

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 31 May 2018

Waratah-Wynyard Council has become the first Council in Tasmania to become a member of the B4 Early Years Coalition.

The B4 Early Years Coalition (B4) is a State Government initiative supported through the Department of Education to work together with families and the community to ensure all children in Tasmania are cared for and nurtured through the early years, no matter what.

The name B4 represents the early years of a child's life, pregnancy to age four.

These early years are a time of rapid change and development for children, as they learn and grow and discover the world around them.

Council joins a growing number of schools, services, early childhood centres, individuals and other organisations as B4 Members after voting in favour of the move at the Council meeting on 21 May.

B4 comprises of Leaders, Members, Supporters and Friends all of which support Tasmanian children from pregnancy to four years get a great start, either through their sector, organisation or as an individual.

Leaders are 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 a range of sectors.

Council's Director of Corporate and Community Services Tracey Bradley is the B4 Leader for Local Government.

"The B4 Early Years Coalition is based on the 'collective impact' model where organisations and individuals from across diverse sectors work together to address social issues," Mrs Bradley said.

"The B4 Early Years Coalition will bring together individuals, businesses, communities and government to think about what is wanted for our youngest community members and drive community action to achieve better outcomes for young children and their families."

Mrs Bradley said a B4 Member Action Plan would be developed as part of the Council's membership.

"This will highlight activities which are already occurring and also provide an early years lens through which to evaluate Council programs."

*Further enquiries may be directed to:-
Communications Officer*