



LET'S GET
SOCIAL
JOIN
TODAY!

Playgroup Tasmania

.....

Holbrook St Infrastructure Upgrade

.....

August 2020



I am happy to meet at any time to discuss this proposal further or to provide more detail on any of the issues below.

Jacinda Armstrong

Chief Executive Officer

Playgroup Tasmania Inc

Mob: 0432 852 055

Ph: 6331 6599

jacinda.armstrong@playgrouptas.org.au

PO Box 799, Launceston 7250

[Playgroup Tasmania Project Proposal](#)

Community Infrastructure Upgrade - Holbrook St Invermay - \$400,000

About Playgroup Tasmania

Playgroup Tasmania is a not-for-profit, state-based membership organisation that provides support and resources to assist with the establishment, co-ordination, administration, and promotion of playgroups across Tasmania. We are a peak body currently representing over 65 playgroups, including several Child and Family Centres and Neighbourhood and Community Houses. Each year more than 500 families engage with Playgroup Tasmania directly as members with even more attending our member playgroups each week.

Playgroup Tasmania is best known for delivering high impact Community Playgroup support, however we also administer the cost-effective Supported Playgroup Program – PlayConnect, a program of facilitated, supported playgroups currently funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Social Services (DSS). PlayConnect playgroups offer a ‘soft entry’ for families with a child with Autism-like symptoms to be connected with wider support and relevant information.

Playgroup Tasmania operates with a voluntary Board of Governance and a small permanent staffing, including a CEO, playgroup development officers and administration staff across the three regions.

Holbrook St Upgrade Project

Current Context

Playgroup Tasmania is fortunate to own property at Holbrook St, Invermay. The building currently serves as the organisations head office where the CEO, organisation administration and northern region playgroup development functions are located. In addition to office space, the property includes a multi-use hall space with basic kitchen and bathroom facilities and storage space.

Holbrook St, Invermay is a Launceston city fringe location - a residential/commercial zone, with good public transport access and direct access to the upcoming UTAS precinct. Invermay does not currently have the type of community infrastructure that other surrounding areas do eg Child and Family Centres and Neighbourhood/Community Houses. However, data shows there are vulnerable people, including children and families, living in the direct area.

*Census 2016 data shows 647 families resided in **Invermay**. 28% of these were one parent families. The employment status of parents in couple families reports 21.7% both parents not working.*

2018 AEDC data for **Invermay** show that 11.5% of children are vulnerable on two or more domains, and over 19% are at risk on the emotional and communication domains.

Playgroup Tasmania's Holbrook St venue provides a safe space for families to connect and engage. Each week around 50 families with young children are accessing volunteer led and supported programs hosted at the venue, including:

- PlayConnect – a supported playgroup facilitated by Playgroup Tasmania aimed at supporting families with children with Autism-like characteristics.
- Child Health and Parenting Service – New Parents group
- Save the Children's – It Takes a Village
- Multiple Birth Association Tasmania - Playgroup
- Multiple community playgroups – including weekends playgroup and Dad's groups.

The hall is also available for weekend hire for community groups and provides a low cost option for families wishing to host birthday parties which provides a small income stream for the organisation. We currently provide low cost weekend hire each month to Legonauts, a friendship group for children with Autism aged 6-14.

Opportunity for to better support capacity building and increasing social capital

Playgroup Tasmania recognises there is additional capacity for the Holbrook St property to be accessed by more families and the broader community. We believe the key reasons for this are the condition of the building and the **lack of appropriate facilities including ambulant toilets**. Prime Design have created a master plan - we are now seeking funding to support the capital works required.

The internal spaces – office, hall, kitchen and bathroom areas – are tired, impractical and would benefit from a refresh to create a bright and appealing environment that is accessible for all. The building is also very difficult to **heat effectively and efficiently**.

A rejuvenated space will also enable capacity to offer the space to other programs for children with disabilities or families with additional needs where a safe, fenced indoor/outdoor space is required to support the participation of children and families. Additionally, improvements in the space will make the property **more accessible to children and parents with disabilities**.

The transformation of the Playgroup Tasmania property will enable a **centre of excellence approach** for playgroup practices and parent/child engagement – a **hub for education and training**, based on the principles of playgroup – **peer support, role modelling and capacity building** - can be delivered to playgroup and early childhood leaders as well as parents and care givers.

Community Playgroups are led by parents and carers in their communities who give up their time each week creating supportive environments for families and children to come together for play and social

connectedness. Recent **consultation with the playgroup leaders identified a strong desire to be equipped with additional skills and knowledge** to better serve their playgroup community.

Playgroup Tasmania also has strong ties to other organisations who deliver supported playgroup sessions including neighbourhood and community houses, schools and other NGOs – through recent stakeholder engagement activities, these **partners have indicated their interest in participating in Playgroup Tasmania training** and growing their playgroup knowledge and skills.


The revitalisation of the Holbrook St property will enable Playgroup Tasmania to **better support families and the broader community** – supporting family connections, strengthening communities and fostering learning through play for all children.











E info@playgrouptas.org.au
T 1800 171 882
F 03 6331 6634
W www.playgrouptas.org.au

