



MEDIA RELEASE

Municipal Early Years Plan Adopted

The Buloke Shire Council formally adopted its Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) 2015-2019 at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 December.

The plan was developed on the back of an extensive community consultation process undertaken through the middle of 2015. The plan outlines Council's commitment to work in partnership with the community, other levels of Government and relevant service providers to create an environment that provides children with opportunities to grow and develop and for parents to fulfil their parenting role.

This is the first time Council has developed such an extensive MEYP. Its emphasis on advocacy for more accessible services provides an excellent base to commence addressing many of the goals, aspirations, and challenges for young families living in Buloke.

During the community consultation phase five key strategy areas were identified;

- Planning, Coordination and Communication
- Service Provision
- Infrastructure
- Advocacy
- Community Building, Engagement and Inclusion

The actions developed within these strategy areas reflect the strengths of the Buloke Shire, its unique communities and the core needs of its population. It also reflects the challenges of maintaining infrastructure and service delivery in rural areas. Advocacy underpins all the actions articulated in the plan and recognises that current State and Federal government early years funding models require change to better meet the needs of rural Victorians.

"The Buloke Shire Council wishes to thank the community members, early childhood care and education professionals, groups, agencies, organisations, individuals and families who participated in the development of this plan." said Mayor, Cr Reid Mather . "Working together to develop a plan to address the needs of the community will have long term benefits for the citizens of the Shire. These actions will achieve positive outcomes for children. Council looks forward to working with the community to ensure that the actions within the plan are implemented".

View the Municipal Early Years Plan at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/news-and-consultation.

End release

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