

THE NARROGIN REGIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES JOURNEY – PRESENTATION BY TEGAN JAMIESON AT THE LAUNCH OF REGIONAL EARLY EDUCATION AND CARE INC IN NARROGIN ON 16TH MARCH 2018

As President and a Committee Member of Narrogin Regional Child Care Services, I've been a part of a journey over more than two years, a journey that's seeing our organisation transition to a regional organisation with a new name, new constitution and new board.

Change is always challenging and I won't pretend that decisions we've had to make have always been easy for the committee... and we know that change is also challenging for staff.

A key factor in our willingness to champion such a significant change has been our committee members' understanding, as individuals and as a group, of the value of our services.

Families in our community have long been fortunate to have access to high quality education and care. Together with other service providers in the region, we hold a strong belief that Wheatbelt families have a right to access quality early childhood education and care services - services that promote children's development, enable parents to work, study or volunteer, and contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of communities and the region.

After extensive research undertaken to develop a sustainable regional and management model, we learned child care services in many communities would most likely be forced to close. Some of our committee members had personal experience of the benefits of mergers in - local government and in

business. Some of us had experience of clustering of business and services under a single management structure. We were of the view that the regional governance and management model developed through the Wheatbelt ECEC Sustainability Project provides the best opportunity for all Wheatbelt children, families and communities. Which brings us to where we are today.

Narrogin Regional Child Care services is proud of the role we've played in progressing this important initiative on behalf of the Wheatbelt region and we wish REED and the new board every success as they continue the journey we started.