

OFFICERS REPORT**15 HOURS KINDERGARTEN ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Shane McCluskey

MOTION

That Council joins with the Municipal Association of Victoria, other councils and the kindergarten families of Monash in the "I Love Kinder" advocacy campaign to seek a commitment from the Federal Government for ongoing funding for the agreed additional 5 hours of kindergarten funding which will ensure kindergarten children have universal access to 15 hours of kindergarten.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for this advocacy campaign.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

This campaign will require support of the Children, Youth and Family Services Team which can be accommodated within existing resources. The campaign will be supported by the Communications Team using the resources already developed and found on the "I Love Kinder" website.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The provision of community based, Child and Family Hub is an action from the "Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017 – 2021" particularly two of the three pillars - Active & Healthy along with Engaged, Confident & Connected.

Competent, confident parents support strong resilient children who are then able to build a strong community. The vision of the Children, Youth and Families Unit adopted in 2016 for the Children, Young People and Families Strategy is "For all children and young people in the City of Monash to have the best opportunities to grow, learn and thrive in strong and supportive communities where they are nurtured by capable, confident families from the time they are born until they enter adulthood." Supported playgroups are a foundation to this vision.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

This motion is consistent with advocacy work Council has undertaken to date on this matter. This State-wide campaign sets out a program to generate broad-based public support for stable funding through a wide range of communication channels as well as facilitating activities within our local community. This will include social media, an on-line petition as well as kindergarten-based events and media opportunities.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no further considerations related to the Motion.