



Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy

Our Kids-Our Community

2012-2017

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Draft Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy

1. Introduction

1a Background

Our experiences in early childhood are critical to our future health and well-being. Without the right opportunities at the beginning of life, we face an elevated risk of poor nutritional habits, obesity, low literacy and educational outcomes, heart disease, mental health issues and involvement in crime.

The opportunity to have the best start in life is both a fundamental right for every child and vital to the long term health of our community. To ensure the best start in life for all children, we need to address a wide range of areas, including social, economic, built and natural environments as well as create support networks for children and families within our community.

The Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy is informed by a broad range of National, International and Tasmanian policies, strategies and initiatives:

National Agenda for Early Childhood

The Australian Government has increasingly responded to the international focus on the early years with a number of key developments, including the National agenda for Early Childhood, which led to the Stronger Families and Community Strategy, initiated in 2003.¹ The strategy supported families in targeted communities through early intervention and prevention initiatives and funded programs such as Colony 47's Parents and Kids Together pilot in Glenorchy Schools and the Goodwood Connect community capacity building project.

Investing in the Early Years – The National Early Childhood Development Strategy 2009 (An initiative of the Council of Australian Governments COAG)

The National Early Childhood Development Strategy provides a shared vision for the development of young children in Australia—that by 2020 *all children have the best start in life to create a better future for them and for the nation.*²

The National Quality Framework for Early Education and Care

The National Quality Framework, developed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), is the reform to improve the standards for early childhood education and care. The National Quality Framework sets a new National Quality Standard for early childhood education and care providers in Australia. The framework covers long day care, family day care, outside school hours care and preschools. The National Quality Standard will improve quality through:

¹ Stronger Families and Communities Strategy

² Council of Australian Governments (COAG), Investing in the Early Years- A National Early Childhood Development Strategy, 2009

- improved staff to child ratios to ensure each child receives more individual care and attention.³
- new staff qualification requirements to ensure staff have the skills to help children learn and develop
- a new quality rating system to ensure Australian families have access to transparent information relating to the quality of early childhood education and care services.
- the establishment of a new National Body to ensure early childhood education and care is of a high quality.

National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2010

COAG's report, *Protecting Children is Everyone's Business: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*, identifies the need for investment in prevention and capacity-building strategies during early childhood by both the government and non-government sectors.⁴

National Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The National Disability Strategy, an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments, provides Local Government with a guide to engage and promote strategies for people with disabilities so they can participate fully in local community life.⁵

Tasmanian Child Protection and Gateway Services

The role of Child Protection Services is to protect children and young people who are at risk of abuse or neglect. In Tasmania, the protection of children and young people is covered by the Children Young Persons and their Families Act 1997.⁶

In 2009, Gateway Services were established in Tasmania to provide Family Services to vulnerable children, young people and their families to protect and promote their healthy development.

A community-based Child Protection Worker works in each of the Gateway Services and is able to act on notifications of neglect and abuse.

Whole of Government Policy Framework for the Early Years

The Tasmanian Whole of Government Framework for the Early Years, completed in 2005 was developed to provide the State Government with a clear vision, goals and principles, strategic objectives and priorities for investment in early childhood development in Tasmania. The Framework also compares the cost-benefits of early intervention programs to the costs incurred when governments and societies fail to support their children appropriately.⁷

³ National Early Childhood Development Strategy

⁴ National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children

⁵ National Disability Strategy, COAG, 2010-2020

⁶ Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997

⁷ Whole of Government Policy Framework for the Early Years

The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation

The Tasmanian Early Years Foundation (TEYF) was established under the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Act 2005 and supports programs and initiatives that promote the health and wellbeing of Tasmanian children up to the age of six years.⁸

Tasmania Together Plan 2020

The Tasmania Together plan aims to address issues such as; availability of childcare, safe & friendly communities, children's ability to meet developmental targets, children's physical activity, nutrition and reducing the incidence of smoking in adults. The TEYF is working with Tasmania Together to develop measures around health and wellbeing and has produced the *Kids Come First Report* to help Tasmanian services and organisations to target resources and develop programs to meet the needs of young children.⁹

Agenda for Young People and Children 2011-2021

Our Children, Our Young People, Our Future, is Tasmania's agenda for Children and Young People. The agenda outlines the Tasmanian Government's strategic direction for children and young people over the next ten years.¹⁰

A Social Inclusion Strategy For Tasmania 2009

The goal of the Social Inclusion Strategy supports "A fairer Tasmania where all Tasmanians have access to the personal, social, economic and civic resources and relationships that make life healthy, productive and happy." The strategy has a focus on families and building resilience through early intervention and prevention.¹¹

Mental Health Initiatives

The Tasmanian Government supports initiatives such as Kids in Mind, which is focussed on improving services and supports available to children of parents with mental illness.¹² Kids Matter, a National Mental Health initiative, has 5 participating schools in the Glenorchy Local Government Area. The program promotes positive relationships as a key factor for children to be mentally healthy and confident.¹³

⁸ Tasmanian Early Years Foundation

⁹ Tasmania Together Plan

¹⁰ Agenda for Young People and Children

¹¹ Tasmanian Social Inclusion Strategy

¹² Kids in Mind

¹³ Kids Matter

Key Roles for Glenorchy City Council

Although Glenorchy City Council has a limited Children's Services provision role, operating two Long Day Care centres and administering a Family Day Care Service, Council is a key organisation at the community level. Council acts as the central point for collection and dissemination of information, networking, and provision of infrastructure, lobbying, advocacy, local planning, research and negotiation of partnerships projects.

Council has a key role in planning to ensure that the Glenorchy community is child and family friendly. It has the responsibility of monitoring availability and accessibility of services to young children and families. Council fosters a culture of collaboration and integration of services, finding ways of making the best use of funding opportunities at the local level and clearly articulating the role of Council, State Government and other services and organisations in the development of early years goals and objectives.

The commitment to supporting the early years is reflected in Council's Strategic Plan and other Council policies. It is important that an integrated approach occurs across Council, to ensure that there are links between the Strategic Plan and other Council plans and strategies that relate to children and families, such as land use planning and development of playgrounds and open spaces.

Council Plans and programs related to the Children and Families Strategy

Glenorchy Strategic Plan 2011-2016

Glenorchy City Council recognises the importance of the early years to the overall health and well-being of our community and has developed a Children and Families Strategy (which encompasses the early years birth to 5 and the middle years 6 to 12) to inform the development of Council's five year strategic plan and annual plan: ¹⁴

Objective 1.2 - Provide Opportunities that Address Social Disadvantage.

Strategy 1.2.4 - Develop and implement an Early Years Strategy for the City.

Objective 1.3 – Encourage a strong, diverse and inclusive community.

Objective 1.4 – Support and improve the independence, health and wellbeing of the community.

Glenorchy Community Plan 2009-2029

"Our Vision is to ensure Glenorchy is the best place in Tasmania to live, work and play; both now and into the future. We want Glenorchy to be a City where

¹⁴ Glenorchy City Council Strategic Plan

we all care for each other and act together to improve our lifestyle and environment through a strong sense of community."¹⁵

Glenorchy Social Plan 2003

The Glenorchy Social Plan (2003) identifies that the provision of family and parenting support, information and early intervention for families seen as 'at risk' are priority areas. The plan also shows that Glenorchy has a high rate of notification for children suspected of being neglected or abused. Despite the increase in family support services and outreach programs since the plan was developed, these issues are consistent with the most recent Tasmanian and local data released in the Kids Come First Report 2009.

The Glenorchy Social Plan also shows that there is a high population of single-parent families, infant deaths are high compared to the National average and domestic violence reports for the City are higher than the State average. Mental health data shows that Glenorchy residents are more likely to suffer from a mental health condition such as anxiety and depression.¹⁶

Community Engagement Strategy

The objectives of this strategy are to:

- Provide a framework to guide Council's engagement with the community;
- Ensure community engagement remains an integral part of our activities;
- Maintain and further develop mechanisms to ensure Council consistently and effectively engage our community; and
- Improve Council's community engagement practices.¹⁷

Youth Policy and Plan 2006-2010

The City of Glenorchy Youth Policy and Plan has been developed to:

- Provide direction for Council's activities in relation to young people
- Demonstrate Council's commitment to the development and support of young people in the City, and
- Detail strategies that Council intends to undertake in order to achieve specific outcomes with young people and the community.¹⁸

Safer Communities Strategy 2012

Council has adopted a new Safer Communities Framework and Action Plan, which was prepared by the Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies,

¹⁵ Glenorchy City Council Community Plan

¹⁶ Glenorchy City Council Social Plan

¹⁷ Glenorchy City Council Community Engagement Strategy

¹⁸ Glenorchy City Council Youth Policy

University of Tasmania. The Action Plan contains key strategies that relate to children and families.¹⁹

Glenorchy Recreation Plan 2008-2013

The Recreation Plan provides a framework for the planning and development of recreation and open space. The plan reflects Council's vision to "ensure Glenorchy is the best place in Tasmania to live, work and play"; as well as Council's obligations to maintain and promote recreation activities.²⁰

Access Action Plan 2006

Ensures children with a disability have access to Council services.²¹

Access Program

Council convenes and supports a special committee of Council to provide advice on access issues and to oversee the implementation of the Council's Disability Access Action Plan.

Arts and Cultural Development Program

This program offers a range of community cultural events and family activities including community events, festivals, concerts, art partnerships, theatre projects, school holiday workshops and exhibitions.

Safer Communities Program

This program works in partnership with Tasmania Police and community organisations to develop initiatives that improve community safety.

Sport and Recreation Development

This program plans, develops and markets recreational opportunities within the city to enable increased participation in sport and recreation across all ages.

Natural Areas program

This program includes primary school children in a range of activities related to learning, managing and looking after the environment. It helps the community to understand natural systems and look after them. Activities include; Bush Adventures, School bush care/bushland class room programs, Clean Up Australia Day & National Tree Day.

¹⁹ Glenorchy City Council Safer Communities Strategy

²⁰ Glenorchy City Council Recreation Plan

²¹ Glenorchy City Council Access Action Plan

Glenorchy Action Interagency Network (GAIN)

GAIN is an interagency group for service providers and organisations working with families and children from birth to 12 years of age. They work together to ensure effective responses to the identified needs and issues of children and families in the City of Glenorchy.

GAIN's key objectives are to:

- Improve integration of services
- Network and exchange information on current issues impacting on families and children in Glenorchy
- Achieve more efficient coordination of resources
- Increase community awareness and undertake education initiatives
- Identify and address gaps in service delivery
- Advocate and lobby on behalf of children and families

Youth Action Network Glenorchy (YANG)

The primary focus of YANG is to identify gaps in services for young people in Glenorchy.

YANG consists of youth service providers based either in Glenorchy or with a youth service provision focus in the City. YANG has been instrumental in working with government and non-government organisations and networks to provide new services, support programs and conduct community forums and events.

Glenorchy Suicide Prevention Network

Glenorchy City Council hosts the Glenorchy Life Networks Suicide Prevention Network which is a community driven initiative made up of individuals, government and non-government services and organisations. The network is supported by Wesley Mission and the purpose is to raise awareness and connect with community to develop strategies for positive mental health and suicide prevention.

1b The Purpose of the Children and Families Strategy

Glenorchy City Council has an active role in advocacy, planning and community development and in recognition of the importance of the early years to the overall health and well-being of our community, has developed a *Children and Families Strategy* to inform the development of Council's strategic plan.

The *Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy* highlights Council's commitment to children and families and identifies actions Council can take to improve outcomes for families with young children.

The strategy will serve as a basis for negotiating with local service providers on maximising efforts and resources to improve access and service coordination and work towards increasing the level of cooperation and trust between the community, organisations and all levels of government.

The Strategy, a recommendation of the 2008 review of Council's Childcare Services, outlines the services and programs that presently exist for children and families in the Glenorchy Local Government Area and identifies seven Key Outcomes and supporting actions to strengthen Council's commitment to children aged 0 – 12 years and their families.

It is a tool to assist organisations and services in the development of programs and activities that support the best possible start in life for children and build the capacity of families in Glenorchy. The strategy will be used to develop priorities for the Glenorchy Action Interagency Network (GAIN).

The *Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy* is an evidence based five-year plan which draws together all aspects of early childhood development and provides an overview of the short-and longer-term priorities.

The strategy relates to families with children the early years (birth to six years) and children in their middle years 6 to 12 years.

1c Developing the Children and Families Strategy

The Glenorchy City Council has been supported by the Office of Children and Youth Affairs, Local Government seed funding (*Innovate, Include, Develop*), to support consultations with families and services in relation to children 6 to 12 years. A grant was also received from the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation, to support the development of the early years component (birth to 5 years) of the *Children and Families Strategy*. In May 2009, PDF Management Services Pty Ltd was engaged to develop a project plan and undertake the consultation process with key stakeholders.

The participation of children has been central to the development of the *Children and Families Strategy*. The consultation process has included:

- Ideas and feedback from a Children's Participation Reference Group, comprised of younger members of the Glenorchy and Goodwood Youth Taskforces;
- Feedback on activities and areas they liked within their community from a group of children aged 5 to 12 years from the Claremont Outside School Hours Care program; and
- Ideas for the development of the Arts Park initiative through the participation of children from the Claremont Vacation Care program who made a site visit to the Elwick Bay area.

The extensive consultation process for the development of the Glenorchy Early Years Strategy also included:

- Bringing together representatives from Child Health and Parenting Services, Glenorchy City Council's Children's Services, Life Without Barriers, The Department of Education's Aboriginal Education Unit, the then Mt. Faulkner Primary School and the Association for Children with a Disability, to form a Steering Committee. The Committee developed a community & service provider survey;
- Meetings with parent focus groups in Chigwell, Collinsvale, Goodwood and West Moonah;
- Information collected from target groups such as young/teenage parents, members from the Glenorchy Community Precincts and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren;
- A survey was distributed to over 300 organisations and services;
- A service provider workshop with 30 people from a range of government and non-government services and organisations;

- An information session facilitated by Sue Jenkins and David Haynes presenting *Kids Come First* data specifically relating to the Glenorchy Local Government Area.
- Discussions with individual key service providers.
- Input from staff at Glenorchy City Council.
- Socio-demographic data and literature review of relevant current research and policy.

Key messages from the community and service provider consultations included:

- There is a need to build community awareness of available services for families and children
- A mapping exercise of services should be conducted, with the aim of developing a resource that informs the local community
- Services for children with a disability need improved promotion
- More choices should be available for children with a disability, including access to play equipment in parks
- Services providers need access to long term funding agreements to increase security and sustainability of services
- Aboriginal families require increased access to information and support for issues relating to family violence
- It is important to attract and coordinate funding and resources to provide affordable professional development and training opportunities across a broad range of topics including; child and family support, parenting, family relationships, family partnerships, dealing with grief and trauma and health issues such as alcohol, drugs and sex education
- Interagency communication needs to be improved and services should explore options to work collaboratively
- Service providers would like to have more flexibility and the ability to outreach, conduct home visits and/or operate outside normal working hours, such as weekends and evenings
- There should be an increase in community based health workers and social workers available to families outside the school environment
- Support for teenage mothers needs to be increased
- Families affected by mental health issues require more assistance

- There needs to be more support for refugee families in transition while they are learning about their new environment, to help reduce the incidence of child injury and accidents
- Primary School aged children, particularly those who have disengaged from school, would benefit from further support
- Children who have been excluded from Primary School need suitable places to spend time in and positive role models
- Vulnerable families who have children aged 6 to 12 years need access to early intervention programs
- There should be a greater use of school facilities by community organisations. Opportunities should be sought to include more services in schools to create Community Hubs
- More involvement of children and families in the development of service delivery and increase contribution to Council decision making and projects, such as planting programs and playground design
- Transport is one of the major barriers to participation. Services need to explore options for offering transport as part of their programs
- We need to build a sense of community pride and cohesion and celebrate the achievements of children, families and the community and services who work with children.
- Families need to have a safe environment for their children, with easy access to services and recreation.

2. About Glenorchy, its families and children

2a Key data about Glenorchy families and children

Glenorchy's population at 30th June 2011 was 45,471 with 15.2 per cent being children under the age of 12. The majority of children live in the suburbs of Claremont, East Moonah and Glenorchy. Households with children make up 38.1 percent of the population.

In 2010, 6.2% of Glenorchy City's population was aged between 0 and 4 years and 9.1% of Glenorchy City's population was aged 5 to 11 years. Children aged between 5 and 11 years place special demands upon an area's health, educational and recreational facilities.²²

Where do children, aged birth to 12 years live in Glenorchy City?

Glenorchy Suburbs	Population 0-4 years	Population 5 to 11 years	Total Population of children under 12 years.	percentage suburb Population
Berriedale Chigwell	271	399	670	16.5
Claremont	495	683	1178	15.4
Collinsvale/Glenlusk	60	97	157	18.6
East Moonah	506	693	1199	15.9
Glenorchy	599	882	1481	15.0
Goodwood	115	179	294	16.7
Granton/Austins Ferry	218	311	529	18.2
Rosetta/Montrose	193	324	517	11.8
West Moonah	220	298	518	14.1
Glenorchy LGA	2677	3866	6083	15.3(LGA)

Glenorchy recorded 657 births in 2010. Tasmania has the second highest incidence of teenage pregnancy in Australia with a significantly higher rate of teenage pregnancy in the Glenorchy LGA compared to most other Tasmanian regions.

Pregnant and parenting teens that do not have sound support networks are at risk of poor education outcomes, rapid repeat pregnancies, homelessness, prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse, and sexual and social violence. There is a higher risk of complications during pregnancy, low birth weight and premature births.

²² ID Profile

Children of teenage parents are more likely to demonstrate childhood behavioural problems and are at increased risk from poor nutrition, abuse, neglect and abandonment.²³

Census data from 2011 reveals that family compositions included 37.8% of couple families with children and 23.6% of one parent families. Female parents made up 84.5% of the single parent population and 15.5% were male single parents.

Socio Economic Indexes for Areas

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Socio Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) index explores different aspects of socio-economic conditions by geographical areas and is a tool to compare one area with another.²⁴

The SEIFA index is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g., Indigenous and Separated/Divorced).²⁵

High scores on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage occur when the area has few families of low income and few people with little training and in unskilled occupations. Low scores on the index occur when the area has many low income families and people with little training and in unskilled occupations. It is important to understand that a high score here reflects lack of disadvantage rather than high advantage, a subtly different concept.²⁶

The four indexes covered in SEIFA 2006 were:

- Index of Relative Socio-economic **Disadvantage** (IRSD);
- Index of Relative Socio-economic **Advantage and Disadvantage** (IRSAD);
- Index of **Economic Resources** (IER); and
- Index of **Education and Occupation** (IEO).²⁷

The ABS SEIFA index 2006, rates Glenorchy as the second highest Local Government Area of disadvantage in Southern Tasmania. Over a quarter (27.3%) of Glenorchy households are classified as low income with little training and work in unskilled occupations. The area has a higher number of unemployed people and a higher number of people who finished their education at year 10 than for the Hobart statistical area.²⁸

²³ Making Choices Project, paper- Reducing teen pregnancy rates in Tasmania, 2012

²⁴ ID Profile

²⁵ ID Profile

²⁶ ID Profile

²⁷ ID Profile

²⁸ ID Profile

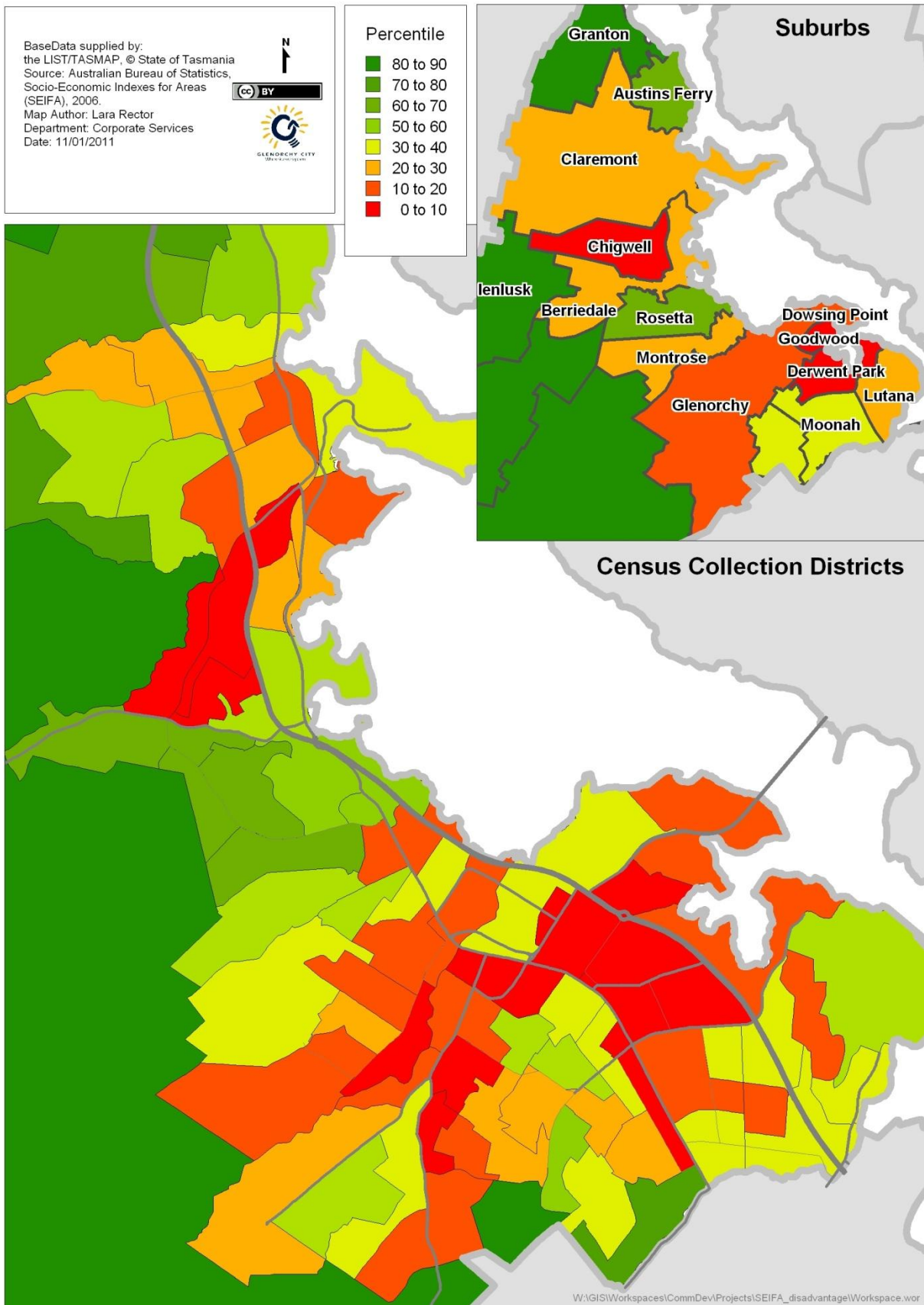
In 2006, there were 26% of children living in low income households in the Glenorchy Local Government Area and 34.78% public housing tenants with children.²⁹ Public housing does not always meet the needs of low income families, there may be difficulties in meeting rental payments, houses may not be located in an area close to services such as schools and transport, which can increase financial hardship and lead to social exclusion.

Car ownership is also lower in Glenorchy. Analysis of the car ownership of the households in Glenorchy City in 2006 compared to Hobart Statistical Division shows that 79.6% of households owned at least one car, while 13.1% did not, compared with 83.6% and 9.7% respectively in Hobart Statistical Division.³⁰

²⁹ ID Profile

³⁰ ID profile

State Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage 2006 (Percentile)



Red and orange indicates areas with the highest levels of disadvantage.

2b Understanding child and family health and wellbeing in Glenorchy

The report, *Kids Come First (KCF): Outcomes for Children and Young People in Tasmania 2009* identifies where Tasmanian children are doing well in relation to their health and well-being and where there needs to be improvement.

The report provides data at a local government and suburb level and consists of 24 target outcomes in four key areas:

- The Child
- The Family
- The Community, and
- Supports and Services.³¹

The KCF report recommends that local governments use the information to work with key services and organisations to plan and implement strategies that will improve the wellbeing outcomes for children and families. The report provides direction for the development of Glenorchy City Council's Children and Families Strategy.

The KCF Report shows that many children in Glenorchy are doing well, however the Glenorchy Local Government Area performs below the whole of Tasmania average against the majority of indicators identified in the report. There are significant maternal health issues, concerns for healthy parental lifestyle and less than optimal antenatal and infant development for many children in Glenorchy.

Information from the KCF Report, the *Tasmanian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey 2009* and *The Australian Early Development Index 2010* outlines the specific outcome and geographical areas where children and families in Glenorchy need early intervention and effective support.

There is a high population of teenage parents in the Glenorchy LGA; 37.6 per 1000, considerably higher in some suburbs, in comparison to 27.9 per 1000 for the State.³² A relatively high number of young mothers are registered with the Child Health and Parenting Services CU@home program; 23.9% in the Glenorchy LGA & much higher in some suburbs, in comparison to 16.5 for Tasmania.³³ This outreach program is a specialised service for women aged 15 to 19 years pregnant with their first baby. Not all teenage mothers necessarily match the criteria for enrolment, therefore are not able to access this service.

Infant deaths are high for Glenorchy, 8 per 1000 compared to the National average of 5.8 and domestic violence reports for the City are higher than the State average.³⁴

³¹ Kids Come First

³² Kids Come First

³³ Kids Come First

³⁴ Kids Come First

Kids Come First - Health and Well-being Outcomes for Children and Young People In Tasmania 2009 for Tasmania and the Glenorchy Local Government Area

THE CHILD			
OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	TASMANIA	GLENORCHY
Optimal Antenatal and Infant Development (2006)	Low Birth Rate	6.9%	10.7%
	Babies born full term	91.8%	89.8%
	Congenital malformation at birth	1.5%	1.7% (In one suburb 3.8%)
THE FAMILY			
Adequate Nutrition	Percentage of mothers attending Nurse Health Assessments who were exclusively breastfeeding at 6 weeks	53%	47.2% (2007/2008) (In one suburb 13.6%).
	Percentage of mothers attending Nurse Health Assessments who were breastfeeding at 6 months	49.7%	39.9% (2007/2008) (In one suburb 16.7%)
Healthy Parental Lifestyle	Women who smoked during pregnancy (self reported)	27.1%	30.9%
	Percentage of women who drank alcohol during pregnancy (self reported)	15.9%	18.5% (In one suburb 23.0%)
	Percentage of women reporting illicit drug use during pregnancy (self reported)	4.2%	7.9% (In one suburb 16.7%)
	Teenage fertility rate	27.9 per 1000	37.6 per 1000 (In one suburb)

			89.6)
Ability to Pay for Essentials	Children living in low income households	25%	26% (Year 2006)
Adequate Family Housing	Public housing wait list applicants who are families with children	35.6%	38.5%
Free From Abuse and Neglect	Child Protection Notifications	123.1 per 1000	140.2 per 1000 (297.1 per 1000 in one suburb)
Rate of Children in Out of Home Care	Children in out of home care	6.2 per 1000	10.7 per 1000 (36.2 per 1000 in one suburb)
THE COMMUNITY			
Adequate exercise and physical activity	Percentage of kindergarten children achieving the gross motor skills marker on the kindergarten development check	94.3%	92.0% (One suburb 71.4%)
Safe from Injury and Harm	Percentage of children hospitalised due to injury or poisoning	0.5%	1.8% (In two suburbs 3.1% and 4.0%)
	Rate of assaults on children	1.2 per 1000 (2006/2007)	(In one suburb 5.2 per 1000)
Optimal Social and Emotional Development	Percentage of children meeting numeracy, literacy and cognition markers on the kindergarten development scale.	77.7%	73.7% (In one suburb 49.3%)
Optimal Language and Cognitive Development	Percentage of children in Prep expected outcomes in literacy (Performance Indicators in Primary School)	83.2%	76.0% (In one suburb 62.5%)

	Percentage of children in Prep achieving expected outcomes in numeracy (PIPS)	83.6%	72.4% (One suburb performing at 95.5%; all others performing lower than 72.4%)
THE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES			
Accessible local recreation spaces, activities and community facilities	Dwellings with a car	91.4%	86.6 % Significant numbers of families in the Glenorchy LGA do not have ready access to transport.
Early Identification of Child Health Issues	Percentage of Parents enrolling their newborn with the Child Health and Parenting Service	93.8%	93.8% (in one suburb 100%)
	Percentage of children attending 0-4 week Nurse Health Assessment	89.9%	88.2% (in one suburb 60%)
	Percentage of children attending the 6 month Nurse Health Assessment	66.6%	55.6% (in one suburb 44.1%)
	Percentage of children attending the 18 month Nurse Health Assessment	47.1%	38.2% (in one suburb 25.0%)
	Percentage of children attending the 3-5 years Nurse Health Assessment	37.9%	33.9% (in one suburb 26.9%)
Support for teenage parents	Teen parents enrolled in the "CU@home" program	16.5%	23.9% (in one suburb 66.7%)

(Information in table from the *Kids Come First Report- Outcomes for Children and Young People In Tasmania 2009*)

Oral Health

It is well documented that poor oral health is linked to illness such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and respiratory health.

Parents and Carers often do not feel that it's necessary for a child less than five years of age to attend dental services, therefore present only when treatment is required.³⁵

Oral Health Services Tasmania is working with CHAPS to implement the *Lift the Lip* program across Tasmania. Under this program, child health nurses are trained to identify children up to four years of age with early signs of tooth decay. Children who are identified as at risk of poor oral health are referred to Oral Health Services Tasmania who works with the whole family to prevent further tooth decay.

Nutrition

The majority of Tasmanian children in the four to twelve year age group consume less than the minimum recommendation of vegetables. By age twelve, fruit consumption levels are very low.³⁶

Tasmanian households where food insecurity was more likely to have occurred included sole parents and those on low income.³⁷

Glenorchy is a city of significant disadvantage, as shown across a range of measures such as income, health and wellbeing and housing. There is a high degree of food insecurity and social exclusion.

Just under half of Glenorchy families with children are one-parent families and 26% of children and young people aged 0-19 are living in low income households (income less than 50% of the national median)

³⁵ Tasmanian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey, 2009:18 Oral Health, The Social Research Centre

³⁶ Tasmanian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey, 2009:25, Nutrition, The Social Research Centre)

³⁷ Tasmanian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey, 2009:28, Nutrition, The Social Research Centre).

Australian Early Development Indicators (AEDI) 2009

The AEDI is a population measure of how young children are developing as they enter school and provides a snapshot of early childhood development across Australia and in local areas.

In 2009, the AEDI was completed in Glenorchy for 509 children in their first year of full time school.

Summary of AEDI Results for Glenorchy Community

Domain	Percentage of children on track	Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable
Physical health and wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical readiness for the day • Physical Independence • Gross and fine motor skills 	74.4%	9.6%
Social competence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall social competence • Responsibility and respect • Approaches to learning • Readiness to explore new things 	71.1%	9.6%
Emotional maturity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-social and helping behaviour • Anxious and fearful behaviour • Aggressive behaviour • Hyperactivity and inattention 	71.4%	10.0%
Language and cognitive skills (school-based) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic literacy • Interest in literacy, numeracy and memory • Advanced literacy • Basic numeracy 	78.9%	9.8%
Communication skills and general knowledge	73.0%	7.8%

Overall there are 24 per cent of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDI and 12.7 per cent are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains³⁸

³⁸ Australian Early Development Index

2d Services for Families with Young Children

Services and Programs provided by Glenorchy City Council:

- **Child Care Connections** – Council operates two Long Day Care Centres and a Family Day Care Service, providing care for children 6 weeks up to 12 years.
- **Immunisation** - A free immunisation clinic is held at the Glenorchy Civic Centre (Cooper Street, Glenorchy) on the second Wednesday of each month, between 2pm and 3pm. The clinic primarily targets infants aged between 2 months and 4-5 years and other vaccinations can be provided for older children who missed school vaccinations.
- **The Glenorchy Action Interagency Network (GAIN)** – Service Providers regularly collaborate to develop community events, information sessions, expos and promotions such as Dad’s Day Out, National Child Protection Week and Children’s Week.
- **Precinct Program** – precincts work regularly on projects involving school children and the community including community events, community gardens and other partnerships.
- **Steps to the Future: Learning Pathways for Young Mothers (17-25)** - is a joint Family Literacy project between Council and the Glenorchy LINC. This program includes parenting and health support and “Creative Me” parent/child literacy program. It’s funded for three years by the Tasmanian Community Fund.
- **Access Program** – convenes and supports a special committee of Council to provide advice to Council on access issues and to oversee the implementation of the Council’s *Disability Discrimination Action Plan*.
- **Sport and Recreation** – Oversees the Glenorchy Mobile Activity Centre, which is a partnership between Tasmania Police and Council.
- **Safer Communities Committee** – works in partnership with Tasmania Police and Community Organisations to develop initiatives that improve community safety.

The Glenorchy Local Government Area has a range of Government and Non-Government programs for the Early Years and young children:

- There are 9 State Government Primary Schools that include Launching into Learning parent/child programs, designed for children birth to 5 years. In addition, one school provides an outside school hours care program.
- There are 3 Non-Government schools that incorporate Outside School Hours programs and 1 school that incorporates an Early Learning Centre.
- There are 5 Non-Council operated Long Day Care Centres spread across the City.
- The Glenorchy LINC provides free children's activities after school and during the school holidays and regular sessions throughout the year for pre-school children such as Rock and Rhyme and Reading Together.
- A range of sporting and physical activity opportunities for children across the city, include; Little Athletics, BMX, Junior Football, ice sports, soccer, swimming, roller skating, Fit & Fun YMCA.
- Six Playgroups affiliated with Playgroup Tasmania (both facilitated and parent run) and a number of other organisations and churches also operate independent playgroups. In addition, the Playgroup Tasmania Southern Office and Toy Library are situated in Albert Road on the boundary between the suburbs of New Town and Moonah. Save the Children are currently operating a Multicultural Playgroup from Council's Family Day Care Service in Gavitt Street.
- Community centres/Neighbourhood Houses - Bucaan, Dowsing Point, Goodwood, Women's Karadi Aboriginal Corporation and West Moonah all offer parent support and health and wellbeing programs.
- Young parents programs operate from Pulse Youth Health Centre in Glenorchy, the Salvation Army in Moonah and Clarendon College. The Parents Staying Connected Program operates from Mission Australia's Chigwell House.
- There are a number of Family Support and Health services including but not limited to Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS) Good Beginnings, The Smith Family, Oral Health Services, City Mission, Glenorchy Health Centre, Anglicare, Mission Australia, Colony 47, Salvation Army, Housing Tasmania, Family Planning Tasmania, Life Without Barriers, Gateway and Integrated Family Support Services.

- The Child and Family Centre Chigwell is an integrated service for families with children birth to 6 years. The Local Enabling Group (LEG) is represented by Chigwell residents, Education, DHHS, Council and a range of Government and Non-Government family support organisations.
- A range of services provide outreach and enter partnerships with organisations to provide community-based support to families in the Glenorchy LGA.
- Glenorchy is well-serviced with recreation spaces and community facilities, in most areas.

Building Community Capacity

Overall, Glenorchy's children and families are thriving and enjoy the benefits of a diverse range of community, social, educational and recreational experiences. They have a healthy lifestyle, are able to access the services they need and have the confidence to participate in community life. However, there are many children and families in Glenorchy who are vulnerable, isolated and experience multiple disadvantage.

The aim of Glenorchy City Council's Children and Families Strategy is to address these issues by working with the community to strengthen the skills, competencies and abilities of children and families.

Council actively seeks funding to facilitate community events, projects and activities which provide increased opportunities for families to engage with people from a range of services, access information and build trust with services and organisations.

In addition, Council promotes services and activities to the community, in the Glenorchy Gazette, on the Council website and by means of interagency networks.

Council also encourages community participation in local neighbourhood and community projects and service developments through a range of mechanisms including the Youth Task Force, the Community Precincts Program and the Glenorchy Matters Panel.

Council will continue to build on partnerships with services and the broader community to improve connections with families and young children, increase opportunities for their participation and work towards a more child friendly city.

Children and Families Strategy Key Outcomes

The following seven Key Outcomes of the Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy reflect the issues identified from the consultation process and are consistent with current research and policy.

3. Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy

Outcome 1:

Children participate meaningfully in the community and community decision-making.

Outcome 2:

Glenorchy is a child friendly and safe community where children have a sense of belonging and pride.

Outcome 3:

Stakeholders collaborate to increase the capacity to better meet the needs of children.

Outcome 4:

Services and support for children and their families are appropriate, streamlined and high quality.

Outcome 5:

Children and their parents are able to access the child and family support services they need.

Outcome 6:

Children in Glenorchy have optimal support to enhance their learning, growth and development.

Outcome 7:

Resources are available to meet the developmental and support needs of children.

Specific initiatives proposed for each of these outcomes are detailed in the following plan.

Outcome 1: Children participate meaningfully in the community and community decision-making.

Glenorchy City Council is committed to engaging the community through informing and consulting in an effective and consistent manner. Using a variety of methods, Council actively engages residents, community groups and businesses.

1.1 Participation Structures

Key issues:

- △ Participation structures and mechanisms should enable children and families to inform Council and service provider decision making.
- △ Participation structures need to be consistent with recognised frameworks such as the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* and the *Charter of Rights for Tasmanian Children and Young People in Out of Home Care*

Actions:

- 1.1.1 Work with the Glenorchy Youth Taskforce, Council's Community Participation and Children's Programs, service providers and the community, to investigate a range of models for the development of age appropriate consultative mechanisms that will increase children's participation in decision making processes.
- 1.1.2 Provide support across Council to ensure that children are actively engaged in ethical and age-appropriate consultation processes.

1.2 Participation Opportunities

Key issues:

- △ A range of organisations such as schools, sporting clubs and child and youth services are well placed to link in with children's participation networks and structures.
- △ Participation processes and activities need to be appropriate to the developmental stages of children. Innovative processes may need to be considered, such as Karen Malone's "Consulting with Kids" project. The model encourages children to respond to questions through creative experiences.

Actions:

- 1.2.1 Identify opportunities for, and ensure children's participation in, the development of community activities and health promotion projects targeting children and families.
- 1.2.2 Encourage and support the participation of Aboriginal children and their families in early years participation structures.
- 1.2.3 Develop guidelines and protocols for the regular inclusion of young children and families in relevant planning and decision making processes of Council.
- 1.2.4. Work with GAIN and all spheres of Government to promote the inclusion of children in the planning and development of specific programs and infrastructure in the city, such as playgrounds and recreational developments.

1.3 Participation Resources and Frameworks

Key issues:

- △ The Glenorchy Youth Taskforce is an existing mechanism which provides a very useful model for effective participation by young people that could be adapted to meet the needs of children and families.
- △ There are a number of examples of National and International children's participation models and resources available to inform the development of a participation framework for Glenorchy.

Actions:

- 1.3.1 Develop a Glenorchy City Council Children's Charter with involvement by children and young people, based on the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities framework, the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) Guide for Child Friendly Communities and other relevant frameworks and principles.
- 1.3.2 Work with GAIN and the Glenorchy Youth Task Force to research participation models and identify resources and activities that support children's participation in Glenorchy.

1.4 Organisational and Staff Development

Key issue:

- △ A strong participation culture within Council can influence the type and amount of involvement by children and their families.
- △ It can also provide an effective framework for service providers and other organisations to develop specific models of participation.

Actions:

- 1.4.1 Provide training and resources to Council staff on best practice methods of engagement with children covering areas such as ethical and legal considerations.

Outcome 2: Glenorchy is a child friendly and safe community where children have a sense of belonging and pride.

A child friendly and safe community is one where children are valued, supported and respected, provided for and actively included. It is one where children play a central part and enjoy the benefits of a clean, safe and healthy environment

2.1 Safety in the Community

Key issues:

- △ Infrastructure such as lighting in public areas and quality paving and footpaths contribute positively to children's sense of safety
- △ Some areas of Glenorchy are perceived as less safe by children and their families, particularly at night.
- △ Everyone in the community plays an important role in keeping children safe.

Actions:

- 2.1.1 Work with the Safer Communities Committee on the development and implementation of specific strategies to increase the perception of safety of children and their families in the Glenorchy Central Business District.
- 2.1.2 Participate in working groups such as the Safety in Action Group, Community Road Safety Partnership, the Safer Communities Committee and the Child Injury Prevention Coalition to promote road safety for children and families across the Glenorchy Local Government Area.
- 2.1.3 Utilise community events to promote and raise awareness of the positive impact individuals and groups can have on children's safety and well-being.

- 2.1.4 Work with services and settlement organisations such as Centacare and the Migrant Resource Centre to develop strategies for promoting safety to families and young children who are recent arrivals in the community.
- 2.1.5 Work with services and organisations such as Kidsafe and NAPCAN to produce articles in the Glenorchy Gazette on child safety topics.
- 2.1.6 Support the application of Safer by Design principles when developing infrastructure and environments such as playgrounds and car parks to enhance public safety.

2.2 A Child Friendly Community

Key issues:

- △ A child friendly community takes responsibility for supporting the health and wellbeing of families and children.
- △ A Child Friendly community is characterised by supportive and strong social and physical infrastructure, where families have access to a range of free or low cost recreational activities, school holiday programs and family events. It has well-signed, accessible and safe parks, cycle tracks, gardens and public open spaces with adequate, clean facilities.
- △ Optimum outcomes for children are achieved when they live in a community where they have positive relationships and access to adequate activities to support their growth and development needs.
- △ Children have attributes such as imagination, curiosity and the desire to explore. These attributes can be fostered through the provision of opportunities that are developmentally appropriate, where children are exposed to challenges and risk taking in a safe environment.

Actions:

- 2.2.1 Work in partnership with others, to develop Glenorchy as a child friendly community, based on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Child Friendly City Framework.

- 2.2.2 Facilitate opportunities to increase public awareness of the importance of parenting and nurturing children in order to create a more child and family friendly community.
- 2.2.3 Work with the Sport and Recreation Development Officer & the Police and Community Youth Club Steering Committee to assist with the promotion and sustainability of programs that develop positive relationships between primary school aged children, (particularly those at risk) and Police.
- 2.2.4 Work with Council Officers responsible for the development of public open spaces and recreational areas (parks, walking/cycle tracks and playground equipment), to better meet the needs of children and their families.
- 2.2.5 Conduct an audit of Glenorchy City's amenities, services and events against UNICEF's Child Friendly City criteria.

2.3 Community Pride and Cohesion

Key issues:

- △ Community pride and cohesion can be enhanced by working with communities to address issues such as graffiti, litter and mutual respect.
- △ Communities can be empowered when they are able to voice their concerns and have opportunities to address issues of stigma, parochialism, lack of community identity and isolation.

Actions:

- 2.3.1 Continue to build on initiatives such as the Junior Neighbourhood Support Program to increase children's sense of civic responsibility and pride.
- 2.3.2 Utilise community activities and events to model and promote positive behaviour and courtesy to others.
- 2.3.3 Encourage organisations to stage activities and events that meet the needs and aspirations of children and their families, particularly in communities where a sense of isolation and stigma has been identified.

2.4 Celebrating Success

Key issues:

- △ Achievements and successes should be recognised and celebrated.

Actions:

- 2.4.1 Use nationally recognised events such as Children's Week to acknowledge the contribution of business, families and community organisations who have worked towards positive outcomes for children and to celebrate the achievements of children.

Outcome 3: Stakeholders collaborate to increase the capacity to better meet the needs of children.

A key focus of the Glenorchy Children and Families Strategy is to strengthen collaborative linkages between services across all levels of government and non-government organisations that provide services for families and children in Glenorchy to maximise efforts and minimise duplication of resources

3.1 Build on Existing Networks

Key issues:

- △ Existing service provider networks such as YANG and GAIN provide a solid foundation for further development of a co-ordinated and co-operative service provider environment

Actions:

- 3.1.1 Support the ongoing development of the Glenorchy Action Interagency Network (GAIN) to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.
- 3.1.2 Use GAIN and other interagency networks to attract and obtain funding and resources for staff and board training and development across the network.
- 3.1.3 Facilitate and encourage co-operative approaches amongst service providers to access funding and resources for the benefit of children and their families.
- 3.1.4 Develop an accessible data base of services for the early years in Glenorchy.
- 3.1.5 Facilitate information sharing between service providers and better interagency communication to ensure more support for vulnerable families.
- 3.1.6 Participate in National, State and local forums and consultation processes relating to children.

3.2 Government and Community Sector Relationships

Key issues:

- △ Collaborative service delivery models must have an effective interface with Government and Local Government services, including the development and evolution of Gateway and Integrated Family Support Services and Child and Family Centres.
- △ Communication, liaison and advocacy between State, Commonwealth, Local Government and community organisations are necessary to improve expected outcomes for children and families.

Actions:

- 3.2.1 Continue to participate in and support interagency networks such as GAIN and YANG to identify and address gaps in services for children and families. This will enable Council to maintain effective lines of communication with government and non government organisations in order to advocate for the needs and aspirations of children and families.
- 3.2.2 Facilitate and broker introductions and discussions between potential service provider and key stakeholder partners to encourage formal partnerships to increase the number and types of services available to children and their families.
- 3.2.4 Contribute to the development of Government policies and service delivery models for families and children.

3.3 Collaborative Service Delivery

Key issues:

- △ Collaborative service models need an agreed vision and common goals which reflect the desires and needs of the community.
- △ Schools must be considered key stakeholders in the development of children and the community and included in any collaborative service delivery models.
- △ It is Council's role to represent the local community and work effectively with all sectors to ensure that quality services are provided to meet the complex needs of families and children birth to 12 years.

Actions:

- 3.3.1 Participate in reference, steering and advisory committees for the development and implementation of family support services within the city.
- 3.3.2 Contribute to the establishment and ongoing development of the Child and Family Centre at Chigwell.
- 3.3.3 Work with the Department of Education and service providers to maximise outcomes for children and their families through increased community use of school facilities and involvement in school activities.
- 3.3.4 Work with other services, organisations and Government agencies to streamline assistance for children and their families where they are accessing services from multiple providers.
- 3.3.5 Invite and encourage local schools to participate in key working groups and GAIN projects.

Outcome 4: Services and support for children and their families are appropriate, streamlined and high quality.

In order for the support needs and aspirations of children and their families to be effectively met, the required services must not only be available, they must also be accessible.

4.1 Service Provider Development, Innovation and Contemporary Practices

Key issues:

- △ Effective services have proactive and contemporary service management and delivery that is founded on thorough and sound planning, research and demographic analysis, policy development, evidence based decision making and evaluation.

Actions:

- 4.1.1 Contribute to research, policy development and building the evidence base relating to children and their families in Glenorchy.
- 4.1.2 Encourage and support evidence-based decision-making by service providers and key stakeholders and assist organisations in accessing funding and resources.
- 4.1.3 Encourage and support a culture of evaluation, ongoing review and analysis of service provision in order to meet the needs of children and their families.
- 4.1.4 Identify likely demographic changes and changes in service and support requirements for children and their families and advocate for resources to meet these needs.
- 4.1.5 Work collaboratively with others to access resources to respond to the needs of specific identified groups such as disengaged children or teenage parents.

Outcome 5: Children and their parents are able to access the child and family support services they need.

Service Provider feedback indicated that a significant number of services are interested in expanding programs but do not currently have the capacity to do so.

5.1 Availability of services

Key issues:

- △ Aspects of service delivery that have been identified in order to improve outcomes for children and their families within the city include: increasing the amount and range of services available; increasing the hours of operation and locations of services; alternative service delivery models including outreach; increasing awareness of services; increasing the geographical coverage of services; and the development of innovative and alternative service delivery models which overcome barriers to access.
- △ There are a number of successful and innovative educational, early years and family literacy programs operating in the Glenorchy Local Government Area, including Launching into Learning in schools, Mission Australia's - Parents Staying Connected and the Steps to the Future-Young Mother's Programs. However gaps have been identified in areas such as literacy support for primary school aged children and homework help and programs to support children's home to school transition.
- △ Service providers have identified that in order to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, there is a need for additional family support and mentoring programs for families who are affected by post natal depression, mental health issues and drug and alcohol abuse.

Actions:

- 5.1.1 Assist service providers to identify opportunities to expand, re-locate or co-locate their service provision for families and children, where there is an identified need in the Glenorchy Local Government Area.

- 5.1.2 Work with service providers to explore options to provide support to children and families outside normal working hours and during school holidays.
- 5.1.3 Work with service providers to attract additional funding and resourcing to address identified gaps in services and support for children and their families.
- 5.1.4 Monitor the needs of children and their families in order to foster and develop a service delivery system in Glenorchy which maximises the level of choice for children and their families whilst maintaining the viability and security of individual organisations.
- 5.1.5 Continue to implement the three-year funded Steps to the Future (STF)-Young Mother's Family Literacy Project, in partnership with the Glenorchy LINC and promote the project model to other services.
- 5.1.6 Work with others to identify mechanisms for sustainability beyond the funded period of the STF Project.
- 5.1.7 Work with the Women's Karadi Aboriginal Corporation to engage young mothers in the STF Project and parenting programs.
- 5.1.8 Continue to work with Council's Children's Services and other services, such as Mission Australia, Anglicare, Colony 47, Good Beginnings, The Australian Childhood Foundation, Child Protection and schools, to develop parenting and relationship programs that contribute to improved mental and physical health and wellbeing of families.
- 5.1.9 Advocate to other spheres of Government on the access and service needs of families living in Glenorchy, based on demographic data and current research.

5.2 Awareness of Services

Key issues:

- △ Many people within the community are not aware of the type, range and locations of services available to them
- △ Parents need to know what support is available and how to access it when they need it.

- △ Families are not always aware of the entertainment, recreational and sporting opportunities that exist in the Glenorchy Local Government Area.

Actions:

- 5.2.1 Utilise interagency networks, community events, school newsletters, community notice boards, the Glenorchy Gazette and a range of media to promote the availability of services, supports and activities for families and children.
- 5.2.2 Work across Council, with Government agencies and other services and organisations to streamline access to information about services and support available to families.

5.3 Access to Services and Support

Key issues:

- △ Whilst services may be available, additional support is required for some children and families to overcome barriers to accessing these services.
- △ Children and families need access to low cost and no cost family oriented activities and events including outdoor activities.
- △ Multiple agencies, working in partnership, is an effective way to provide low cost and no cost family oriented activities and events.

Actions:

- 5.3.1 Continue to provide advice to organisations and services, in order to assist with the development of strategies that help reduce barriers and improve access to services, activities and events.
- 5.3.2 Work with family support services and organisations to identify funding opportunities that will cover transport costs.
- 5.3.3 Work with GAIN, services and organisations to investigate suitable locations for activities and events.
- 5.3.4 Work with service providers and organisations to investigate options for the inclusion of additional programs such as inexpensive or free Adjunct and Outside School Hours Care.

5.4 Supporting Children and Families with Additional Needs

Key issues:

- △ Children and families with additional needs include but are not limited to children with disabilities and their families, Aboriginal children, culturally and linguistically diverse children, refugee families in transition, children who are primary carers of parents or other family members, gifted children, teenage parents, children disengaged from the school system, foster parents, children with mental health needs and children of parents with mental health needs.
- △ Children with disability face special needs. In their early years, parents and their children with disabilities need a high level of support.
- △ Service providers and communities can improve outcomes for a range of children and families with specific needs. Support may include assisting families with information, support and advocacy; capacity building; assisting refugees in transition; ensuring access to education for children who are primary carers.
- △ Inclusive practice ensures that equal consideration is given to the needs and interests of all children and families.
- △ Appropriate staff training enables them to meet the needs of families with children who have additional needs and to make appropriate referrals to agencies and organisations.

Actions:

- 5.4.1 Continue to promote professional development opportunities such as Aboriginal and Cross-Cultural Awareness training to services and organisations.
- 5.4.2 Organise speakers to attend GAIN meetings and forums to provide information about issues affecting families with additional needs and to provide strategies for services to develop inclusive programs.
- 5.4.3 Support projects and events aimed at promoting community awareness, understanding and acceptance of diversity.

- 5.4.4 Work with services and organisations such as Karadi, Aboriginal Children’s Health and Education Services, on projects that address issues identified as having an impact on Aboriginal children and families.
- 5.4.5 Liaise and work together with other organisations to promote the National Disability Strategy in their community.
- 5.4.6 Provide parents and carers with the opportunity to better engage with Council around policy development relating to people with a disability.
- 5.4.7 Encourage all services, not only specialist disability services to develop programs and policy with a universal, person-centred approach.
- 5.4.8 Work with the Glenorchy Suicide Prevention Network to raise awareness of mental health issues for children and families and promote community workshops and services.
- 5.4.9 Continue to participate in activities and events such as Mental Health Week.
- 5.4.10 Continue to work with services and organisations to identify and address the settlement needs of refugee families in the Glenorchy LGA.

Outcome 6: Children in Glenorchy have optimal support to enhance their learning, growth and development.

The long term aim is to reduce the need for services and support and to increase the capacity and resilience of the Glenorchy community. Ensuring children are healthy, well and achieve recognised childhood developmental outcomes will be an important contributor to this aim.

6.1 Understanding Childhood Development

Key issues:

- △ It is important that Service providers are aware of the similarities and differences between the early years (birth to 5) and the middle years (6 to 12) and have the ability to appropriately refer in order to maximise outcomes for children and their families.
- △ Services need to understand and cater for the developmental needs of children and ensure their services and practices are inclusive, equitable and accessible and that staff have the skills and knowledge to deliver and/or refer to other services appropriately.
- △ Services need to be aware of and provide for the developmental needs of children with a disability and children with additional needs.
- △ The Kids Come First Report and the Australian Early Development Index indicate that significant numbers of Glenorchy's children are not reaching expected educational, health and wellbeing outcomes across a range of areas.
- △ Maternal health is a significant contributor to a child's health and development - The Kids Come First report demonstrates there is a significantly higher incidence of women who smoke, consume alcohol and use illicit drugs during pregnancy in Glenorchy compared to the State average.

Actions:

- 6.1.1 Access research and data on contemporary practice in childhood development and make this available to service providers through GAIN and other networks.
- 6.1.2 Work in partnership with other organisations including Education, Child Health and Parenting Services and the Tasmanian Breastfeeding Association to access resources and funding to develop and implement a range of projects and activities that promote healthy eating and physical activity for families and children.
- 6.1.3 Identify funding opportunities to develop health promotion projects and activities, in partnership with key services, to address issues such as smoking and drug and alcohol abuse during pregnancy.
- 6.1.4 Promote "Glenorchy on the Go" programs, Heart Foundation Walking Groups and the Young Mother's YMCA Fitness program to parents and carers.
- 6.1.5 Work in partnership with services, including education, to assist with the development of family literacy projects and activities.
- 6.1.6 Work with service providers to increase community, service provider and key stakeholder capacity to identify, respond to and/or refer children and their families appropriately, where a child has developmental and/or health and well-being needs.

6.2 Vulnerable Children

Key issues:

- △ Children displaying signs of being at risk, benefit from positive role models, early intervention and support to remain engaged in the education system.
- △ Currently Education Department Social Workers operate predominately within the school environment. The consultation undertaken in the development of the Children and Families Strategy identified potential benefits of Social Workers providing more outreach work into the community.

Actions:

- 6.2.1 Work with the Department of Education, Glenorchy City Council Youth Programs and specific working groups of GAIN and YANG to develop programs that encourage parents, carers and children to connect with schools, such as Colony 47's – Communities Supporting Families Model.
- 6.2.2 Work in partnership with Glenorchy schools, private, government and community sectors to develop the Glenorchy Community LEARN (Learning, Engaging, Achieving, Respecting, Networking) Project for children and young people.
- 6.2.3 Approach the Department of Education to explore the potential for broader roles of social workers beyond the school.
- 6.2.4 Work with Maternal, Child Health and Parenting Services, Indigenous Early Childhood Development (IECD), Karadi and the Aboriginal Children's Centre to improve health and developmental outcomes for Glenorchy's indigenous children in their early years in line with the "Closing the Gap" agenda, National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.
- 6.2.5 Work with key organisations and Council Officers to provide advice on play equipment and facilities that meet the needs of children with disabilities and/or special needs and support the use of universal design principles in the development of playgrounds and choice of play equipment.

6.3 Parenting

Key issues:

- △ Parents have a desire to learn and improve and build on their parenting skills.
- △ Parents, Carers and families are the most important influence in a child's life.

Actions:

- 6.3.1 Work with GAIN and other service providers to promote and support the development and implementation of a range of

targeted and universal parenting programs and services in Glenorchy.

- 6.3.2 Promote peer support and mentoring models, such as the Parents Staying Connected Program, to services and organisations.
- 6.3.3 Promote parenting information and resources to the community at events, through schools, young parents groups, via interagency networks and in the Glenorchy Gazette.

6.4 Health and Well-being Initiatives

Key issues:

- △ Children who grow up in an environment which maximises their health, well-being and development provide the platform for a strong and thriving community.

Actions:

- 6.4.1 Work with GAIN and other service providers to build on and extend existing health and well-being programs and activities such as Dad's Day Out, National Child Protection Week and Children's Week.
- 6.4.2 Continue to build health literacy into the Steps to the Future – Young Mother's Program.
- 6.4.3 Continue to work with Quit Tasmania to explore effective ways to address the issue of maternal tobacco smoking.
- 6.4.4 Collaborate with services and organisations to develop workshops and information sessions for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- 6.4.5 Continue to support the State Government's Move Well Eat Well Programs, including the Part Way Is Okay initiative, in partnership with Glenorchy Primary Schools.
- 6.4.5 Utilise the Glenorchy Gazette to raise awareness about child health, parenting, safety and self care.
- 6.4.6 Work with the Glenorchy Suicide Prevention Network to promote services and address mental health issues for families.

Outcome 7: Resources are available to meet the developmental and support needs of children.

The capacity to meet the service and support needs of children and their families is dependent on the resources available to deliver programs, activities and assistance.

7.1 Resourcing and Support

Key issues:

- △ It's important that programs and initiatives are available to parents and others responsible for the care of children, for example grandparents raising grandchildren, foster carers and other kinship care families.
- △ Transport can be a barrier for many parents accessing employment and training and providing for the safety and health and well-being of their children.
- △ Systems need to be in place to maximise grant opportunities in different funding environments. Whilst some funding is available to Local Government, Council is able support other organisations to access funding and resources to deliver services in Glenorchy.

Actions:

- 7.1.1 Encourage and support service providers to access additional funding and support for service provision in response to identified and agreed priorities.
- 7.1.2 Act as sponsor or applicant for funding and resources on behalf of and/or with service providers and key stakeholders, where Council is more likely to attract funding and/or where funding bodies indicate they will only fund Local Government
- 7.1.3 Access additional funding and facilitate the development of partnerships to deliver programs and activities including support for grandparents raising grandchildren, and parents accessing mentor driving programs.
- 7.1.4 Encourage the sharing of resources and in-kind support between service providers and key stakeholders to increase the capacity of services to provide programs.

7.2 Infrastructure

Key Issue:

- Commonwealth, State and Local government buildings and facilities can add to the resources available to meet the needs of children and their families.

Action:

- 7.2.3 Work with Government agencies, services, organisations and across Council to identify opportunities to access and maximise the use of suitable facilities and infrastructure for family services and recreational activities in Glenorchy.

7.3 Funding Security

Key Issue:

- △ Three year funding cycles increase security and sustainability for service providers and the reliability of services for children and their families.

Actions:

- 7.3.1 Advocate to Government for minimum three-year funding agreements for service providers.
- 7.3.2 Promote the Steps to the Future project model and key outcomes and work with others to identify mechanisms for sustainability beyond the funded period.
- 7.3.3 Provide advice to organisations in the development of funding applications to encourage the inclusion of strategies for building sustainability beyond the funding agreement.
- 7.3.4 Provide advice to vulnerable community organisations and service providers experiencing issues such as insecure and/or inadequate funding and/or insufficient governance; poor quality of service delivery.

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National Reports, strategies and Research Links

1. Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy, An initiative of the Council of Australian Governments, 2009. www.coag.gov.au
2. National Plan to reduce violence against women and their children, an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments, 2011. www.coag.gov.au
3. National Disability Strategy, An initiative of the Council of Australian Governments, 2010-2020. www.fahcsia.gov.au
4. National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2009-2010
http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-04-30/docs/child_protection_framework.pdf
5. A snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia, Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), 2009, RE-ISSUE 2011. www.aedi.org.au
6. A National Strategy for Young Australians. www.youth.gov.au
7. COAG National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development
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8. COAG National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care
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9. Child Friendly Community Action Kit – A Guide to building child friendly communities. www.napcan.org.au
10. Families make all the difference: Helping kids grow and learn Fact Sheet, Australian Institute of Family Studies. www.familiesaustralia.org.au
11. Communities that Care – Helping communities build better futures for children and young people. www.rch.org.au/cah
12. The Implications of Poverty on Children’s Readiness to Learn Paper – Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.
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13. What About Me? Children as co-researchers. University of Wollongong.
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State Reports, strategies and research links

14. Tasmanian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey-Report of Survey Findings
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17. Kids Come First Report - Outcomes in the Early Years: The State of Tasmania's Young Children 2009- A report on the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation's Outcomes Framework
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18. New Directions for Child Protection in Tasmania: An integrated strategic framework, DHHS, 2008. www.dhhs.tas.gov.au
19. Whole of Government Policy Framework for the Early Years
http://www.education.tas.gov.au/early-learning/early_years/early-years-resources/Earlyyearsframework.pdf
20. COAG National Reform Agenda – Tasmania's Early Childhood and Child Care Action Plan
http://www.earlyyears.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/63788/TAS_Jurisdiction_Action_Plan_for_Early_Childhood_and_Child_Care.pdf
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22. A Healthy Tasmania, Setting new directions for health and wellbeing Report, DHHS www.dhhs.tas.gov.au
23. Closing the Gap in Aboriginal Educational Outcomes 2010-2014
www.education.tas.gov.au
24. Creative Connections in the Early Years, Tasmanian Early Years Foundation,
www.earlyyears.org.au
25. Tasmanian Child and Family Centres, www.education.tas.gov.au
26. Raising Children - Tasmania's Biggest Job, www.tashelpinghands.org.au
27. Building blocks for developing a child friendly city-UNICEF ,
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28. Tasmanian Social Inclusion Strategy
<http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/siu>
29. Tasmania's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2010 – 2014: A strategic framework and action plan www.dhhs.tas.gov.au
30. Building the Foundations for Mental Health and Wellbeing- A Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Implementing Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Approaches in Tasmania
http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth/publications/strategic_documents/PPEI_summary_document.pdf
31. Mental Health Services-Strategic Plan 2006-2011
http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/38507/Mental_Health_Strategic_Plan_1.pdf
32. Early Years- A Shared Future Framework for Action- A Whole of Government Approach for Tasmanian Families- October 2006
<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/childandfamily/research/SharedFuture.pdf>
33. Tasmania's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2010 – 2014: A strategic framework and action plan
http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/mentalhealth/suicide_risk_and_prevention/tasmanian_suicide_prevention_steering_committee_tspsc/tasmanias_suicide_prevention_strategy

International Reports and Research links

34. Building blocks for developing a child friendly city-UNICEF ,
www.childfriendlycities.org.au
35. Why Business Should Support Early Childhood Education. Institute for Competitive Workforce, Washington. www.uschamber.com/icw
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