

MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM CEO

A message to our volunteers

Our volunteers bring Playgroup NSW to life.

You create the smiles, conversations, connections and moments of belonging that families remember long after a playgroup session ends. You help make communities feel warmer, stronger and more connected.

What you do has real impact — for children, for parents and carers, and for the communities around them.

As we look to the future, I'm incredibly excited about what we can continue to build together.

Thank you for bringing your energy, generosity and heart to Playgroup NSW. You are an important part of what makes this organisation special.

Warm regards,
Monika Kiraly
Interim CEO
Playgroup NSW

KEY DATES

Need inspiration for your playgroup sessions? Check out our Significant Days calendars for October, November and December, packed with key dates and celebrations to help you plan fun, inclusive activities for families.

- Significant Days - October 2026
- Significant Days - November 2026
- Significant Days - December 2026

IMPORTANT UPDATES



Thank you for completing the Playgroup Census!

A huge thank you to all our incredible volunteers who took part in the recent Playgroup Census!

197 community playgroups provided attendance data from sessions held during Census Week. The results paint a wonderful picture of thriving community connections, with an average of 22 people attending each playgroup session, including 10 adults and 12 children.

Mothers made up 74% of adult attendees, grandparents 16%, and fathers 6%, demonstrating the important support playgroups provide to families and carers across NSW.

You welcomed children of all ages, with 15% under 1 year, 20% aged 1, 24% aged 2, 20% aged 3, and 15% aged 4.

The Playgroup Census provides a fantastic snapshot of the reach and impact of community playgroups. Every response helps us tell the story of the amazing work you do, and together we continue to demonstrate the vital role playgroups play in building connected, supported and thriving communities.

As a thank you for completing the census, participating playgroups were entered into the draw to win one of three $200 vouchers to spend on their playgroup.

🥳 **Congratulations to our winners:**

- **Carlingford Gumnuts Playgroup**
- **Gwabegar Playgroup**
- **Howlong Playgroup**

We will be in touch with you this week to arrange your voucher.

AGM Season Is Here!

It's that time of year again – Annual General Meeting (AGM) season!

An AGM is a yearly meeting where your playgroup:

- Celebrates highlights and achievements from the past year
- Reviews the playgroup's financial information
- Elects the volunteer committee for the year ahead

The Playgroup NSW financial year ended on 30 September, and best practice is for playgroups to hold their AGM within six weeks of this date.

You should have received an email from Playgroup NSW staff this week with more information and resources to help you prepare.

If you have any questions or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to help! 😊



Child Safe Survey

For Volunteers

Playgroup NSW is currently undertaking a review of its approach to child safety, and we would like to hear directly from our volunteers.

As someone who helps bring playgroup to life, your experience is really important. We want to understand what is working well, how confident and supported volunteers feel when it comes to keeping children safe, and where there may be opportunities to strengthen our

approach.

We are inviting volunteers to complete a short, anonymous survey. It should take around 3 minutes.

Your feedback will help inform the next stage of the review, including volunteer focus groups and recommendations for strengthening child safety across Playgroup NSW.

Playgroup NSW Child Safety Review, Volunteer Survey – Fill in form

We would also love feedback from our families who attend playgroups – please share this blurb and survey link with your playgroup families:

For Families

Playgroup NSW is currently reviewing its approach to child safety, and we would love to hear from parents, carers, grandparents and families who participate in playgroup.

Your experience is important to us. We want to understand what helps children and families feel safe and welcome, how confident families feel raising concerns, and where there may be opportunities to strengthen our approach.

We are inviting families to complete a short, anonymous survey. It should take around 3 minutes.

Your feedback will help inform the next stage of the review, including family focus groups and recommendations for strengthening child safety across Playgroup NSW.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your experience and help us continue to make playgroups safe, welcoming and supportive places for children and families.

Playgroup NSW Child Safety Review, Families Survey



Volunteer Resource Hub Makeover

We're currently giving our Volunteer Resource Hub a makeover! Over the coming months, we'll be adding a range of new resources, templates, guides, processes and procedures to help support you in your volunteer role. We'll share updates, resources and helpful reminders in our Volunteer Facebook group, and we'll also include relevant links in our emails when you contact us with questions. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

If you are not already a member, join our Closed Volunteer Facebook Group below.

Closed Volunteer Facebook Group



Children's Week 2026 - Activity Ideas for Your Playgroups

Children's Week is fast approaching, running from 24 October to 1 November, and this year's theme is:

"Children have the right to use their own language, celebrate their culture and practise their religion."

To support your playgroups in celebrating Children's Week, we've listed a range of simple and engaging activity ideas for children aged 0-8 and their families. These activities encourage children to share their cultures, learn about others, and celebrate the diversity that makes our communities so special.

Activities ideas:

- Community Culture Mural
- My Family, My Story photo display
- Hello Around the World language activity
- Cultural Dress-Up Day
- Music and Dance from Around the World
- Storytime in Different Languages
- Nature Collage and Caring for Country activity
- Flags, Colours & Symbols Collage
- Cultural Food Sharing (where appropriate)
- Community Recipe Wall
- Children's Cultural Treasure Box
- Handprint Diversity Tree

More information and activities online here

We'd love to see how your playgroups celebrate Children's Week. If possible, please send through photos and stories from your events so we can showcase them across our communications channels. Socialmedia@playgroupnsw.org.au

Please ensure all children's faces that are visible in photos have image consent General: Image Consent

Thank you for helping families celebrate this important week.

PARENT CORNER



Please join us for our next Press Play Webinar

Babies are wired to respond to a special kind of speech – the sing-song, expressive style often called infant-directed speech or “parentese.” Why does this matter so much?

In this practical and engaging talk with Dr Eylem Altuntas, you’ll discover:

- What infant-directed speech is and why babies love it
- How tone, rhythm, and exaggeration support brain development
- Simple ways to boost language during everyday routines

RSVP LINK BELOW - The recording of this session will be distributed to those who RSVP, and will be available on our YouTube channel.

Register Here

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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