

VOLUNTEERS AT PLAY

Playgroup NSW Volunteer Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

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Emily Caska

Chief Executive Officer
Playgroup NSW

Welcome to the June edition of our volunteer newsletter.

As the weather gets cooler, the warmth of our playgroups continues to grow.

I have been thinking of our flood affected playgroups as we have been in touch with many of you.

I am in awe of the power of community and the commitment you all show to you families and children, most especially in times of need.

I had a blast visiting our Kotara Community Playgroup, where I chatted with our parent leaders who gave really great insights into the power of play as well as what we can do at Playgroup NSW to better support our volunteers, children and families. It was also great to chat with the local school principal, sharing how that model is ensuring the Kotara playgroup thrives! Stay tuned for a spotlight on this amazing group soon. So too, we are accelerating our focus on getting a

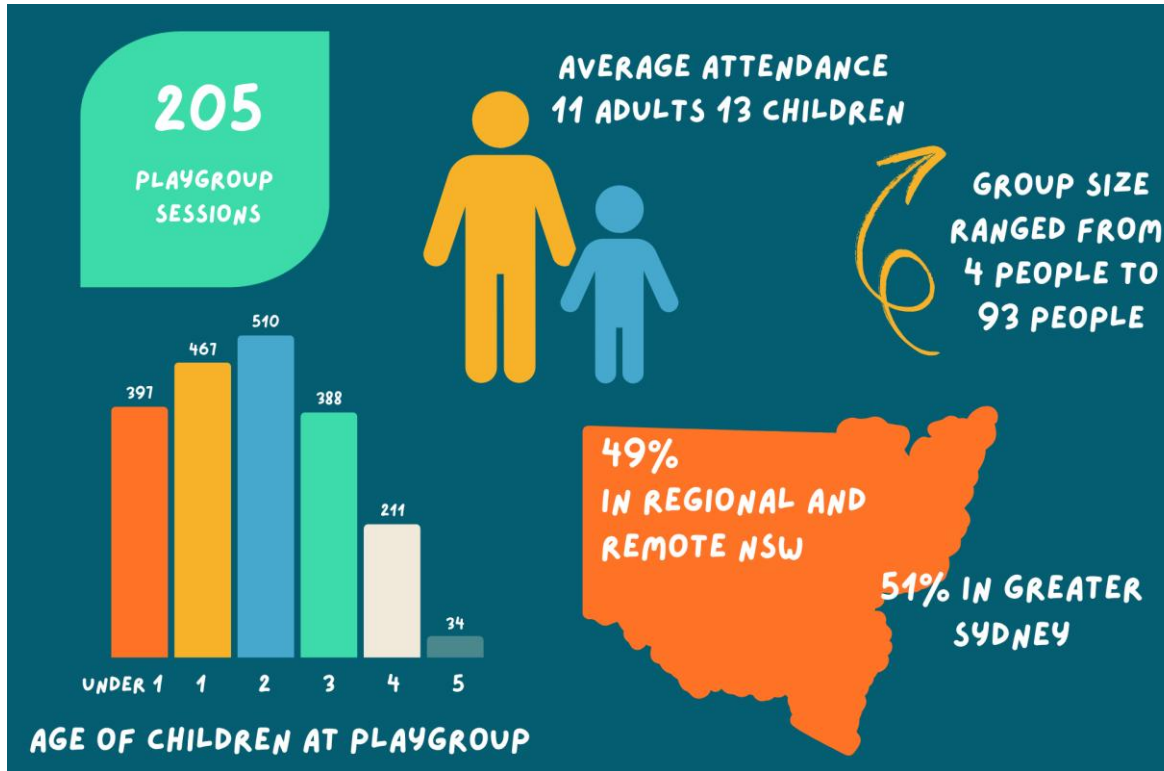
resource, policies and support hub up and running for our community playgroups.

It was also so wonderful to attend the NSW Premiers Volunteer Reception, honouring the work of volunteers across the state. I am super proud that we have over 640 volunteers in our playgroup ecosystem – something I know we need to organise, support, resource and recognise better. Bear with us as we focus on this over coming months.

Enjoy this month's newsletter, where we'd love to hear from you on what you find useful.

In this edition, we share high level census stats, activity sheets, organisational announcements, MP visits and our spotlight series

PLAYGROUP CENSUS NSW COMMUNITY PLAYGROUPS



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COFFS HARBOUR KING ST PLAYGROUP

Since the early 1990s, **Coffs Harbour King Street Playgroup** has been a welcoming space for families to connect, play, and grow together.

Coffs Harbour King Street Playgroup is run by a passionate team of six dedicated volunteers with the help of many wonderful parent helpers. As one volunteer beautifully put it, “Everyone goes above and beyond because we love it.”

On average 40 families a week enjoy everything from open-ended activities,



sensory play using tough trays, water play, craft, and playdough, and story time. Families travel up to 45 minutes to be part of Coffs Harbour King Street playgroup.

But the magic isn't just for the kids. On Wednesday mornings, mums gather for coffee catch-ups focused on mental health and connection, sometimes featuring guest speakers. As one volunteer shared, "We're all just mums who have a passion for play. We all have different interests and skills, and together we've created amazing friendships." Others have found it's helped their mental health, boosted their confidence returning to work.

The playgroup is well-known in the community, with local services regularly referring families to join. Partnerships with local businesses including a weekly visit from a local coffee van, and generous donations from Explore Nook, Rudie Nudie Rugs, Bunnings, and a local toy shop help keep the playgroup thriving.

Head over [Coffs Harbour King Street Playgroup Facebook page](#) for some amazing play set up ideas and to learn more about this wonderful community playgroup

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLAY



Our Big Day of Play at Luna Park with the wonderful Emma Memma was nothing short of spectacular!

With over 5,400 people registered, we came together to celebrate the International Day of Play — a day that champions every child’s fundamental right to play, as recognised in Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The sun was shining, laughter filled the air, and the energy was electric from start to finish. From music and dancing to bubbles, crafts, and colourful fun, the entire day was a vibrant celebration of childhood, connection, and community.

To our incredible volunteers – we see you, we thank you, and we appreciate you. Your time, passion, and the effort you put into not only attending, but also spreading the word and encouraging others to join us, helped make the day truly magical.

And of course, thank you to everyone who came along – families, carers, little ones, and grown-ups – for embracing the joy of play and reminding us all how powerful it can be.

Here’s to more moments of joy, learning and connection through play – today and every day!



NSW PREMIERS VOLUNTEER RECEPTION



Playgroup NSW proudly recognises the invaluable contribution of its 648 volunteers — the heart and soul of its programs and communities.

Volunteers like Helen, Tallie, and Emily embody the spirit of generosity, passion, and dedication that makes Playgroup NSW what it is today.

This morning, representatives from Playgroup NSW were honoured to attend the NSW Premier's Reception in celebration of National Volunteers Week, held at the Art Gallery of NSW and hosted by Minister Jodie Harrison. The event acknowledged the profound impact volunteers have across the state.

Playgroup NSW volunteers bring with them a wealth of knowledge, creativity, and a steadfast commitment to supporting children and families. They are the threads that strengthen the fabric of thriving communities, and their efforts do not go unnoticed.

The organisation extends its deepest thanks to every volunteer for their time, heart, and unwavering support. Their contribution continues to inspire and uplift families across New South Wales every single day.

COFFS HARBOUR KING ST PLAYGROUP PLAY IN PICTURES



PLAYGROUP SURVEY



We're on a mission to make Playgroups better than ever and we need your input!

If you've visited or volunteered at a Playgroup in the past year, we'd love to hear about your experience. Your feedback will help us improve and ensure Playgroups continue

to be welcoming, fun, and supportive for everyone.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey, your thoughts make a real difference!

 [Complete the survey now](#)

Thank you for being a valued part of our Playgroup community!

[Complete Volunteer Newsletter feedback survey](#)

ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

We'd love to share your wonderful playgroup experiences with our community! If you're active on social media, please tag **Playgroup NSW** or use **#PlaygroupNSW** in your posts so we can feature your playgroup on our channels and spread the word about the amazing work you're doing!

About Playgroup NSW:

Playgroup NSW is a not-for-profit organisation that helps connect families and children to people and services in the community to positively impact their quality of life. For over 50 years, Playgroup NSW has delivered and linked over 65,000 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 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



Our mailing address is:

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