

Media Release
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Early Years Foundation reports top year

The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation funded 29 projects worth more than \$454,000, its annual report said.

This takes total funding in just three years to \$1.2 million in projects across Tasmania helping children aged 0 – 6 years.

CEO Rebecca Moles said the growing demand for grants showed the importance of the foundation's role in advocating parenting and the importance of the early years.

"The demand for grants indicates how important it is that we continue to focus our grants program on key priority areas that add value to the hard work of many dedicated early years professionals in child care, schools, local councils and community organizations," she said.

Projects that received funding included the Circular Head Rural Health Service for its Reducing Isolation for Young Mothers on the West Coast program.

The program focused on providing support for parents with pre-school aged children.

"The program is contributing to the successful school participation of the children and boosting the confidence and self-esteem of the parents involved in developing friendly and fun activities outside the home," Ms Moles said.

The Tasmanian Breastfeeding Coalition also received funding to raise the profile of breastfeeding in Tasmania with its Every Drop Counts campaign.

Mothers and their babies took part in a celebration of breastfeeding in community events held in both the north and south of the state in April.

"The aim of the event was to increase the awareness of the economic benefits of breastfeeding to community leaders, key decision makers, the business community and economic development sectors," Ms Moles said.

Priority projects included supporting families finding it difficult to access services, involving fathers, promoting healthy nutrition, supporting children with special needs and promoting the rights of children.

Foundation chair Sue Jenkins said a key focus for the foundation in the year ahead was building positive and nurturing relationships between parents and their children.

"Parents and families today are faced with many challenges and we know from our research that many parents don't reach out for support due to fear and being judged," she said.

“Caring for our children is Tasmania’s biggest job and we want to break down that barrier and will be working very hard with the community to provide the support parents and their families need.”

The Foundation will continue to support the Government’s Child and Family Centres (CFCs) across Tasmania.

“The Foundation’s ongoing commitment to advocating the development and implementation of the child and family centres continues,” Ms Jenkins said.

“It is encouraging to see growing enthusiasm on the ground and the active involvement of parents and community members as they begin to get on board the vision and understand the potential of these centres to improve children’s health and development.”

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