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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

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**Emily Caska**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Playgroup NSW

### Jump into November with Playgroup NSW.

Welcome to a season of sunshine, blossoms, and boundless energy! November is here, and our playgroups are buzzing with excitement as we embrace the magic of spring.

This month, we're spotlighting two wonderful celebrations:

#### **World Children's Day – November 20**

Let's come together to celebrate the rights and wellbeing of children everywhere. It's a great time to reflect on the power of play, inclusion, and kindness in our communities. Be sure to use [these resources](#) when planning your group activities!

#### **Nursery Rhyme Week – November 18–22**

Get ready to rhyme, sing, and giggle! Nursery rhymes are more than fun—they help build language, rhythm, and connection. We'll be sharing playful ideas to bring these timeless tunes to life. [Register now for a free](#)

[resource pack to celebrate the week!](#)

Thank you for the love and laughter you bring to our playgroups. Your dedication makes every day brighter for the little ones in your care.

Here's to a joyful November full of music, movement, and meaningful moments

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## CENSUS (10<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)

This November, we will be completing a playgroup census. This means we will be collecting attendance data for all Playgroups that happen during the week. This information will help Government understand the impact Playgroups have in communities and help us advocate for ongoing government investment.

**We need your help! Be sure to fill in the form to help make your play count!**

If you have any questions, please contact your CC or reception on [admin@playgroupnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@playgroupnsw.org.au).

[Complete the census form here](#)

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## GOOD NEWS STORY

The life of a Community Coordinator means constantly responding to the needs and requests of our regions. Our role is all about helping families access Community Playgroups — and if they can't, we work together to find a way.

Northwestern Sydney is currently thriving with young families, particularly across the

Blacktown and Hills Districts. We often hear that local Community Playgroups are fully booked. Emily Cheater, Volunteer Coordinator of the Rouse Hill Rascals, has seen this popularity firsthand, with her group consistently at capacity. Recently, Emily brought her trademark enthusiasm and initiative to help start another Playgroup in the area!

A little backstory — earlier this year, the Rouse Hill Rascals' usual venue was damaged in a storm, forcing the group to temporarily relocate. Thankfully, a wonderful alternative venue was found. When it came time to return to the original location, Emily reached out to suggest keeping the new venue for an additional Playgroup. Together, we seized this fantastic opportunity, allowing even more local families to access Playgroup.

Emily's belief in the power of Playgroup and her contagious energy have made an incredible difference. Thank you so much, Emily!

**- Melanie O'Grady, Community Coordinator for Community Playgroups**

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Playgroup NSW Community Coordinators Kayla Price and Megan Norton were honoured to attend the Welcome Baby to Country ceremony at the picturesque Koori's Beach in Narrungdera.

This special event celebrated the connection between babies and the traditional lands on which they were born. It featured a heartfelt Welcome to Country, dance performances, and blessings from Elders Aunty Jennifer and Aunty Joy. Each baby received a possum skin from Gundyarri Aboriginal Corporation and the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service, symbolising warmth, protection, and cultural heritage.



More than 30 babies were welcomed in a

moving day of culture, connection, and community, complete with a smoking ceremony, shared lunch, and vibrant performances.

Special thanks to Gundyarri Aboriginal Corporation and the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service for hosting and fostering such meaningful celebration and connection.

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## PLAYSTRONG GRANDPARENTS DAY POP UP WITH GEN MUIR



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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 1st November - 30th November

- Movember (Men's Health Month)
- National Adoption Awareness Month
- World Vegan Day

### 5th November

- Melbourne Cup

#### **8th November - 15th November**

- Australian Food Safety Week

#### **10th November - 16th November**

- World Nursery Rhyme Week
- Recycling Week

#### **11th November**

- Remembrance Day

#### **13th November**

- World Kindness Day

#### **14th November**

- World Diabetes Day

#### **17th November - 21st November**

- Social Inclusion Week

#### **17th November**

- International Student's Day

#### **19th November**

- International Men's Day
- World Toilet Day

#### **20th November**

- Universal Children's Day

#### **21st November**

- World Hello Day
- World Television Day

#### **22nd November**

- Son's Day

#### **24th November**

- National Fairy Bread Day

## **25th November**

- White Ribbon Day

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## **'VOLUNTEERS AT PLAY' NOW ON YOUTUBE**

Over the past few years, the Community Coordinators have held a number of webinars to inform volunteers of best practice and up to date information from Playgroup NSW.

The main ones are now available to watch on our YouTube channel in our 'Volunteers at Play' section.

These webinars cover topics such as:

- Community Coordinator/ Playgroup NSW role
- Finances/Treasurer information
- Insurance/ Hire Agreement
- Annual General Meetings
- Volunteer role/ recruiting volunteers /handover information
- Multi-sessions
- Events and excursions

Please be aware these are live recordings of our webinars. There are some repetitions in the webinars – be aware you can use the progress bar to skip ahead to only watch the sections you want to learn about.

Please contact your Community Coordinator if you have any questions or concerns.

[Watch the webinars here](#)

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## FIRST AID & WJCC

### Do you currently hold a valid First Aid Certificate or Working with Children Check?

If so, we kindly ask that you complete the following form to help us keep our records up to date [here](#).

## GOT A HEARTWARMING MOMENT TO SHARE?

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!

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[Download Our Latest Activity Sheet!](#)

### 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](http://www.playgroupnsw.org.au)



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You are receiving this email because you opted in at our website or are a valued member of Playgroup NSW. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, [click here](#).