



# Statement of Commitment to Child Rights and Safety

March 2025

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**Our vision at Playgroup NSW is to positively impact every child, their family and community in the first 2,000 days of life.**

Playgroup NSW recognises the first five years of a child's life as a pivotal time for healthy brain development, and that we have a responsibility to ensure that we identify and respond to challenges and vulnerabilities as early as possible to allow children to reach their potential.

We have a strong focus on child rights, safety and wellbeing that is informed by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

**The wellbeing of the child is at the centre of our deliberation and decision making across the organisation.**

An essential part of our vision involves Playgroup NSW being committed to the safety, wellbeing, and empowerment of all children accessing Playgroup NSW programs and services.

In this, that we are appropriately and sensitively meeting the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with disability.

# Statement of Commitment to Child Rights and Safety

## **Playgroup NSW has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse or harm**

Playgroup NSW is committed to ensuring compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain safe and supportive physical and online environments for all children.

Playgroup NSW regards its child protection responsibilities as a critical element of all processes, programs and services, and as such is committed to protecting all children from abuse and harm.



## Our Statement of Commitment to Child Rights and Safety

This statement provides the framework for:

- The development, maintenance and adherence to work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within all Playgroup NSW programs, services and activities;
- The creation of a safe and supportive environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- The promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the organisation; and Complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in NSW and Australia.



## Playgroup NSW Child Safe Values and Principles

Playgroup NSW has developed the following values and principles that will guide the commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures within the organisation.

- Children's voices, views and opinions are listened to with respect and taken seriously
- All children have the right to be safe;
- Children's safety and protection is everyone's responsibility;
- The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount;
- Children's privacy is respected;
- Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in employee and volunteer Code of Conduct policies and procedures;
- Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within all Playgroup NSW communities;
- Procedures are in place to screen all employees, volunteers, Third Party contractors and other external stakeholders who have direct contact with children;
- Working with Children Checks and relevant training are a requirement for all Board members and employees;
- Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the Playgroup NSW communities;

## Playgroup NSW as a Child Safe Organisation

Playgroup NSW is a Child Safe Organisation, adopting the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2018) and we ensure that they are embedded in Playgroup NSW policy frameworks and practice governance.

Playgroup NSW is dedicated to promoting and adhering to requirements of the National Principles by:

- Creating conditions to reduce the likelihood of children being harmed;
- Creating conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying and reporting harm;
- Responding appropriately to disclosures, allegations and suspicions of harm

Playgroup NSW ensures that its policies, procedures and practices reflect the actions and intentions of the National Principles.



## National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

The National Principles we abide by are:

- Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
- Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
- Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



  
**Playgroup**  
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