



2022

B4 Early Years Coalition Leaders Information for Applicants

B4 EARLY YEARS COALITION

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Introduction

B4 is seeking, passionate, skilled individuals or Organisational representatives not necessarily from the early years sector to work with B4 to meet both its current commitments and those identified with the 'It takes a Tasmanian Village' - Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) in regard to The First 1000 Days. B4 is seeking Leaders who will drive this work forward and support all Tasmanian children receive the support when and where they need it to thrive.

This pack is for applicants, either individuals or a nominated representative from an Organisation, interested in becoming a B4 Early Years Coalition (B4) Leader (B4 Leader).

Eligibility

- o Individuals and or an Organisational representative must work and reside in Tasmania.
- o Support the principles and articles in the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- o Comply with Department of Justice Child Safe Organisation requirements, including holding a current and valid registration to see: [Work with Vulnerable people](#)
- o Meet the identified criteria as set out in the Expression of Interest (EOI) Application Form

To apply to be appointed as a B4 Leader:

- Complete the separate EOI form.
- Submit your Expression of Interest with your resume and any supporting material to: B4@education.tas.gov.au by **COB Friday 25 February 2022**

Appointment Process

1. Lodge your application by COB Friday 25 February 2022
2. The Department of Education will convene a selection panel of three people comprising the B4 Co-chairs and Senior Project Officer, B4 Department of Education to consider the applications and make recommendations to the Minister for Education.
3. All members of the B4 are appointed by the Minister for Education.
4. Decisions will be communicated to applicants by mail and subsequently to the community through a media release.

Background

The B4 Early Years Coalition is a collective impact initiative launched 2016 as part of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to providing quality early learning and development experiences for all young children, regardless of where they live or their family background. The early years are a time of rapid change and development for children, as they learn and grow and discover the world around them. Positive experiences in the early years can set a child on a path for wellbeing and success now and throughout their lives.

The name B4 represents the early years of a child's life from pre-birth to age four, the years 'before' a child begins full-time school. B4 also represents the time before birth, recognising the importance of this very early stage of

development. B4 as part of the governments' new Child and Youth Wellbeing (CYWB) Strategy has a key role in improving the focus on the First 1000 Days and has a number of clear deliverables against this work.

B4 connects people and organisations from across the Tasmanian community who are committed to supporting children from pre-birth to age 4, their families and communities. B4 is based on the 'collective impact' model (Kania and Kramer, 2011) where organisations and individuals from across diverse sectors work together to address social issues and drive social change.

B4 during these initial years has been focused on raising the awareness of the early years and ensuring all Tasmanians understand the importance of this period for healthy development for children, and the actions they can take to support children, their families and communities to get the supports they need to thrive.

B4 Outcomes

B4 has delivered against a range of actions and activities in working towards its vision and goals with a snapshot of a few provided below:

Projects

- [B4 Toolkit](#) containing a range of resources and information developed to support everyone to take action everywhere, every day, to ensure all children in the early years get the best start.
- [B4 Community Storytellers Project](#) upskills local trusted community members in the [B4 key messages](#) on what all Tasmanian children need to get the best start and how to share a strategic and intentional story that will promote attitudinal and/or behavioural change.
- B4 Grants 2021 - focused on B4 Community Storytelling being an effective way to:

"..... increase community understanding of the importance of the early years and change behaviour."

Healthy Tasmania, 2019 B4 Early Years Story Tellers Project. Final report. P.2. Internal document

through skilled, peer-to-peer transfer of early years knowledge through storytelling. The peers being natural community story tellers or leaders, not necessarily early years professionals. Currently 11 communities across Tasmania are implementing this project within their communities.
- [Making Marks](#) – A Celebration of Children's Art 0 – 4 years. This has been an ongoing project since 2019 where an inaugural exhibition of children's curated art was held at the Tasmanian Museum and Gallery. A range of supporting resources and documents have been developed to support families, communities and educators continue to celebrate and promote children and their Mark Making.

Partnerships

- Telethon Kids Institute and The Frameworks Institute (US) – National Core Story
- B4 / Early Childhood Australia Tasmanian Branch Forum 2021
- University of Tasmania MILE Truck and Early Years pop up events for regional and remote communities

B4 Membership and structure

The B4 Early Years Coalition consists of:

B4 Coalition Leaders Influential individuals and or Organisational representatives from diverse backgrounds who are active in B4 and fulfil nominated Roles and responsibilities.

B4 Coalition Members Individuals and or Organisations located in Tasmania that are committed to supporting children in the early years and their families and take action against one or more of the B4 goals.

B4 Supporters Individuals or Organisations committed to supporting B4 and improving outcomes for early years children and their families.

B4 Friends Leading individuals or Organisations in the early years sector invited by B4 to join.

B4 2022 and moving forward

Support for young children and their families is a whole of community responsibility. In September 2021, the State Government launched the 'It takes a Tasmanian Village' - Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to improve wellbeing for Tasmanian children and young people ages 0-25 through a range of wellbeing actions to implement or expand a range of services and programs. The Strategy also includes strategic policy actions to more closely orient policy and service systems towards child and youth wellbeing. This includes 'Strategic Priority I: Improving our focus on the first 1,000 days', which lays out particular tasks for the B4 Coalition, relating to establishing a range of wellbeing indicators, evaluation practices and research opportunities to improve our understanding of policy and systems design for families in the first 1,000 days.

To enable B4 to meet both its current commitments and those identified with the Strategy in regard to the First 1000 Days B4 is recruiting to seven current vacant Leader positions, with a focus on ensuring B4 has the expertise, skills and knowledge to work across the wellbeing framework domains and the broader early childhood education and care sector.

B4 Vision

Every child in Tasmania is nurtured through the early years, no matter what.

B4 Goals

- 1. Tasmanians value the early years**
– and are aware of and understand the importance now and for the future of healthy development during pregnancy up to 4 years of age.
- 2. Tasmanians support the early years**
– have the awareness, skills, knowledge resources and a role to support children during pregnancy to 4 years of age, their families and communities.
- 3. Tasmanians work together to improve outcomes for the early years**
– families, services, businesses and communities have the knowledge, skills and confidence to partner and ensure the best start for children during pregnancy to 4 years of age their families and communities.

B4 Values

- Child Focused
- Holistic Strengths based
- Inclusive
- Influential
- Informed
- Transparent
- Passionate
- Courageous

B4 Governance

B4 Leaders group consists of:

- 2 Co-Chairs – to continue as currently appointed
- 2 Government representatives drawn from
 - Strategy owner (Department of Communities Tasmania) and
 - Backbone Agency (Department of Education)
- 12 Leaders - will be identified through a public expression of interest and drawn from the following domains, sectors and skills:
 - Business
 - Community
 - Lived experience
 - Education
 - Early Years
 - Arts and Culture

- o Disability
- o Tasmanian Aboriginal children, families and communities
- o Culturally Diverse
- o Health
- o Change Makers
- o Communications and marketing
- o Innovators

The B4 Leaders Group will also convene a Technical, Data and Measurement Working Group and other working groups as required on a case-by-case basis for distinct time periods.

B4 Coalition Leaders will be appointed for an initial period of two years and may be reappointed for a further term of two years.

Current B4 Leaders:

Co-Chair's	Elizabeth Daly OAM and Leanne McLean, Tasmanian Commissioner for Children and Young People.
B4 Leaders	Di Nailon OAM Dr Becky Shelley Ros Cornish Lea Lawson Bronwyn Tamplin Mel Gray, Department of Communities Tasmania Suzanne Purdon, Department of Education

Role of the B4 Coalition Leaders

B4 Coalition Leaders will:

- Raise awareness of the importance of the early years, pregnancy to 4 years with a focus on the First 1000 Days
- Participate in the activities of B4
- Represent and promote B4 in the wider community
- Commit to and undertake an annual B4 Leaders Plan of Action, supported as appropriate by the B4 Support Team, in alignment with B4 agreed activities and goals
- Contribute to the development of B4 goals and priorities for the early years in Tasmania, including those specific to the First 1000 Days
- Provide advice and analysis to government on:
 - o an outcome and measurement framework for the First 1000 days
 - o the First 1000 Day actions as identified in the Child and Youth wellbeing (CYWB) Strategy
 - o future research opportunities in the First 1000 Days and
 - o future priorities for the First 1000 days under the CYWB Strategy
- Encourage organisations and individuals to become B4 Members, Supporters and Friends and
- Promote a shared outcome and measurement framework, and practices

Responsibilities of B4 Coalition Leaders

- Actively participate, sharing views, insights and encourage new ideas concerning support for children in the early years in Tasmania and their families
- Be well informed on issues being considered by the B4 Leaders, prepare adequately for meetings and seek additional information if required
- Accept collective responsibility and support decisions of the B4 Leaders
- Respect the views of other members and demonstrate appropriate conduct at B4 Leaders meetings and events
- Comply with Department of Justice Child Safe Organisational requirements, including having a current and valid Work with Vulnerable People Registration
- Maintain confidentiality of personal information and B4 Leader deliberations
- Declare any real or potential conflicts of interest as they arise and propose ways to manage these

Remuneration of members

B4 Coalition Leaders are volunteers. While B4 Coalition Leaders receive no sitting fees, they are entitled to be paid travelling expenses to attend meetings or for any out-of-pocket expenses as agreed to with the B4 Support Team in the conduct of B4 business. A claim for reimbursement of travelling expenses will be provided at each meeting.

B4 Leaders Meetings

Leaders will meet at least six times per year with additional meetings called as required. Face to face meetings will be at a location that considers respective travel distances for all Leaders traditionally Campbell Town. Leaders may also agree to meet via Teams or other means as appropriate.

Additional information

For further information or queries please contact Annette Fuller Senior Project Officer, 0447 71 525 or email annette.fuller@education.tas.gov.au