

## 17235 - New submission from Early Years Strategy - Public Submissions

Families Tasmania (FT) are an active state wide NFP organisation working directly with Tasmanian families to have confidence, knowledge and resources.

Through the delivery of a variety of evidence based parenting programs, workshops, activities and events we offer place based solutions to reflect what communities want.

With a particular focus on the early years, FT uses a strength based model to offer learning opportunities to parents and care-givers of all Tasmanian children in the areas of health and wellbeing, eating well and being active, building and mobilising skills in children's nutrition, physical activity and oral health, parent/child attachment, social and community connection, child development and referral to health services.

Families Tasmania strongly supports the introduction of an Early Years Strategy and recognises the importance of a National guideline of this nature as a reference point for all organisations and individuals working in the early years sector.

We are a key organisation in the Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy 2021 -2025 "It Takes a Tasmanian Village" First 1000 Days focus area and are currently redeveloping our own organisation's strategy plan so we feel the timing of being part of the Australian Government Early Years Strategy is reflective of important changes that need to happen in the sector to ensure the greatest support is given and every opportunity is offered for our children and families to move beyond basic needs and to thrive in their communities, relationships, health and experiences.

Families Tasmania embraces the following values:

INCLUSIVE - we do this by being welcoming, accessible and supportive of all.

EQUITABLE - we acknowledge and endeavour to address imbalances by being flexible and embracing diversity.

RESPECTFUL - we work with integrity and kindness to build confidence in all.

SUPPORTIVE - we nurture and celebrate our families, staff and partners through encouragement and compassion.

RELEVANT - we develop and provide evidence based resources, activities and information that are responsive to the needs of Tasmanian families.

It is notable that collaboration between Government and non-Government organisations can at times be difficult and a source of frustration when it comes to being able to adequately deliver services for children and families in a consistent manner. A strategy that recognises NFP organisations require flexible funding in order to confidently commit to partnerships with other on-the-ground services to deliver programs and activities that genuinely respond to the needs of individual communities and families, particularly those that already face barriers to health and wellbeing. These include living in regional and remote areas, children with disability or with developmental concerns, newly arrived families, First Nations people, low literacy and numeracy, low socioeconomic status, families affected by drugs and alcohol, children living with or who have experienced family violence.