

5.6. MOTIONS FOR THE 2017 LGAQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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DEPARTMENT Governance

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to make a submission for consideration as a motion at the 2017 LGAQ Conference as detailed in Attachment 1.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Motions for consideration at the 2017 LGAQ Annual Conference are due by the 25 August. Councillors have put forward their suggested motion, as detailed in Attachment 1, which will be sent to LGAQ for consideration. The suggested motion is; *“That the State Government be requested to extend funding for the First 5 Forever public library program beyond 2018 for a further 4 years.”*

BACKGROUND

The LGAQ Annual Conference allows Queensland councils to come together once a year to debate issues of importance to local communities. Motions give councils a direct say in the LGAQ policy agenda and priorities for local government in Queensland.

COMMENT

The motion to be submitted to the LGAQ Annual Conference will seek support from other Queensland Councils to request the State Government to extend the program funding for the "First 5 Forever" public library program. This program has been running since 2015 and is due for completion in 2018.

This program connects children and families to the information, resources and support they need to bring about positive behavioral change for early language and literacy. Through outreach events public libraries are able to connect to families who are not currently utilising library services, including those perceived to be most vulnerable and from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Over 21,000 "First 5 Forever" sessions took place across the public library network in 2016. These sessions engaged an estimated 452,000 children and their families.

PROPOSAL

That Council sends the attached submission for consideration as a motion at the 2017 LGAQ Annual Conference.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All Queensland Councils are invited to put forward submissions for consideration as motions at the LGAQ Annual Conference and at this point there is no financial implication

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government)

CONSULTATION

Internal:

Managers and other key staff.

External:

LGAQ

ATTACHMENTS

13. LGAQ - Motion - First 5 Forever Program **[5.6.1]**

Submitting council / organisation Douglas Shire Council	
Date of council / organisation resolution	LGAQ Policy Executive district
Number and title of motion	
Motion	<i>That the State Government be requested to extend the program funding for the "First 5 Forever" public library program beyond 2018 for a further 4 years.</i>
Background	<p>First 5 Forever is a family literacy initiative delivered by public libraries with the primary aim of providing early literacy foundations for all Queensland children aged 0-5. This \$20m initiative is coordinated by State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with Local Government or Councils, through the network of over 320 Queensland public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres, as well as government and non-government agencies. First 5 Forever commenced in 2015 and is funded until December 2018.</p> <p>First 5 Forever connects children and families to the information, resources and support they need to bring about positive behavioural change for early language and literacy. Over 21,000 First 5 Forever sessions took place across the public library network in 2016. These sessions engaged an estimated 452,000 children and their families, 11% more than pre-implementation.</p> <p>Findings from the evaluation indicate that First 5 Forever is successfully achieving its goal of improving quality of early literacy experiences with interviewed parents clearly retaining and actively applying key messages in support of early literacy.</p>
What is the desired outcome sought?	<p>The desired outcome is to provide continued access to the First 5 Forever program through public libraries. Public libraries in Queensland form a large active network with a state wide reach that includes metropolitan, rural, remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Libraries provide a safe and inclusive space where children and families can access a range of informal learning opportunities to explore, learn, play and expand their knowledge.</p> <p>Findings from the evaluation process indicate that First 5 Forever is successfully achieving its goal of improving quality of early literacy experiences with interviewed parents clearly retaining and actively applying key messages in support of early literacy.</p>
What are the impacts (positive or negative) on local government?	<p>First 5 Forever enables public libraries to provide community outreach at events including the distribution of Parent/Caregiver Toolkits and resources. Outreach events connect libraries to families who are not currently using the library, including those perceived to be most vulnerable, and families from diverse cultural backgrounds. 27,500 toolkits were distributed in 2016 representing a 35% increase in the number of toolkits purchased by participating Councils in 2015.</p> <p>Collaborating with community agencies also has significant benefits for libraries and partner agencies by increasing access, reach, consistency, efficiency and sustainability. Through collaboration and shared understanding cross-sector agencies can promote libraries as accessible places with programs that develop parent confidence, knowledge and skills in engaging with their children in play and language-based activities.</p> <p>In 2016 Councils engaged with 565 partner organisations relating to children aged 0-5, with an increasing number formed as a direct result of First 5 Forever.</p>
LGAQ comment	

