



Playgroup SA Inc.

Annual Report
2017/18



Playgroup SA Inc

Our Vision

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

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 SA acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of the South Australian regions upon whose ancestral lands our Playgroups operate on.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people from other areas of South Australia and Australia and acknowledge their deep feelings of attachment and Spiritual relationship to Country.

Playgroup SA recognises the pain and suffering caused by past policies to Aboriginal Australians and the impact this has had on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

At Playgroup SA we are committed to a future of reconciliation, we believe that there is much knowledge and wisdom to be gained by Aboriginal Australians, by the learning of Country, land, cultures, truths and realities.



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01

President's Message



Pictured: Dr Sally Brinkman
President, Playgroup SA Inc.

Playgroups provide an increasingly rare opportunity for children to play with each other against a backdrop of our ever-changing world with smaller family sizes, less connected communities, increased parent participation in the workforce and the increasing use of electronic entertainment. Perhaps unsurprisingly given this backdrop, many Playgroups Associations in Australia have continued to see membership decline. However, in South Australia we have seen little change in our membership since last year. Our 2018 figures show that 2419 families participated in a registered playgroup, representing 4555 children.

These membership figures are important for all to see. Research, both internationally and within Australia, has shown that children who participate in playgroups have improved social, emotional, physical, language, cognitive and communication skills than those who don't. Playgroups are a great way to enhance children's development and to help them gain the skills necessary to support their transition into reception and primary school. So not only are playgroups a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents, grandparents and caregivers, they are

also highly beneficial for children's development. As such, the Board and I are extremely motivated to increase access to and participation in playgroups across South Australia. Increased participation will not only benefit our children but given the science, showing that child development predicts later success at school, employment, health and wellbeing, it is important for the future of South Australia as a whole.

During this last year the Board has worked on two main activities, these being a review of the Constitution and the development of a new 3-year strategic plan. Early in 2018, the Board undertook governance training with Mellor Olsson, which highlighted the need for further changes to the Playgroup SA Constitution. These changes will be taken to the upcoming AGM for ratification. More noteworthy, the Playgroup SA's Strategic Plan has reached its expiration date, and as such the Board has been undertaking a rigorous strategic planning process, assisted by Zed Management Consulting. I am very confident, that we will be able to publish our new Strategic Plan in the very near future. With



Pictured: Playgroup SA
Twilight Playgroup

the new strategic plan being the trigger to change the way we do things, current members should see enhancements in our service delivery, our membership should increase and we will continue to enhance our leadership and professional reputation in the early childhood sector.

We have also recently appointed a new Executive Officer, Mr Craig Bradbrook. Craig comes with fourteen years' experience in the social services sector. Craig's work has focused on supporting the development of program implementation and evaluation for early childhood development, parenting programs, low income support services and building community capability. The Board is very excited to have Craig join Playgroup SA and we believe he is an excellent fit to support our growth through strategic innovation. I have known Craig for a number of years and I believe he will bring a compassionate, insightful and professional approach to the Association.

Finally, the Board would like to thank all our members, volunteers and professional partners

for their continued participation in the playgroup movement and we'd especially like to thank our employees for their commitment and energy to improve our Association and to support communities, caregivers and children across South Australia.

Dr Sally Brinkman,
President of the Board.

02

Letter from the Executive Officer

“Walking alongside and listening to the voice of the child will help us to uphold the rights of the child”



Pictured:
Playgroup SA's Executive Officer, Craig Bradbrook

Playgroup SA has a 45 year history of supporting children, families and communities in multiple contexts. Improved child development, children and parents making friends for life, and improved community cohesion are all outcomes resulting from the Playgroup Model.

Playgroups provide the foundation for healthy development, improved wellbeing, social connections and ultimately contribute to the future economic prosperity of society. There are a diversity of contexts the Playgroup model can be applied to, achieving outcomes for infants and toddlers, school readiness, child health, intergenerational (Playgroups with ageing citizens) and children with a disability.

Building on success from previous years, Playgroup SA has continued the Playgroup movement supporting community Playgroups, their members and coordinators, facilitating PlayConnect (Playgroups for children with Autism), Supported Playgroups (building community capabilities), and Intergenerational Playgroups. Geographically, Playgroup SA worked across metropolitan Adelaide Riverland, Mt Gambier, and Pt Lincoln.



Pictured:
Twilight Playgroup

Delivery of these programs was made possible thanks to the ongoing commitment of staff, support and funding from Playgroup Australia, State Department for Education, our sponsors and most importantly our members. Department of Social Services contribute significant funding for the playgroup movement including the community playgroups and PlayConnect .

Globally, in 2018 the G20 committed to making early childhood development a priority. Nationally, \$5.5m was invested into Community Playgroups during the 2017/18 financial year, delivering up to \$160m of services implemented by volunteers. Across South Australia more than \$620,000 was invested in the community playgroup model. Children participating in playgroup in the early years, in any context, from low to high income countries, will have the best start in life and pave the way for future success.

The coming 2018/19 year will aim to continue to grow the playgroup movement, engaging new children, families and communities. Walking alongside and listening to the voice of the child will help us to uphold the rights of the child. Ensuring responsive program design will achieve the outcomes that children and communities desire. Advocacy for increasing early learning opportunities through Playgroup, will secure investment for all children in the future.

03

From the Support and Development Team

This year has passed by very quickly, with the Playgroup SA Team managing to squeeze in a jam-packed year of new ideas, events and activities. Outdoor and Pop Up Playgroups as well as Playgroup for the Senses were a plentiful and highlighted the wonderful work we do within the community.

Community Engagement & Service Expos

Playgroup SA was fortunate enough to take part in several Community Expos and Engagement activities throughout 2017/18. Collective Impact initiatives in both the south, Together in the South, and inner north, Impact Inner North, focussed on children aged 0-8 years, engaging with their local communities, particularly accessing Playgroups. These 2 initiatives will continue across 2018/19.

Other opportunities comprised of Welcome the Babies at Salisbury with Minister Bettison in October 2017, Anglicare Services Expo, held at Elizabeth Grove in April 2018, and the Pregnancy, Babies and Children Expo.

Playgroup SA also supported the following organisations:

- Multicultural Communities Council of SA – Presentation to CALD families
- North Eastern Community Hospital – Presentations to Post Natal families
- Kirton Point Children’s Centre – Workshop delivery
- Inclusive Directions
- Uniting SA – involvement with the NOVA Project
- Centacare – Presentations and information to Foster Care families and Services

Conferences

Attendance at National and State conferences provide Playgroup SA team members a chance to not only engage with sector leaders and partners; they also provide an opportunity to expand one’s understanding, knowledge and information around early childhood development, social impact and community development. The Support & Development Team were fortunate enough to attend two conferences this year.



Pictured:
Week Week Playgroup

Re-Imagining Childhood - A collaboration of Local and International Perspectives on Early Childhood Conference.

As part of the partnership and Collective Impact work Playgroup SA are undertaking with Together in the South, The Support & Development Coordinator was invited to attend the Together SA Collective Impact Symposium in February 2018.

Continued Funding

Playgroup SA continues to receive funding from both Federal and State Governments, as well as at a local service level, through Communities for Children; Uniting SA and Children's Week Association. Programs such as PlayConnect and Supported Playgroups, provide vital play and learning experiences for children as well as building support networks for families. PlayConnect, for children with Autism, or ASD-like characteristics, operated across 5 locations this year, being;

- Mt Gambier,
- Parafield Gardens, (relocated to Renown Park in 2018)
- Aldinga, relocated to Port Lincoln in 2018.

With Supported Playgroups remaining at

- Findon Community Centre
- Hendon Primary School

Community Playgroups continued to provide early educational activities for children across regional, remote and metropolitan SA. Playgroup SA saw many new Intergenerational Playgroups established as well as Playgroups supporting CALD and Indigenous families. 2018 also saw the inclusion of Playgroups within Early Education & Care settings including The Cherubim Early Learning & Care Centre, Camden Community ELC and Nurture One ELC.

We thank Playgroup Australia, The Department of Education, Uniting SA and Children's Week Association for their ongoing support and assistance in 2017/18.

04

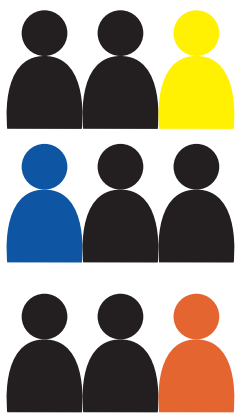
Snapshot

2017 to 2018

Let's have a look at what we did this year to forward the Playgroup Movement!

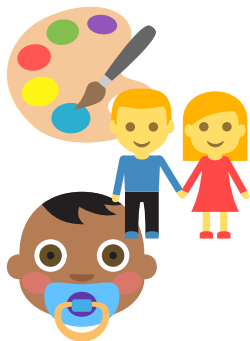
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Families



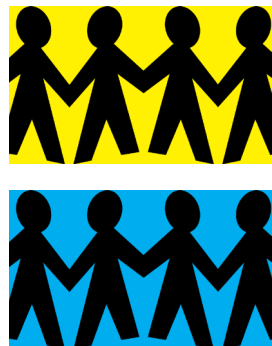
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Playgroup Sessions



3363

Children Attended



3574

Event Attendance

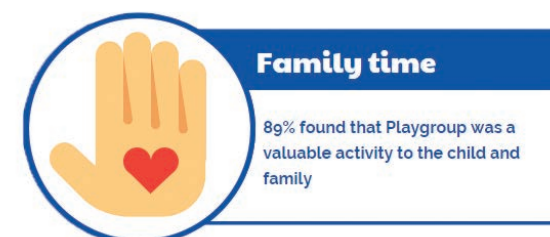
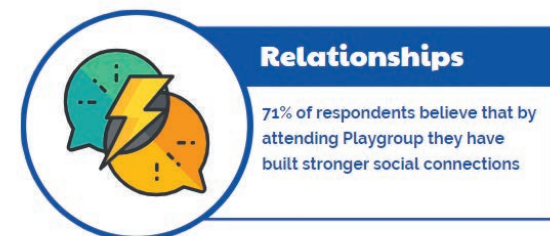
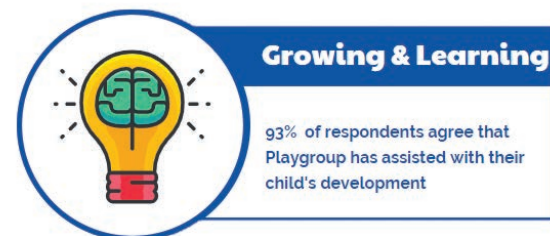


86%

of respondents felt that attending Playgroup gave them an opportunity to spend special time with their child.

over 60,000 hours volunteered

Each year Playgroup SA conducts a Member Survey. This allows insight into where improvements can be made and what member families value.



05

Playgroup SA Supporting the Playgroup Community

Workshops, Events and Messy Play



Pictured:
Playgroup Support & Development Officer,
Rebecca Blunn

Throughout 2017/18 Playgroup SA moved to a focus on events, to introduce new families to the benefits of Playgroup.

Playgroup SA Events

- Book Week Playgroup
- Playgroup at the Zoo
- Christmas Playgroup
- Twilight Playgroup
- Playgroup on the Green - Victor Harbour
- Easter Playgroup
- Pregnancy Babies and Child Expo
- Pop Up Outdoor Playgroup Prospect
- Anglicare Service Expo
- Cleve Messy Play Day
- Yorketown Messy Play Day
- Playgroup for the Senses - Mud Play
- Playgroup for the Senses - Water Play
- Playgroup for the Senses - Messy Play
- Playgroup for the Senses - Little Scientists
- Playgroup for the Senses - Winter Wonderland

Workshops Delivered

- Child Safe Environments
- Engaging the Senses
- Playgroup for Babies
- Coordinate & Play Workshop



Messy Play Sessions

Messy Play Sessions were delivered to many of our affiliated Playgroups. The following Playgroups had a Messy Play Session delivered:

- Akuna Playgroup
- Ardtornish Playgroup
- Barker Kindergarten Playgroup
- Barossa Bush Gardens Playgroup
- Blyth Playgroup
- Cleve Playgroup
- Dante Kids Playgroup
- Destiny Playgroup
- Fairview Park Primary School Playgroup
- Henley Beach Playgroup
- Japanese Morialta Playgroup
- Kalyra Playgroup
- Kulpara Playgroup
- MCCSA Korean Speaking Playgroup
- MCCSA Multicultural Playgroup
- Mallala Playgroup
- Mercedes College Playgroup
- Minlaton Playgroup
- Montessori Twos Plus Playgroup
- Morialta Playgroup
- Mt Pleasant Playgroup
- Nunga Playgroup
- Piccolo Play @ Allenby Gardens Preschool
- SYP Active Kids Playgroup
- Saint David's Playgroup
- St Gabriel's Playgroup
- St Martin De Porres Playgroup
- Surrey Downs Playgroup
- Swan Reach Playgroup
- Tea Tree Gully Playgroup
- The Learning Tree
- The Pines Playgroup
- Tintinara Playgroup
- Torrens Valley Playgroup
- Walkerville Uniting Church Playgroup
- Weekend Playgroup
- Yorketown Playgroup

06

Playgroups visited

2017/18

Each year, Playgroup SA aims to visit as many Affiliated Playgroups as possible to provide support and guidance.

Here is the list of Playgroup visits conducted in 2017-18:

- Akuna Playgroup
- Aldgate Playgroup
- Ardtornish Playgroup
- BUPA Campbelltown Playgroup
- Barker Kindergarten Playgroup
- Barossa Bush Gardens Playgroup
- Bene Bambini Playgroup
- Blyth Playgroup
- Charles Young Playgroup
- Cleve Playgroup
- Dante Kids Playgroup
- Destiny Playgroup
- Ducklings Playgroup
- Eudunda Playgroup
- Fairview Park PreSchool Playgroup
- Fairview Park Primary School Playgroup
- Hendon Primary Playgroup
- Henley Beach Playgroup
- Inclusive Beginnings Playgroup
- Japanese Morialta Playgroup
- Kalyra Playgroup
- Klemzig Playgroup
- Kulpara Playgroup
- Little Tadpoles Playgroup
- MCCSA Korean Speaking Playgroup
- MCCSA Multicultural Playgroup
- Mallala Playgroup
- Mercedes College Playgroup
- Minlaton Playgroup
- Montessori Twos Plus Playgroup
- Morialta Playgroup
- Mt Pleasant Playgroup
- Nunga Playgroup
- Piccolo Play @ Allenby Gardens Preschool
- Prospect Cottage Playgroup
- SYP Active Kids Playgroup
- Saint David's Playgroup
- Settlers Farm Playgroup
- St Gabriel's Playgroup
- St Martin De Porres Playgroup
- Surrey Downs Playgroup
- Swan Reach Playgroup
- Tea Tree Gully Playgroup
- The Learning Tree Playgroup
- The Pines Playgroup
- Tintinara Playgroup
- Tiny Tots Prospect Playgroup
- Torrens Valley Playgroup
- Tot's at Dot's Playgroup
- Uraidla Kindy Playgroup
- Walkerville Uniting Church Playgroup
- Weekend Playgroup
- Whyalla Community Playgroup
- Yorketown Playgroup

07

Playgroup SA

Board of Management

Dr Sally Brinkman – President

Damien Pulgies - Treasurer

Chris Nash - Secretary

Rose Deane - Board Member

Jocelyn Graham - Board Member

Gaynor Ramsey - Board Member

William Tuckerman - Board Member

Ann Perriam - Board Member

Ben Birch - Board Member

Carley Jones - Executive Officer

Playgroup SA Staff Team



Team Leader, Playgroup Support and Development

Playgroup Support & Development Officer

Playgroup Support and Development Officer

Membership Officer

Communications Coordinator

Administration Officer

Facilitator, Supported Playgroups

Development Workers

Creche staff

Alicia Beames

Melanie Baker

Rebecca Blunn

Amy Elliott

Emma Sordillo

Teresa DiBartolo

Rachael Stroud

Naomi Wilkey, Nicole Hume, Sabrina Liew

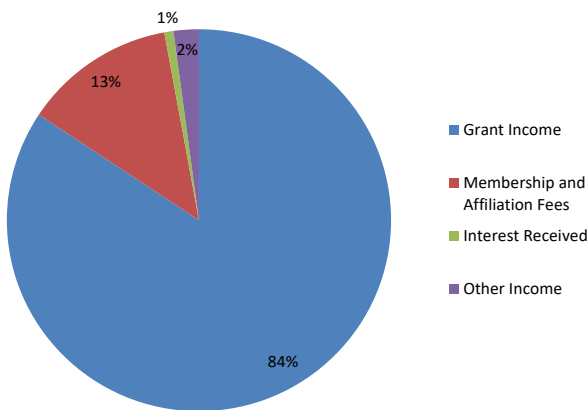
Alison Blake

8 Playgroup SA Financials 2017/2018

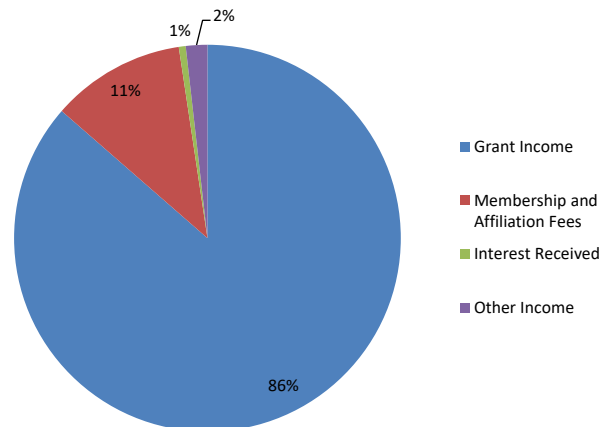
Playgroup SA remains in a strong financial position, with cash reserves providing a strong liquidity position; however, we did not meet our budgeted expectations regarding overall net profit. We anticipated a net deficit of \$4,054 for the year ended 30 June 2018 however we fell short of this objective with an overall net deficit of \$69,811.

The higher than budgeted expenses were primarily driven by employment expenses increasing by 11% compared to the prior period, due to an additional pay period falling within the 2018 financial year that was un-budgeted, and investment in an additional employee focussed on our Support and Development Team. Outside this expense category, administration expenses have decreased by 7% due to one off items in the prior year not being repeated during the current year.

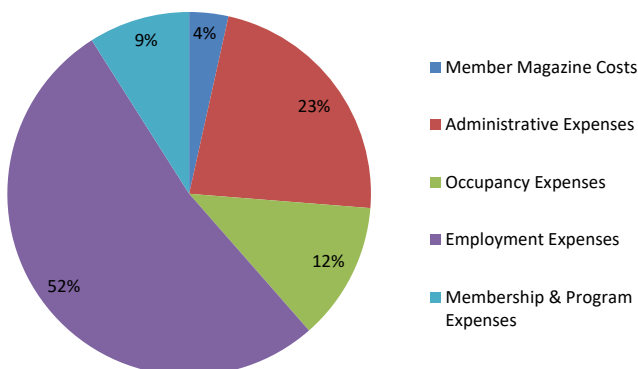
Income 2017



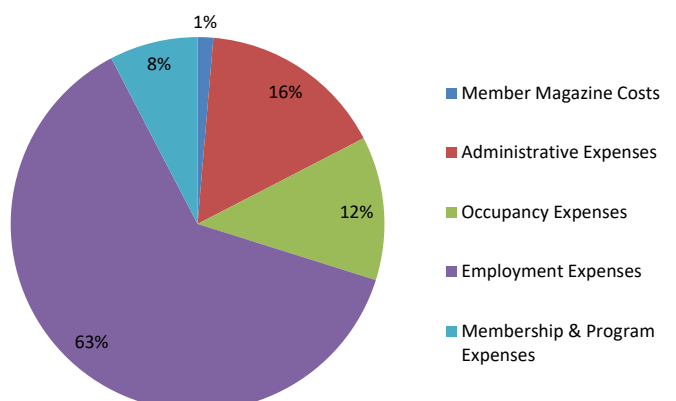
Income 2018



Expenditure 2017



Expenditure 2018



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Thank you to our valued Donors, Sponsors & Partners

- Adelaide Shores
- Adelaide Zoo
- Bunnings
- Codesnap
- Crayola
- Department for Education and Child Development
- Department for Social Services
- Educational Experience
- Foodland (Prospect)
- Libraries SA
- Mad Hatterz Parties
- Modern Teaching Aids
- Multiple Birth Association of SA
- Raising Literacy Australia
- Scholastic
- Colourbox Print
- El Ritmo
- HeartKids SA
- Inclusive Directions

10

Thank you to our valued Life Members

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



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