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Playgroup Australia Hosts Launch of National Early Years Strategy

Today, Playgroup Australia, along with Playgroup NSW, were delighted to welcome the Minister for Social Services the Hon. Amanda Rishworth and the Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon. Dr. Anne Aly to a community Playgroup to launch the Federal Government's Early Years Strategy 2024-2034.

"We are deeply encouraged by the vision presented in the Early Years Strategy and its recognition that the first 2000 days are of critical importance in a child's life" said Playgroup Australia CEO -Patricia O'Donovan. "Playgroup is a significant contributor to the Early Childhood ecosystem providing place-based programs that knit together early childhood care and education, family wellbeing and community engagement in the one place. The model of delivery is unique in the sector because it provides protection against developmental vulnerability, and a strong network of support for parents.

The Early Years Strategy demonstrates a commitment to making high-quality early childhood education and care accessible to all Australian families, another important piece of the Early Childhood education and care puzzle. It acknowledges that access to quality ECEC is not just a matter of educational equity but a crucial element that enables improved economic security and workforce engagement for families and subsequent generations.

This Early Years Strategy recognises the irreplaceable role of parents and carers as the first teachers in a child's life. It reflects well-established evidence that children thrive when their first learning experiences are rooted in love, care, and attention. Relationships are the foundation upon which children build their understanding of the world, their sense of security, and their capacity to learn and grow.

We look forward to Playgroups contributing to realising the goals of the Early Year's Strategy and improved outcomes for Australian children."