



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Walcha Council Library launch Baby's First Library Bag Program

20 September 2020

Walcha Council has officially launched its 'Baby's First Library Bag' Program. The Walcha Council Library team is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading in all children. The program delivers hand made library bags filled with baby friendly books and lots of helpful information about our library, local child services and activities to Walcha parents welcoming new arrivals. The program was initiated to support our mums and dads and to connect with the newest additions to our community.

Reading books to baby helps them connect and feel close to their caregivers, to help to create the perfect environment to foster a love of books and reading. The program aims to support parents teaching baby about communication, introduce new concepts in a fun way, and build on listening, memory, and vocabulary skills and to give baby information about the world around them.

Walcha Mayor Cllr Eric Noakes said, *"This is a real community inspired program. Their support and time given to hand sew these library bags is reflective of the goodwill and vision by our community that we often take for granted"*.

The program is free of charge, and available for all newborns in and around Walcha. Child and Family Health nurses from Walcha Health Service will assist to deliver these bags to all new babies born in the Walcha district from September 2020. The Walcha Library extends a welcome to all new members through the program, and encourages baby and caregivers to join and visit, especially when Storytime and Baby Book Time can recommence.

*"It is inspiring to see so many people contributing to this community driven initiative in partnership with our dedicated Walcha Council Library staff."* said Mayor Noakes.

Library Services Coordinator Cassie McKenna can be contacted on 6774 2550 for any enquiries relating to this program.



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