

NEWS RELEASE

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Playgroup NSW CEO receives Harvard Business School Scholarship

The Harvard Club of Australia (HCA) has selected Karen Bevan, Playgroup NSW CEO as one of their 2016 Not for Profit fellows. She has earned a scholarship to travel in July to the renowned Harvard Business School to complete the course “Strategic Perspectives in Non Profit Management”.

Two recipients are selected annually from nominees who have the potential to make a significant impact in the not for profit sector and who meet various additional criteria. The Ferris Family Foundation generously supports the scholarship, which covers all the expenses.

As part of the selection process, Karen had to identify a key strategic issue to work on during the course. She said, “My project will be how we keep the fantastic community playgroup movement growing and relevant in a time of changing family demographics, demands on parents and volunteers and in line with the emerging evidence about early childhood development.

“I’m honoured and excited by The Harvard Club of Australia’s support and understanding of playgroup and am looking forward to learning from others across the world.”

Founded in 1972, Playgroup NSW is a not-for-profit membership association that supports young children and their families to come together for playgroups and other activities that promote early childhood development and build connections between families and in communities.

More than 20,000 children a year attend over 800 playgroups throughout the state affiliated with Playgroup NSW.

Karen said, “Recent research from the Telethon Kids Institute shows that children who attend playgroup are half as likely to have developmental vulnerabilities when they start primary school.”

She has been a strong advocate and campaigner for the rights and wellbeing of children. Prior to joining Playgroup NSW as CEO in May 2014, she led research and submissions at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Karen is currently President of the NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS) and serves on the Board of the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS). In 2013, she was selected as the first recipient of the McCarthy Mentoring Scholarship for Not for Profit Executives.

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