PLAY FOR OUR FUTURE

OUR ADVOCACY FOR IMPACT

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CEO MESSAGE

Playgroups are true community assets, playing a critical role in ensuring thriving children, families and communities.

Playgroups don't just happen - our advocacy plays a key role in ensuring a sustainable and vibrant playgroup sector where all children and families in all areas have access to universal and free playgroups. We still have a long way to go.

Our advocacy aims to support the federal and state governments to secure brighter futures for all children and families and in doing so, a brighter future for all Australians.

EMILY CASKA
CEO, PLAYGROUP NSW

“PLAY is your brain’s favourite way of learning”

Diane Ackerman

RIGHTS

CHILD RIGHTS ARE UNDERSTOOD, EMBEDDED AND UPHELD

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Support for our Statement of Commitment to Child Rights and Safety, and implementation funding including campaign and capacity building for staff, volunteers, children, families, communities, the sector on child rights in line with the UN Convention

VOICE

THE VOICES OF CHILDREN, PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES ARE HEARD AND VALUED

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Commitment to and investment in the establishment of our NSW Committee for Children and Families and our NSW Committee for Parents and Carers of Children with Disability, to provide feedback to the NSW Government, alongside advocacy funding to Playgroup NSW

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO PLAYGROUPS FOR THRIVING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Increased investment to ensure that all children and all families in all areas have access to free, universal and inclusive playgroups

PLACE BASED HUBS

BRINGING THE POWER OF PLAY TO PLACES THROUGH OUR INTEGRATED HUBS:

THE PLAY PLACE

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Investment in our place based, inclusive and accessible community hubs, The Play Place Project.

Piloting in Western Sydney, Newcastle and Dubbo, integrated with early education, health, disability, family violence, community in partnership with the NSW Government and key research partners

PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGING OUR MOST VULNERABLE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Investment to address the barriers to playgroup participation, drawing on our innovative pilots to engage key cohorts: dads, culturally and linguistically diverse families, children in out of home care settings, working families, grandparent carers, women experiencing family violence, parents with disability

INTERSECTIONALITY: ECEC

PLAYGROUPS AS A UNIVERAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE MODEL

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Playgroups to be included in and funded proportionate to the early childhood education and care sector, recognising playgroups as a pathway into, complementary model alongside, and alternative to formal early childhood education settings

INTERSECTIONALITY: HEALTH

PLAYGROUPS AS EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Playgroups to be utilised as a formal partner for early childhood health and development checks in partnership with NSW Health as part of the Brighter Beginnings initiative as playgroups have earlier, broader and more accessible reach in the first 2,000 days

INTERSECTIONALITY: DISABILITY

PLAYGROUPS AS KEY FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORTS

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Recognition of playgroups as place based, early soft entry point foundational supports, with investment to increase our navigation and linkage support services to families of children with developmental delay or disability across mainstream, general, targeted and NDIS

EARLY INTERVENTION

PLAYGROUPS AS THE EARLIEST INTERVENTION, PRVENETION AND PROTECTION

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Expansion of playgroups as a targeted early intervention and prevention model, as well as a protective model for children and families with greater leadership from government to break down silos across the disability, health, child protection and family violence sectors

PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

INCREASED PEER TO PEER SUPPORT FOR CONNECTION, WELLBEING AND BELONGING

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Increased investment into our peer to peer support groups for parents of children with disability or developmental delay to meet demand, as well as extension of our expertise and evidence based models for parents experiencing other vulnerabilities

PARENT CAPACITY

BUILDING THE CAPACITY AND CONFIDENCE OF PARENTS, CARERS AND FAMILIES

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Increased investment in our early home learning and resource hub for parents and carers, as well as our early childhood webinar series and podcast series to build the knowledge, skills, confidence and capacity of busy modern parents

SECTOR CAPACITY

ENHANCING SECTOR CAPABILITY, COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Support the establishment of our Playgroup NSW Communities of Practice and the Playgroup Innovation Fund to drive collaboration, continuous improvement and innovation

RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE

BOOSTING EVIDENCE BASED BEST PRACTICES FOR OPTIMAL OUTCOMES

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Investment in Playgroup NSW to deliver PEEP Training to staff in all playgroups across NSW, as well as commissioning key research to drive evidence based best practices, tools, practice guides and impact evaluation

SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY

REINVIGORATING PLAYGROUP VOLUNTEERING, ESTABLISHMENT AND INCUBATION

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Investment in our Spark Hub, designed to support the establishment and incubation of new playgroups through proactive service mapping, volunteer attraction and capacity building, establishment and incubation support and succession for sustainability

REDUCING BARRIERS

NURTURING PLAYGROUP SUSTAINABILITY AND CONTINUITY THROUGH VENUE ACCESS

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Intentional community development and social infratsructure planning that includes playgroups in every community across NSW, in formal partnership between Playgroup NSW and local government to ensure free, accessible venues for playgroups

PLAY IN COMMUNITIES

TRANSFORMATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS ACTIVE PLAYFUL LANDSCAPES

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Activation of community spaces as active playful landscapes with innovative, evidence based play installations, in partnership with Playgroup NSW to transform communities and harness the power of place based play everyday

CHILD'S RIGHT TO PLAY

EMBEDDING ARTICLE 31 OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities - be recognised and embedded in all early childhood education, health and disability settings

GOVERMENT COMMITMENT

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR PLAYGROUPS IN PERPETUITY

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

The establishment of Parliamentary Friends of Playgroups at NSW Parliament, underpinned by bipartisan support recognising play as criticalto the first 2,000 days, bringing together education, disability, health and communities portfolios

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR OUR INTEGRATED ABORIGNAL CHILD AND FAMILY COMMUNITY HUB

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Sustainable, long term investment in our innovative Ngurra Hub in Wiradjuri Country Wagga Wagga, delivering intergated services and supports by community, for community, ensuring that every Aboriginal child and family has the very best start in life

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

EMBRACING MULTICULTURALISM THROUGH PLAY

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Investment to translate resources, increase in language playgroups, embed diverse cultural practices and awareness across all playgroups. Proactive recruitment and support of diverse playgroup facilitators and volunteers to match community need

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

PLAYGROUPS AS A KEY WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION MODEL

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Investment in our Volunteer To Work Program, designed to support return to work parents in the early years through our structured learning and development, mentoring, credentialling support and career progression hub

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

PLAY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD ENGAGEMENT IS VALUED BY EMPLOYERS

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WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

Reforms to continue to increase paid parental leave and family friendly work practices, as well as utilisation of leave or other entitlements to enable parents and carers to engage in play and early childhood, and incentives for workplaces to host playgroups for staff and their children

Playgroup nsw

WEB: www.playgropunsw.org.au

FACEBOOK: /PlaygroupNSW

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