

## 30 October 2023

## Have your say on early education and care services in Warrumbungle Shire

It is time for families with young children to have their say to assist with future planning and advocacy for childcare services within the local government area.

"Families are encouraged to complete a survey issued by Council's Children's Services to help gain an insight into their childcare needs," said Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan. "The survey will help Council better understand the local level of demand for preschool, long day care, occasional care and outside of school hours care, and to get a clear indication of what families need now and into the future."

Having access to childcare is essential to support parents and particularly women to return to the workforce after having children, which not only benefits families but our local businesses, industries and economy.

"The survey should only take a few minutes to fill in and is anonymous, but will give Council invaluable data to help us plan and advocate for services in our community," said Cr Doolan.

"I encourage parents and carers to fill out the survey to help us with our understanding in this area. Without a strong response to this survey, Council will not have the data to best plan for the future of early education and childcare in our region," Cr Doolan explained.

"Even if you do not need childcare services now, we would like to hear from you about any potential need in the future," concluded Cr Doolan.

Council's survey is available at <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSC\_Childcare">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSC\_Childcare</a>

For more information on Children's Services across the Warrumbungle Shire, visit Council's website under the 'Community & Recreation' tab.

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