

The Tasmanian Government, through the Department of Education (DoE), provides support to B4 and its work through the B4 Support team.

*“Getting it right in the early years means getting it right for life.”*

### **Why become a Member of B4?**

B4 needs everyone to play their part to take action for the early years. Joining B4 as a Member is free and easy. We know the early years are a critical time of development, what happens in these first 57 months lasts a lifetime. In 2015, Tasmania continues to have 1 on 5 children developmentally vulnerable when starting school as noted in the Australia Early Development Census (AEDC)<sup>1</sup>.

Tasmania needs a skilled, healthy, reliant and resourceful workforce now and into the future, to ensure this future we need to be promoting solutions in the early years now that prepares children to succeed in education, work and life<sup>2</sup>.

*“Investing in early childhood works, we can address our health, education and economic issues – simultaneously and cost effectively<sup>3</sup>”*

### **B4 Members will be able to access the following support:**

- Tools and resources to raise awareness of the critical importance of the early years
- Access to information on upcoming events for the early years in Tasmania
- Promotion of B4 Members in media releases, newsletters, and B4 website
- Listing on B4 website as a Member
- Connection, where appropriate, to local contacts in the business, community, and Government sectors
- Access to B4 promotional material
- Updates on monitoring and reporting on progress towards achieving B4 vision.

To join B4 apply on line [www.b4.education.tas.gov.au](http://www.b4.education.tas.gov.au), you can access the Member Action plan template and how to guide on the website under Tools and Resources.

<sup>1</sup> <https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/AEDC-Infographic.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.strongnation.org/readynation>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theounce.org/problem/>