

Media Release

31 March 2010

LAUNCH OF NORTHERN EARLY YEARS PLAN

A comprehensive plan outlining strategies to improve outcomes for children in northern Tasmania will be launched in Launceston today.

The Early Years Plan for Northern Tasmania will be launched by Tasmania's Social Inclusion Commissioner Professor David Adams at Invermay Primary School at 4 pm. It has been developed by the Northern Tasmanian early Years Group, an association of local community welfare organisations.

The development of the plan was supported by a \$14,000 grant from the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation (TEYF).

TEYF Chair Dr Sue Jenkins said the plan outlined the goals and changes communities, governments and families could make to improve childhood development.

Dr Jenkins said this ~~and was~~ consistent with the TEYF's aim to foster of collaboration and joint planning across government and non-government agencies to improve outcomes for young children.

"The recently formed Northern Tasmanian Early Years Group now has a plan to guide its activities for the next 10 years and this is an ~~e~~ important and positive initiative.

"The Group has a vision that by 2020, northern Tasmanian children aged between birth and five years will have attained or surpassed national benchmarks in the areas of health, development and education.

"This is a commendable goal and one which all Tasmanians can support. The TEYF is pleased that it has been able to support the development of the plan."

Dr Jenkins said the Foundation was now providing additional funding to ensure the plan was effectively communicated to stakeholders throughout northern Tasmania.

"This work is already underway and is intended to cover the entire region.

"With an effective plan and the commitment of the agencies involved in the Northern Tasmanian Early Years Group, we are confident that we will see improved health, education and wellbeing outcomes for the children of the region in future years."

Ends....

Contacts:

Dr Sue Jenkins, Chair The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation, telephone 0438 345 991

Chief of Staff note: Launch is at the Invermay Primary School, Mayne Street Invermay, today Wednesday 31 March 2010, 3.30 pm for 4 pm.