



**Playgroup
Tasmania**

Playgroup Tasmania Board Information Pack



Playgroup Tasmania – A brief overview

Playgroup Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation that has been operating in Tasmania for over 40 years. Driven by the importance of the early years, the association is committed to raising the profile of parent-child interaction, the importance of parents as the child's first educator, empowering and supporting communities to develop and manage services relevant to their needs and advocating on behalf of all families.

Playgroup Tasmania continues to be the most affordable and accessible not-for-profit organisation for families with young children in the State. Currently members of the association enjoy playgroups operating across the State as well as access to our Toy Libraries in Hobart and Launceston.

Playgroup Tasmania believes that parents and carers of young children are entitled to have access to a stimulating, creative and secure environment in which they may interact together to foster the development of their mutual social, educational, emotional and physical needs through play.

In 2006, the playgroup associations operating in the North, North West and South amalgamated with Playgroup Tasmania Inc to become one united voice. Since then, Management and the Board have worked hard to expand and diversify its services.

Vision

Playgroups in Tasmania: connecting families, strengthening communities, and enabling children to learn through play.

Mission

To support a network of accessible playgroups in Tasmania, which are places where children are nurtured, parents are supported, and communities are created and sustained.

Values

Playgroup Tasmania values:

Families and children:

- families with children aged 0 to 5 years learning and developing together through play
- parents as a child's first educator
- parents and carers supporting each other through positive playgroup experiences

Community:

- the power of playgroups to strengthen communities

Partners:

- our role as the peak body for playgroups in Tasmania
- integrity of purpose, performance and accountability in dealing with stakeholders
- the partnership between our staff and volunteers, and their expertise and commitment

Strategic directions

*The Playgroup Tasmania Board are currently reviewing the strategic plan.

Having secured core funding until 2020, Playgroup Tasmania is well placed to focus on priority areas during the period of the strategic plan.

To achieve our vision, we must ensure high quality service provision, planned growth, and sound business practices.

Strategic focus areas

1. Delivering exemplary services to children, parents and community
2. Growing Playgroup Tasmania
3. Developing mutually beneficial partnerships

Goals

For each of the strategic focus areas, Playgroup Tasmania has developed specific goals to be achieved during the period of this plan.

The goals for each of the strategic focus areas are:

1. Delivering exemplary services to children, parents and community

- 1.1. Ensure that Playgroup Tasmania delivers programs which meet the current needs of the members, potential members, and other stakeholders
- 1.2. Grow the membership of Playgroup Tasmania and participation in playgroups across the state
- 1.3. Ensure that the co-ordinators of community playgroups are trained and resourced to establish and deliver consistently high-quality playgroups

2. Growing Playgroup Tasmania

- 2.1. Ensure the financial stability of Playgroup Tasmania
- 2.2. Strengthen the governance and operational practices of Playgroup Tasmania
- 2.3. Revitalise the branding and visibility of Playgroup Tasmania

3. Developing mutually beneficial partnerships

- 3.1. Identify the potential for partnerships with other organisations operating in the sector
- 3.2. Link with evidence-based research and practice in the early years sector
- 3.3. Become and remain well-known as the peak body for playgroups in Tasmania, and the key advocate for the valuing of parents as a child's first educator

Management and Governance of the Association

The Constitution

The Playgroup Association of Tasmania was established as an Incorporated Association in July 1991 under the *Association Incorporation Act 1964*.

The Constitution outlines the functions and powers of the Association, and establishes a framework for the good governance and management of its activities.

The Board

The Association's principal governing body is the Board. The powers of the Board are assigned in Part 7 of the Constitution and include:

- to control and manage the business and affairs of the Association; and
- may exercise all the powers and perform all the functions of the Association, other than those powers and functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by general meetings of members of the Association; and
- has power to do anything that appears to the Board to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.

The Board operates as a Board of Governance outlined in the National Operations Manual. The Board operates at a strategic level, with operational management being the responsibility of the CEO.

The Chairman

The Constitution stipulates that the Association will have a Chairman and eight elected members. From the eight elected members, the Board will appoint a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Sub-Committees of the Board

The Board may:

- appoint a subcommittee or sub-committees; and
- prescribe the powers and functions of the sub-committee(s)

The Board may co-opt any person as a member of a sub-committee, whether or not the person is a member of the Association. The Board shall determine if any co-opted person shall have voting rights on the sub-committee.

Meetings

The Board meets not less than six times annually.

Board Selection Process

There are nine positions on the Board.

The procedure in filling vacancies is as follows:

- Complete an application form and must;
 - be committed to the goals of the organization;
 - have no conflict of interest, as deemed by the majority of the Board;
 - provide a detailed resume detailing skills and interests that would benefit the goals of the Association;
 - provide two professional referees; and
 - be willing to complete and provide evidence of completed *Working With Children* registration.

Should the Public Officer receive expressions of interest from more than there are available positions, a nominations committee will be established consisting of the CEO, the current Chairman and a member of the Executive to assess expressions against a skills and experience diversity matrix.

Playgroup Tasmania at a glance

State Office	PO Box 799 Launceston	Ph: 1800 171 882 admin@playgrouptas.org.au
Toy Library North	35 Holbrook Street, Launceston	Ph: 6331 6599 info@playgrouptas.org.au
Toy Library South	8a Constance Ave, Glenorchy (Y-Kids Party and Play Centre)	Ph: 6228 0925

Board

Voting members of the Board

- Chairman
 - Eight elected members
- Non-voting member of the Board:
- Chief Executive Officer of the Association (paid staff member)

Staff

- Chief Executive Officer
- 1 Administration Officer
- 5 Playgroup Development staff
- 1 Customer Service Officer
- Casual staff and Volunteers

Website: www.playgrouptas.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/playgrouptasmania?ref=hl>