# Item Mayoral Minute/Notice of motion

# - Thrive by five CAMPAIGN

## Department

**Author**

## Recommendation

1. That Council endorse the Thrive by Five campaign to support high-quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare.

2. That Council formally advise <State Local Government Association> and Australian Local Government Association, that Council has endorsed the Thrive by Five campaign and supports the Associations in their involvement in the campaign.

3. That Council write to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, the Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese, the Minister for Education and Youth Alan Tudge, the Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education and Youth Amanda Rishworth & our local Federal Member(s) of Parliament, seeking bipartisan support for the campaigns objectives.

4. That Council endorse the distribution and display of the Thrive by Five information on Council premises, primarily in childcare centres, as well as involvement in any relevant actions arising from the initiative.

## Report

I am calling on Councillors to support the Thrive by Five campaign. During the first five years of life, the human brain develops to 90 per cent of an adult’s size.

This makes the early years critical for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Early learning can help give children the best start in life, impacting on their future health, wellbeing, working potential and social participation.

Every child should start school ready to learn, with the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

But Australia’s early learning and childcare system has become outdated and expensive.

Although it’s an essential service, Federal Government funding has failed to keep pace, leaving families out-of-pocket with expenses and creating unequal access to appropriate, high-quality early learning and childcare.

Parents, educators, experts, people from all sides of politics and all walks of life have come together to support this campaign which aims to ensure every Australian child can benefit from high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning and childcare.

Reform of the early learning and childcare system will drive workforce participation, particularly for women, boost productivity and GDP, boost our nation’s education performance, and give children the best possible start in life.

Reducing out-of-pocket costs for working families will flow directly into increased household spending. A high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system will allow an extra 98,800 parents, mainly women, to get back into the workforce, boosting productivity and the economy.

Many Australian women don't work more than three days a week because that is the tipping point where the cost of care becomes unreasonably expensive when compared with earning potential. As a result, these women experience difficulty when they try to increase the amount they work and face lifelong challenges through lost earnings and low superannuation. Many women drop out of the workforce because of the cost of early learning and childcare.

Local Government runs hundreds of centres around Australia.

This is not a party-political issue: the campaign calls on all sides of politics to commit to supporting early learning and childcare.

I am recommending that we support this campaign and call on all parties to commit to support a high quality, universally accessible and affordable early learning system that creates a brighter future for our children.