

Annual Report
2012/13



PLAYGROUP SA
Playing, learning, supporting families

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Playgroup SA

Our Vision

is to create the opportunity for every child to learn through quality play experiences while supporting their families/carers in their role as primary educators.

Our Mission

is to facilitate positive, enriching, educational experiences in a safe environment for young children and families/carers by providing an accessible network of playgroup services.

Playgroup Charter

Our playgroup will be:

Welcoming & friendly

A safe place

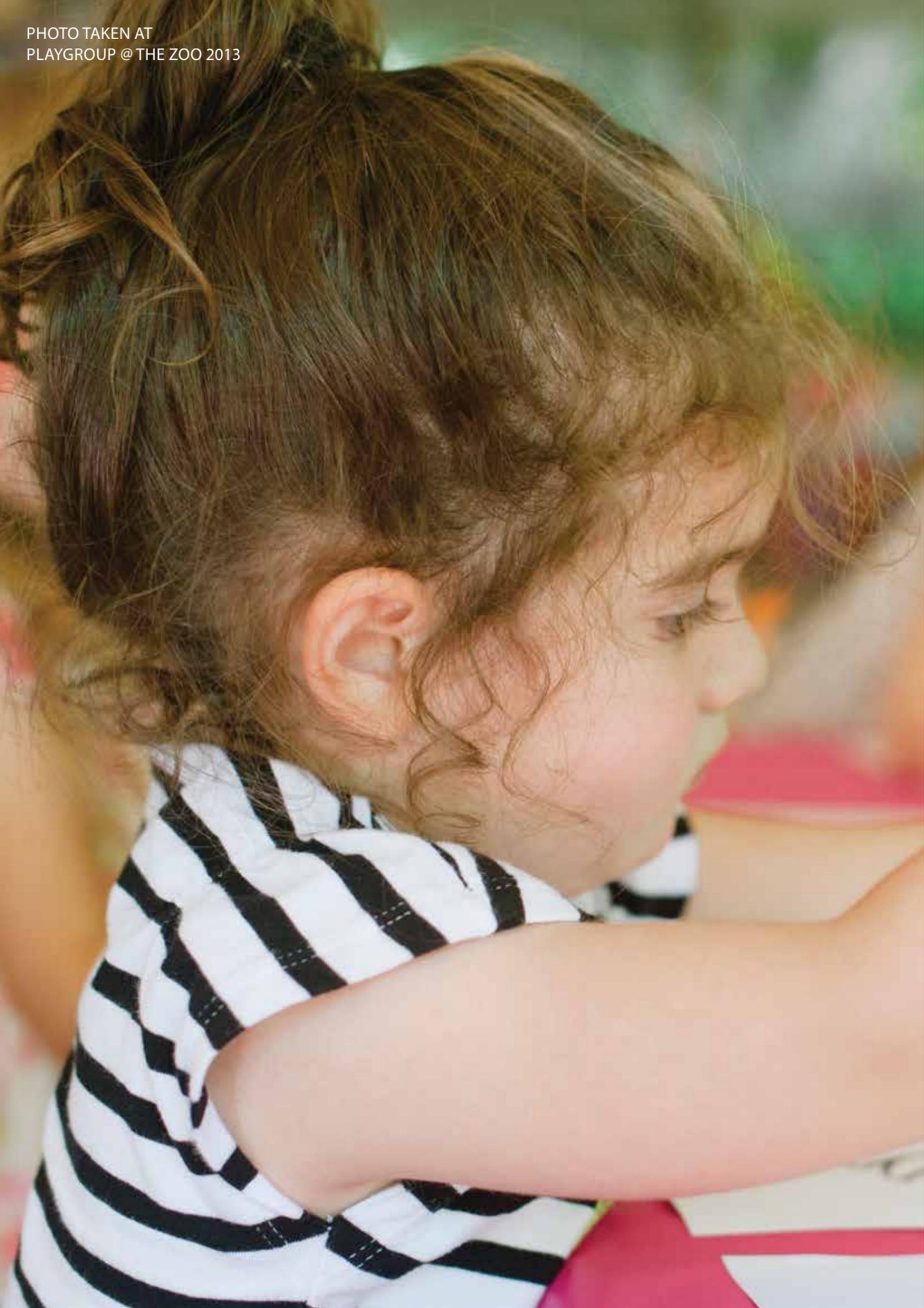
Co-operative & caring

A team effort

Supportive & respectful

This charter has been developed to promote a positive atmosphere at playgroup.





What is Playgroup?

A Playgroup is a group of mums, dads, grandparents and caregivers who meet together each week with their babies, toddlers and preschoolers for interaction and fun.

Parents and caregivers work together to provide their babies and young children with opportunities to learn through play.

Why go to Playgroup?

Children under five are going through a stage of rapid brain and skill development. For optimum development your young child needs a stimulating environment to play and learn. Playgroups offer babies, toddlers and young children a wide variety of early learning experiences. It's a great way for your child to learn about the world, make friends and develop social skills.

Playgroup also gives mums, dads, grandparents and caregivers a chance to meet to share ideas and experiences. Many long-term friendships begin at Playgroup.

The advantages of Playgroup are undeniable!

President's Report by Gillian Lewis

The 2012/2013 year has been another very successful year for our committed hardworking Playgroup SA team – our staff and volunteers. Under the leadership of our Executive Officer Carley Jones, the profile and influence of Playgroup SA continues to expand in the early childhood sphere and be highly respected. As can be seen in the EO's report, 2012/2013 has again seen a number of new initiatives. For the many families and children who experience the services, support, benefits and fun of Playgroups it has been a great year.

Finance

The overall financial result for the 2012/2013 year is a net profit of \$19,785 which has seen a great turn around from the last financial year. It is as a result of the committed efforts of all members of our small staff team and board (recognising the need for all to be working together to support good financial management and control) that we have such a pleasing outcome.

Our Playgroup SA Team

The Board of Playgroup SA includes both Playgroup members and interested others who have the required skills and competencies necessary to provide good governance for our organisation. We unfortunately had to accept the resignation from the Board this term of long standing board member Sunita Miranda after the birth of her second child, her daughter Aria. Sunita was a very dedicated Board member and a huge thank you is extended to her from all.

I must give my sincere thanks to all of our dedicated volunteer Board members (new and ongoing), who continue to provide a strong, committed and collaborative team of governance for Playgroup SA.

To the Playgroup SA staff members – what a team! Thank you from all the Board for your commitment to our organisation and your great efforts throughout the year. Carley has proved, yet again, to be a highly competent and resourceful leader and both Carley and the team has broadened our networks, sourced new resources and programs and in the words of one of our funding bodies – “As usual the services and support you provide for your members is being delivered to your usual high standard.” What more can I say? – Thank you Carley and team from all the Board.

Our Members & Volunteers - THANK YOU!

Playgroup SA and Playgroups could not exist without the wonderful dedication and commitment of our volunteers. These volunteers are parents, caregivers and others who support and run Playgroups throughout SA, creating spaces for children which are welcoming, friendly, enriching and safe. The service you provide ensures a solid foundation for positive child development!

Thank you too to all our members and Life Members – your continued commitment and support of Playgroups, Playgroup SA events and the organisation itself is vital to us now and in our future.

Looking Forward

Playgroup SA has seen a strengthening of relationships with current stakeholders and a broadening of our partnerships and networks over the last few years. This has provided great groundwork for the coming years, even in constrained times.





Executive Officer's Report

by Carley Jones

Community Playgroups have continued to go from strength to strength this financial year in South Australia, with Playgroup SA experiencing increased demand for Community Playgroup services. Our core business is the support, establishment and advocacy for Community Playgroups and the 2012-13 financial year proved essential that Playgroup SA continue to strive towards providing service of excellence to Community Playgroups. The Playgroup SA staff team have worked tirelessly to raise the profile and the benefits of Community Playgroups and it is fantastic to see such hard work come to fruition.

Member Services

The focus this year was to build upon current procedures and processes to maximise the number of Community Playgroups that we had contact with. Part of this strategy was to get out and visit as many rural Playgroups as possible and, in turn, provide our country counterparts with as much support as possible. This mission was accepted with gusto by staff and below is just a snap shot of some of the regional/rural Playgroup locations visited by Playgroup SA staff:

Playgroup SA Staff

The Playgroup SA staff team remained strong and steady throughout the year, with the late introduction of Playgroups in Schools (PinS) staff members. The staff team consisted of the following positions:

- Executive Officer
- Finance Officer
- Membership Officer
- Communications Coordinator
- Playgroup Support and Development Officers x2
- PinS Project Officers x2
- Receptionist
- Supported and PlayConnect Development Workers x2

I must extend a heartfelt thank you to all Playgroup SA staff - you have continued to display commitment and passion in supporting families and playgroups across the state and Playgroup SA as an organisation. It is truly inspiring to see what this dedicated team can achieve.



Executive Officer's Report (continued)...

Visits were also conducted to a large number of metro Playgroups, including (but not limited to) De Lissa Playgroup, Old Cottage Playgroup, Fulham Gardens Playgroup and many more.

Playgroup SA continued to review, develop and tailor the Workshop and Training services to suit the needs and demands of our community. Workshops were offered and provided to the greater professional arena through avenues such as the Gawler Community Health Service and other Community Services, such as The Prospect Centre. The provision of evening workshops in rural locations, such as Mount Gambier, were also implemented.

Our publications underwent a change this year, with the much anticipated addition of 'State of Play' - Playgroup SA's official print magazine, produced in partnership with SA Kids. Playgroup SA has received outstanding feedback from members since State of Plays inception, indicating a great move for Playgroup SA to team up with such a quality publication. A big thank you goes out to the entire team at SA Kids who are wonderful to collaborate with.

Playgroup SA again continued with our increased event schedule for the year, continuing to make use of our great playroom and thereby hosting open Playgroup events to celebrate special occasions such as Easter, Book Week, Christmas, Children's Week and National Playgroup Week. These open Playgroups are a great opportunity for families to experience Playgroup for the first time and for the staff at Playgroup SA to meet some of the wonderful Playgroup families who shape Playgroup each and every week.

Playgroup SA's annual Playgroup @ the Zoo event took place in March to provide families with a special day out to celebrate National Playgroup Week. Over 300 playgroup families attended to participate in Playgroup SA prize draws, be entertained by a Sue Harris Puppet Show and the Amazing Drumming Monkeys, have their faces painted, bounce on Jumping Castles and peruse the information stalls provided - all within the fantastic environment of the Adelaide Zoo. Playgroup @ the Zoo photos are included throughout this publication.

Playgroup SA also spent a considerable amount of time providing individual Community Playgroups with advocacy around issues such as securing better lease options with their venues, sourcing new community spaces, playgroup promotion and liaising between localised stakeholders.

Funded Playgroup

On top of the great work that Playgroup SA does in supporting Community Playgroups, we also deliver three funded Playgroup programs - PlayConnect Playgroups, Supported Playgroups and the newly established Playgroups in Schools Program...

PlayConnect Playgroups are for children from birth up to 6 years who have either been diagnosed as belonging on the Autism Spectrum or have ASD like characteristics. We have continued to successfully deliver four PlayConnect Playgroups for families in the metro region and Mount Gambier. Thank you to our PlayConnect Development workers for their commitment, dedication and passion in facilitating these PlayConnect Playgroups and to Autism SA for their continued support.

Executive Officer's Report (continued)...

The Supported Playgroup program has continued to be a service in high demand, with Supported Playgroups being delivered for Teenage and Young Mums, Isolated Families on the far West Coast and Indigenous Families on the far West Coast and in the Riverland - to name a few of the Supported Playgroups that Playgroup SA delivers. The development workers show great commitment in supporting these families - thank you.

Playgroups in Schools, also known as PinS, was a new Playgroup Program established in conjunction with the Department of Education and Children's Development (DECD), as part of the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. This saw the Learning Together Program and Playgroup SA work towards establishing 40 PinS Playgroups across SA, with a focus on numeracy and literacy development and the return of schools as community hubs.

National Playgroup Week

As Executive Officer, I have spent considerable time supporting the transition of the National Peak body - Playgroup Australia and collaborating with my fellow CEO peers to gather the full richness of the Australian Playgroup Story. This included gathering narrative evidence, compiling research and articles and contributing data to the national collection to provide funding bodies with the staggering figures of just how many families attend Playgroup across Australia each week. Time was also spent contributing to issue papers and program proposals that were presented to a number of funding bodies and ministers.

Partnerships

Building and extending on our range of relationships to support the work of playgroups saw Playgroup SA continue to lead the Playgroup Hub - a collaboration of services that deliver playgroups, including CentaCare, Anglicare, Salvation Army, Uniting Communities and Save the Children. Partnerships with other organisations such as Children's Centres, Local Councils, and Community Centres also strengthen the work Playgroup SA and local community playgroups.

Lastly, I must thank the Playgroup SA voluntary Board of Management. Each and every board member gives their time, skills and dedication to Playgroup SA and the Playgroup movement, thus contributing to the success and positive experiences of Playgroup in South Australia. The Board have continued to show great support for the staff team and commitment to Playgroup SA.



Acknowledgments & THANK YOU to...!

Staff

Carley Jones	Executive Officer
Clare Zheng	Finance Officer
Martina Button	Playgroup in Schools (PinS) Officer
Narelle Scott	Communications Coordinator
Rachael Stroud	Playgroup in Schools (PinS) Officer
Rebecca Clemas	Membership Officer
Santina Raschella	Playgroup Support & Development Officer
Stevie Lawrence	Playgroup Support & Development Officer
Siobhan Evans	Communications Coordinator
Teresa DiBartolo	Reception Officer
Julie Walker	Development Worker
Melanie Baker	Development Worker
Naomi Wilkey	Development Worker
Nick Crispe	Development Worker
Nicky Hume	Development Worker
Petrina Mahar	Development Worker

* Thanks to Amanda Baldwin for contributing editorial to Playgroup SA publications

Board Of Management

Gillian Lewis	President
Di Connew	President
Paul Prestwich	Treasurer
Claire Young	Secretary
Sally Brinkman	Vice President
Sunita Miranda Rachandani	
Lisa Mignone	

* Thanks also to Board Member Lisa Mignone for volunteering her time to assist at Playgroup SA Head Office

Life Members

Deane Palmer
 Elizabeth Giola
 Gloria Palmer
 Helen Holland
 Helen Miller
 Jennie Fenton
 John Harley
 Leslie Ratcliffe
 Lorry Jordan
 Maralyn Blake
 Pam Witton

Contributing Donors & Partners

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 Crayola
 Department for Education and Child Development
 Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
 Educational Experience
 HeartKids SA
 Libraries SA
 Little Big Book Club
 Mad Hatterz Parties
 Modern Teaching Aid
 Modra's Apartments
 SA Kids
 SA Multiple Birth Association (SAMBA)



PHOTO TAKEN AT PLAYGROUP @ THE ZOO 2013



PHOTO TAKEN AT PBC EXPO 2013



PLAYGROUP SA
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