

Legislative Council Select Committee

Tasmanian Child and Family Centres

Submission: West Tamar Council, PO Box 16, Riverside. 7250.

- (1) The challenges to and benefits of the provision of an integrated collaborative health and wellbeing and early education and care service delivery model

Benefits:

- Operational quality – management that focuses on responsiveness to local need
- Assists with a smooth transition to school
- Understanding development vulnerability and providing relevant services and programs
- Beaconsfield Child & Family Centre(BCFC): delivers collaborative programs and services
- Positive relationships between staff, children and families

Challenges:

- Continuity of trained key personnel
- Reach of support due to: resources, geographical coverage
- Collaboration and appropriate funding across all tiers of government to enable sustainability of relevant programs
- Percentage of children in priority groups: indigenous, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, disability: who do not live in targeted areas or parents who do not qualify for subsidised services
- Risk of missing at risk children- who do not live in targeted areas or parents who do not qualify for subsidised services
- Operates only Monday – Friday
- Increased demand and fees for higher ranked services
- Financial viability of some services travelling to regional and rural areas

- (2) The role of Child and Family Centres in providing early learning to children

The BCFC plays an important part within the Beaconsfield, rural and regional areas delivering: health & wellbeing programs, early education pathways and care service delivery. The BCFC is positioned well in that it is located next to the Beaconsfield Primary, Library and Neighbourhood house. The co-location of these services delivers a collaborative approach to provide services and programs from birth to age 5 young children, families and carers to support a smooth transition to school.

- (3) The role of Child and Family Centres in providing education and support to families and carers in their parenting role and participation in early learning programs

The BCFC provides support to families and carers in their parenting role and participation in early learning programs through programs such as, but not limited to: Nutrition, Children's Therapies, Child Health and Parenting Services. Challenges to this service delivery are the continuity of trained key personnel to deliver programs and appropriate funding packages to ensure the continuation of programs and services within the rural and regional areas.

- (4) The outcomes and broader impacts of Child and Family Centres to the communities which they are located in

The BCFC provides strong connection to the community which they are located within by: the leadership and management of the centre, relationships between staff, parents, carers and children, development of family and community partnerships that focuses on responsiveness to the local need.

The BCFC has increased local community participation through, volunteerism, further training, skill development, networks of support and assistance for future employment opportunities

- (5) The level of government funding provided to child and Family Centres and whether there is a need for more Child and Family Centres in particular communities or locations

The BCFC has demonstrated that there is a need for Child and Family centres in particular communities or locations, however the location of the centre and the ability to respond to local needs is very important to achieve the integrated and collaborative partnerships to deliver: health & well-being, early education programs and care service delivery.

- (6) Any other matters incidental thereto

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