



Media Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Playgroup NSW Welcomes NSW Government's Strengthened Working With Children Check Legislation

Playgroup NSW applauds the NSW Government's recent introduction of legislation to strengthen Working With Children Checks (WWCC), a significant step forward in safeguarding children across our state.

These comprehensive reforms — placing oversight solely with the independent Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG), removing appeal routes through NCAT, and pushing for a searchable national WWCC register demonstrate a robust commitment to making child safety a legislative and operational priority.

"At Playgroup NSW, we wholeheartedly support these critical reforms and thank Minister Kate Washington for her leadership in driving safety for our children, as well as protecting those working in our sector doing the right thing." said Emily Caska, CEO of Playgroup NSW.

"Our 80+ staff and more than 500 volunteers deliver programs across NSW and ACT, working hand-in-hand with our 72,000 families and children to promote early learning, community connection, peer support and, above all, children's safety. As one of the largest playgroup and peer support entities in Australia, we welcome more rigour to ensure that all children thrive and are safe in the first 2,000 days."

We reiterate our firm stand as reflected in our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety released at NSW Parliament House in March this year for National Playgroup Week, which centres the rights, wellbeing and empowerment of children in all our programs, guided by both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

"These reforms align strongly with our values," Emily continued. "We look forward to working with the NSW Government and all jurisdictions across Australia to continue advancing national harmonisation of WWCC systems, to ensure consistent, rigorous protection for children, wherever they live, move or play."

Playgroup NSW remains dedicated to working collaboratively with government bodies, community partners and early childhood services to support the rollout of these reforms and help deliver a safer national framework for working with children.

Emily Caska

Chief Executive Officer
Playgroup NSW



About Playgroup NSW:

Playgroup NSW is the peak not-for-profit organisation that helps connect families and children to people and services in the community to positively impact their quality of life in the first 2,000 days. For over 50 years, Playgroup NSW has delivered and linked over 72,000 families to vital services such as parent support groups and playgroups to foster early childhood development, navigate the challenges of parenting and build strong, resilient communities. With 550 playgroups and over 50 peer support groups and parent capacity building workshops operating each week and more than 26,000 sessions held annually, and support from over 500 dedicated volunteers, Playgroup NSW continues to make a significant difference in the lives of young children and their families across the state.

www.playgroupnsw.org.au

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