



**Playgroup
Australia**

MEDIA RELEASE

22 March 2019

Announcing National Playgroup Week 24 – 30 March 2019

Playgroup Australia, in partnership with State and Territory Playgroup Organisations (STO's) across Australia, are all set to kick off their major annual event, National Playgroup Week from 24 – 30 March. Playgroup Week is the perfect time for families with children from birth to five years to visit their local playgroup and discover what the playgroup community offers.

Playgroup members are encouraged to 'bring a friend' to community events or to their local playgroup to share the playgroup experience, in a week devoted to connecting and learning through play. Families are invited to take part in free, family fun events held at major destinations and in local community groups both indoors and outdoors across Australia.

Fiona May, CEO of Playgroup Australia Fiona May encourages all families with under-fives to join in and celebrate Playgroup Week.

"Playgroup is vital to helping little ones learn and develop. It's an informal space where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies come together in a relaxed environment. It complements child care promoting parent-to-parent support networks, and encourages parent-to-child bonding through play."

"Currently, more than 110,000 families meet for weekly playgroups in halls, neighbourhood centres, churches, private homes and parks throughout the week and on weekends. Playgroups are where friendships are made, toys and ideas shared, and where children's social and physical development is supported," Fiona said. *"Families from all different backgrounds and walks of life go to playgroup."*

Join us for National Playgroup Week and support our vision of creating a village through play. Find out what's planned for National Playgroup Week at www.playgroupaustralia.com.au or call 1800 171 882 (toll free).

Visit your local playgroup during National Playgroup Week 24 – 30 March

[Click here](#) to find your local Playgroup to arrange a visit.

Visit our [Facebook](#) page to stay up to date with our National Playgroup Events.

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Playgroup Australia is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Visit www.dss.gov.au for more information.



Playgroup Australia

About Playgroup Australia

Playgroup Australia is the peak body representing over 7500 community playgroups around Australia, reaching 80% of Australian postcodes with over 110,000 participating families, Playgroup Australia is one of Australia's largest volunteer movements. The playgroup movement has been providing and supporting playgroups for more than 40 years through volunteerism and the outreach work of each STO in ensuring that all families with young children in Australia have access to quality playgroups.

Children who attend playgroup are half as likely to have developmental vulnerabilities when they start primary school. The Australian Early Development Census shows that the benefits of playgroups are seen across all domains of child development: physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive and communication.

Playgroups have adapted to the changing face of parenting and communities with playgroups for all. Playgroups cater for a broad range of children, from babies up to school age. There are also facilitated or supported playgroups with trained staff working in partnership with parents designed for a particular group of families that need extra support. In addition to the benefits gained directly by the children, playgroups provide support networks for parents and carers.

For interviews contact: CEO Playgroup Australia Fiona May on 0422 794 712

Email: ceo@playgroupaustralia.com.au or visit <https://playgroupaustralia.com.au>

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