

Annual Report 2023



Supporting Tasmanian families to flourish

This year has seen the culmination of many aspects of Playgroup Tasmania's strategic projects including expansion of our high impact playgroup development focus. As we head into the 50th year of playgroups in Tasmania, grassroots community engagement continues to be the bedrock of our early support and inclusion approach to improved family wellbeing. This work also progresses our Vision and is closely aligned with the *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy* Priority Actions.

We've also grown this year, with new roles focused on coordination and management of projects, programs and quality, and dedicated development officers in each region. Playgroup Tasmania's branding and website have been refreshed and with our committed partners we celebrated the biggest Children's Week yet. We continue to be grateful to all members of Tasmania's playgroup community for your dedicated support.

— JACINDA ARMSTRONG, CEO



We play with music toys more at home now and have learned some new songs and games”

— PLAYGROUP PARENT

Getting families off to a great start

Baby Villages are place-based, people-centred community playgroups for families with children who aren't yet walking. Led by volunteers, Baby Village activities and outcomes are core to the *Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy's* priority actions.

Baby Village volunteer leaders receive induction, training and ongoing support from Playgroup Tasmania with the emphasis on providing baby focused, friendly and welcoming spaces for all who attend. Secure and happy babies, parental wellbeing and linking people to appropriate services and supports are also vital components of these playgroups.

Baby Village playgroups were debuted in communities that identified a specific need in their area. Already, more than 130 families have attended Baby Villages in Howrah, New Town and Dodges Ferry and more locations are being planned in direct response to community demand. Specialised activity resources support volunteer leaders to link play with developmental outcomes.

Baby Village



I've learned that my baby isn't as fragile as I think and enjoys climbing and testing her skills”

— PLAYGROUP PARENT

Child safe, child friendly



Playgroup has been a life saver for my own sanity; a place where parents can make connections and talk with people who understand what you are going through”

— PLAYGROUP CAREGIVER



Playgroup Tasmania took a consultative, co-design approach to developing a fit-for-purpose child safety framework, which was introduced throughout the playgroup community in early 2023.

Sitting at the heart of this framework is the voice of playgroup children who expressed what makes them ‘feel safe’ through both artworks and words. We continue to listen to their voices and to respond to what we hear.

Playgroup Tasmania’s Statement of Commitment to Child Safety & Wellbeing and the related Code of Conduct, policies and procedures are now embedded throughout staff and volunteer induction and training and promoted widely.

Free, accessible online training is an important part of this program. Check out the information and resources for yourself at Playgroup Tasmania’s online resource hub: playgrouptasresourcehub.org.au

Early support and inclusion



In addition to our Community Playgroup support and Baby Village playgroups, we continue to deliver a range of specialised programs to support early linkages to child development support and services.

Our very popular Play and Supported Learning (PALS) playgroups provide physical and social development opportunities for children of all abilities. This is done through music, nature and circus play and other activities in partnership with local cultural, arts and sport and recreation providers.

PlayConnect+ playgroups are also busy providing supported play for families with children from birth to 6 years who have a disability or developmental concerns. Each of these groups provides valuable connections with local families as well as information and referrals to relevant services.

The PlayTogether training program is now supplemented by our online [Playgroup Tasmania Resource Hub](https://playgrouptasresourcehub.org.au). The Hub is simple to use and includes ideas to make your playgroup inclusive along with a growing library of information, ideas and templates to support our volunteer leaders.

41K+

hours of support
provided by our
volunteer leaders

11,212

uses of our ‘find a
playgroup’ online
search tool

95+

Children’s Week
events



Inclusive, warm and welcoming to all

Through our open and ongoing work with our playgroup families, volunteer playgroup leaders and like-minded organisations Playgroup Tasmania builds and maintains trusting, collaborative relationships that benefit the entire playgroup community.

Our staff members continue to extend their skills and knowledge through online and in-person training opportunities, participation in workshops and attendance at national and local conferences. Find out more about our great team members at playgrouptas.org.au

The Playgroup Tasmania headquarters at 35 Holbrook Street, Invermay, was closed for renovation in June with the new, fully accessible facility expected to open before the end of the year.

OUR VISION

Families with young children and babies are supported to flourish physically, emotionally and socially through their connections to Tasmania's playgroup community.

Playgroup Tasmania is the peak body representing and supporting community and organisation-led playgroups across Tasmania.

GET IN TOUCH

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