



Media Release 17/04/2023

Attend the Launch of the Childcare Leadership Alliance

Communities in the Isaac Region are facing a significant childcare challenge, which impacts working families, children, local employers, and childcare operators.

Context

Providers in the Isaac Region are struggling to attract and retain early childhood education and care professionals which means children and families are not able to access vital early learning opportunities. Without care, parents' ability to fully participate in the workforce is limited (which predominantly impacts women); and there's an impact on business productivity for their employers.

Statistics show residents in Moranbah are providing more unpaid care for children compared with the Queensland average (32.1% of residents versus 26.5% of all Queenslanders) (1). Fewer children in Moranbah are attending preschool, (4.8%), compared to the Queensland average (5.4%), and the Australian average (6.3%). This is despite Moranbah having a higher proportion of children aged 0-4 in the community compared with the Queensland average. (1)

With the support of funding by BMA, the Childcare Leadership Alliance (CLA) has been formed to work with communities within the Isaac Region to develop strategic and innovative solutions that will empower childcare operators to attract, retain, and upskill educators and teachers for early childhood and school age care. We are starting with a pilot of strategies in Moranbah and Dysart.

This work requires a whole-of-community approach, and we are drawing on the insights and ideas of the community (including the Isaac Regional Council, mining operators, childcare centre managers and staff, family day care and OSHC providers, parents and families, and community groups) to help us design long-term, sustainable solutions.

"When it comes to the economic stability of Moranbah and Dysart, availability of childcare is a key constraint on our employers, our small businesses, our big businesses and our industry, due to the impact it has on our workforce" - *Melissa Westcott, Local Business Owner and Chair of the CLA Board*

Launch Event

We invite you to attend the official Launch Events for the CLA in the project's pilot towns of Moranbah and Dysart this April.

Guests in attendance will feature key members of the community, including local business leaders, industry, childcare sector representatives, council and government representatives. The format will be a community information session to outline the CLA's proposed strategies and how the community can get involved. With opportunities to meet the CLA Board Members and ask questions.

Dysart Event - Tuesday, 18 April 6pm - 8pm, Country Roads Dysart

Moranbah Event - Wednesday, 19 April 6pm - 8pm, Moranbah State High School

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1. ABS 2021 Census data; 2. Maree Roberts Consulting, 'Addressing the Childcare Challenges in the Bowen Basin', April 2021