



Connection-Play-Learning-Support

In 2022, **Playgroup NSW**, a For-Purpose organisation, will celebrate 50 years since it began supporting families and communities learn and develop through play. With humble beginnings as a mother's group in a Balmain loungeroom, Playgroup NSW has grown into a modern-day service agency with 75 employees, 900 volunteers and almost 38,000 members across 80% of NSW postcodes. Now a pillar of pathways to early learning and development through play, with every dollar invested in Community Playgroups, there is a return of \$3.60 in benefits, creating happier, healthier and better connected communities.



Community Impact

Playgroup NSW reaches far and wide to help children and communities connect and learn



Digital Transformation throughout a pandemic

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Playgroup NSW pivoted quickly to offer vital support and connection to all



Virtual Community Support

Playgroup NSW also ramped up its efforts to ensure connectivity among minority groups across NSW

OVER **700** playgroup sessions held each week*

Over **7,000** children, parents and carers attend our

free community events each year

15% of all sessions are for families with children with disabilities



900+

parent and carer member volunteers run our **community playgroups**

OVER **37,521** members across

80% of NSW postcodes

ESTIMATED **20k** children attend Playgroup a year

40,555 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Since March 2020, **Playgroup NSW**

has facilitated **693** virtual Playgroup sessions

100% of Playgroup NSW Supported Playgroups have a digital offering

LAUNCHED VIRTUAL

PlayBaby information sessions, supporting new and

first-time parents, positively impacting early childhood development and health outcomes in correlation with the **2000 Days Early Learning Framework**

Held **38** virtual peer support groups for families of **children with disabilities** to **reduce the impacts of social isolation**

500 Play@Home Resource Kits

distributed to families to assist with delivering Playgroups digitally

100

additional kits created to assist facilitators to cater for carers & children with disabilities who attend virtual Playgroups

180 **PlayStrong** sessions, improving the educational pathways to preschool for children

DELIVERED virtual dental care presentations

to educate Sutherland Shire families on dental health for children under 5

119 virtual playgroups for families experiencing a range of vulnerabilities including anxiety and depression as well as for young parents under the age of 21 and first-time parents

2 virtual post-natal support groups



Playgroup@Home Activity sheets developed for families with newborn babies in the **Early Years Support Program** in the Sutherland Shire

20 virtual Playgroup sessions dedicated to **Aboriginal families**

A comprehensive research project in partnership with University of Wollongong is underway to investigate the benefits and outcomes of **Intergenerational playgroups**, for the elder, child and parent

While we do a lot, we'd like to do more!

While Playgroup NSW positively impacts thousands of families across 80% of NSW postcodes, over the next five years, we'd like to make an even bigger impact, particularly across minority groups.

Some of these initiatives include:

More PlayBaby sessions to reduce isolation & increase parental wellbeing and capacity for families across NSW, specifically **targeting vulnerable & isolated families, CALD & Aboriginal families**



Playgroup NSW currently engages with **28% of Aboriginal families** in Wagga Wagga with pre-school aged children. We have a goal to replicate this successful integrated service model that merges family, community health and learning and development through play across other Aboriginal communities within NSW

Establish PlayActive groups targeting families & carers with 2-5 year olds to tackle childhood obesity and increase child health and wellbeing through education and play



A fleet of PlayVans

To provide additional **mobile supported Playgroups** within local council areas to **increase community connection, social support & health and educational outcomes** for children and communities across NSW



Playgroup NSW is proud to support families and communities across NSW with supported and community Playgroups, access to early childhood education expertise and family events. With increased funding and support our impact will grow and NSW communities will be happier, healthier and better connected.

Back to Community on July 20

Playgroups began to transition to face-to-face sessions on July 20, with a stringent COVIDSafe Plan in place. Playgroup NSW continues to monitor and implement Government recommendations to ensure the safety of everyone within the community.



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Sources: Playgroup NSW Board Report, Indigenous Portrait Wagga Wagga 2016. Independent Cost Benefit Analysis of Playgroups by Emeritus Professor Anne Daly, Greg Barrett and Rhiân Williams (June 2019). © Playgroup NSW 2020. All rights reserved.