



2023 - 2024

# ANNUAL REPORT



Empowering Communities

**Empowering Communities, One Connection at a Time**





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**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we work and pay our respects to Indigenous Elders past, present and emerging.**

# Our Mission

## Vision & Values



### Mission

To achieve our vision we work with our community and partners to provide evidence, informed early intervention and advocacy services that promote the safety and wellbeing of children and families



### Vision

Our ultimate goal is a safe and well connected community for children and families.



### Values

Our core values underpin and inspire the day-to-day behaviours of everyone who works at BFCC

#### **Child Centred and Family Focused**

Our service response is focused on the long term health, safety and wellbeing of children, family relationships & community belonging.

#### **Integrity**

We are honest, open, ethical & fair in everything we do.

#### **Outcome Focused**

We deliver accredited, proven-successful family and children's services that are based on evidence.

#### **Accountable**

We are each responsible for delivering our commitments.

#### **Responsive**

We listen and respect our clients, are open to new ideas and ways of working and seek information to meet community needs.

#### **Value Diversity**

We deliver culturally competent services and ensure inclusive practices for clients and staff.

#### **Collaborative**

We seek our opportunities to work with individuals, families, communities, service providers & other stakeholders to deliver the best outcomes for our clients.



## Report from the Chair

### Key Accomplishments and Vision for the Future

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As the Chairperson of Botany Family and Children's Centre I am privileged to have played a small role in the Centre's activities during 2024. It is a true honour to be associated with such a wonderful team of professionals who have demonstrated their unwavering support for BFCC and ongoing dedication to children and families in Botany and Randwick. The BFCC team, under the leadership and guidance of our Centre Manager, Rachael Atkins, have worked together to ensure BFCC services are evidence informed, client centered and focused on positive outcomes for local families.

BFCC endured a number of challenges during 2024 with the real possibility of losing our fabulous child friendly cottage and possibly having to change the BFCC service model. Thanks to Rachael, who courageously led the BFCC campaign to keep our Centre and the support from our amazing staff and clients, BFCC is able to continue to provide family- focused child-friendly services in our Banksia Street cottage in Botany.

This would not have been possible without support and significant contributions from Bayside City Council, Councillor Christine Curry, Matt Thistlewaite and probono legal services from Holding Redlich. On behalf of the BFCC Management Committee I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for this support and contribution in ensuring BFCC is able to continue support children and families from our base in Botany.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the BFCC Management Committee members who volunteer their time and expertise to support BFCC staff to continue to provide quality services. The BFCC Management Committee has committed to, and look forward to achieving, four strategic results in 2025 that involve enhancing BFCC

- partnerships
- service excellence
- financial base
- policy library

On behalf of BFCC Management Committee I commend BFCC Management and staff for all their hard work and great results in 2024 and look forward to an equally positive and productive 2025.

**Janelle Chapman**  
**Chairperson**  
**BFCC Management Committee**



# Managers Report

## Operational Excellence: Major Achievements and Highlights

The Vision of Botany Family & Children's Centre (BFCC) shines brightly as we proudly celebrate 45 years of service. For over forty years, we have become a trusted and safe haven for locals and beyond. Offering support to individuals from all corners of the community, fostering a true sense of belonging and inclusion. This milestone highlights the profound strength and enduring spirit within our community. **45 Years Strong reflects the unwavering commitment of those who have worked with determination to inspire change and create a lasting impact.**

Botany Family & Children's Centre has grown into a vibrant space, welcoming hundreds of people each year and offering essential services in parenting, supported playgroups, counselling, case work, advocacy and referral. A true 'wraparound' service, offering families a soft entry point through playgroup, often transitioning to ongoing parenting support and onto the counselling space. Over the past 12 months, 14 families and children have been referred from playgroup to our Family Support Specialist for counselling and therapeutic assistance.

2024 proved to be an unprecedented year for the Botany Family & Children's Centre. In May, we were shocked to learn the unsettling news that our premises was being sold, creating the very real prospect that we may be forced to leave. This was a pivotal moment for our service, igniting uncertainty and widespread concern throughout the community.

Once the initial shock wore off it was clear we needed to take action. With a strong commitment to protecting the essence of our service, we rallied behind a powerful new message: Save Our Service. Calling upon everyone; our partners, current and past community members, key stakeholders, local businesses, we asked them all to share their personal stories of how BFCC has made a difference in their lives.

The overwhelming response served as a powerful reminder of the strong bond between BFCC and the community we serve. These voices became the catalyst for our campaign, reaffirming the critical role we play in supporting families and children and ensuring the continuation of our mission. Together, we transformed a moment of challenge into an opportunity into a powerful opportunity to reaffirm our worth and advocate for the future of BFCC.

We continued our campaign until the very moment the premises was scheduled to be sold. In the final days, the collective power of the community prevailed, Bayside Council stepped in to purchase the building, allowing us to remain and continue our vital work.

**A heartfelt thank you goes out to our community members who rallied behind us during this incredibly challenging time. Your commitment to sharing your personal stories and experiences played a crucial role in saving our service, and we deeply appreciate your support.**

This successful and far-reaching outcome benefits the entire community, allowing BFCC to remain an integral and cherished part of the Botany landscape.





## Managers Report

### Operational Excellence: Major Achievements and Highlights

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**Strengthening a Dedicated Professional Network** – Through participation in various forums, working parties, advisory committees, BFCC actively contributes to a network of professionals who share a common dedication to the well-being and development of children and families. This collaborative work is fundamental in the creation of a supportive and interconnected community. BFCC active involvement in this event underscores its solid commitment to enhancing the welfare of children and families while fostering meaningful collaboration among professionals.

**Our Commitment to Sustained Engagement** – BFCC is committed to fostering ongoing connections and building partnerships. This commitment is vital for sustaining and deepening the strong, positive relationships we've cultivated with other organisations within the local government area. It also offers our centre valuable opportunities to exchange insights and knowledge with other organisations, promoting a dynamic flow of information and collaboration.

**Fostering Student Education & Development** – In the past 12 months, BFCC has had the privilege of welcoming students pursuing their Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. As part of their studies, students are required to complete community placements over several weeks. With placement opportunities becoming increasingly scarce, BFCC plays a crucial role in our partnership with local TAFEs, ensuring students are provided with valuable community-based learning experiences. Moreover, having students as part of the Botany team provides an enriching experience for both staff and students.

**Governance** – At BFCC, one of our primary areas of focus is organisational governance. In the past 12 months, we have successfully recruited highly skilled and experienced individuals to our Management Committee. These members bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in specialised fields, which directly contributes to advancing and supporting the organisation's goals and overall mission.

**Risk Management and Policy Review** have been central to our focus this year, ensuring that BFCC continues to meet all legislative and contractual requirements. Throughout the year, we have proactively identified potential risks and developed comprehensive policies to mitigate them, reinforcing our commitment to a strong, compliant, and sustainable framework.

**Out and About in Our Community** – The Happy & Healthy Mobile Playvan has been traveling to local schools and Community Hubs to offer our vibrant playgroups. This ongoing outreach program creates expanded opportunities for children and their parents/carers to engage in a familiar and welcoming environment within their own community. By fostering social connections, it helps to reduce feelings of isolation and builds a stronger sense of belonging.

**Continuous Improvement & Innovation** – BFCC regularly reviews and adapts our programs to address evolving community needs, continually striving to provide meaningful support to those accessing our services. Evidence-based programs ensure we provide high-quality services supported by research and proven benefits for participants. BFCC takes pride in the significant number of families and children engaging in our diverse family support programs, as well as the positive changes we witness

## Managers Report

### Operational Excellence: Major Achievements and Highlights

Thank you to our Management Committee members for their leadership, time and unwavering commitment. Your dedication to ensuring our systems and processes run smoothly has gone above and beyond expectations, and we are truly grateful for your continued support and guidance. Your contribution has helped create a unique community space that we can all be proud of.

To our wonderful volunteers, we are truly grateful for your dedication and the time you give. You enrich our daily working lives and have a profound impact on our centre. Thank you for being such an essential part of the Botany Team. You make a difference!"

A heartfelt thank you to the exceptional team I have the privilege of working with. Their commitment, passion, and dedication inspire not only me but also one another, fostering an environment where we all continuously grow and strive for excellence.

Finally, I would like to thank our funders and supporters for their support and the resources they provide, enabling us to make a meaningful difference in our local community.

As BFCC celebrates 45 years of service, we reflect on the incredible journey we have shared and the positive impact we have made in our community. As we embark on the next chapter, we are excited about the opportunities for growth, strengthened partnerships, and collaboration, working together to create lasting change and make a meaningful difference.

**Rachael Atkins**  
Manager



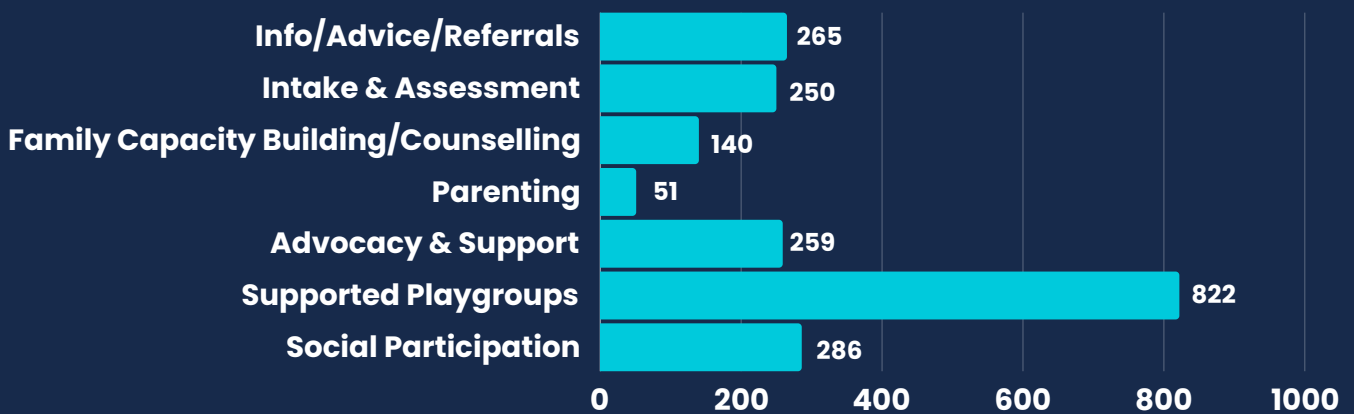
**In a community, the true strength comes from the bonds we form,  
the support we give, and the change we create together**

# OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

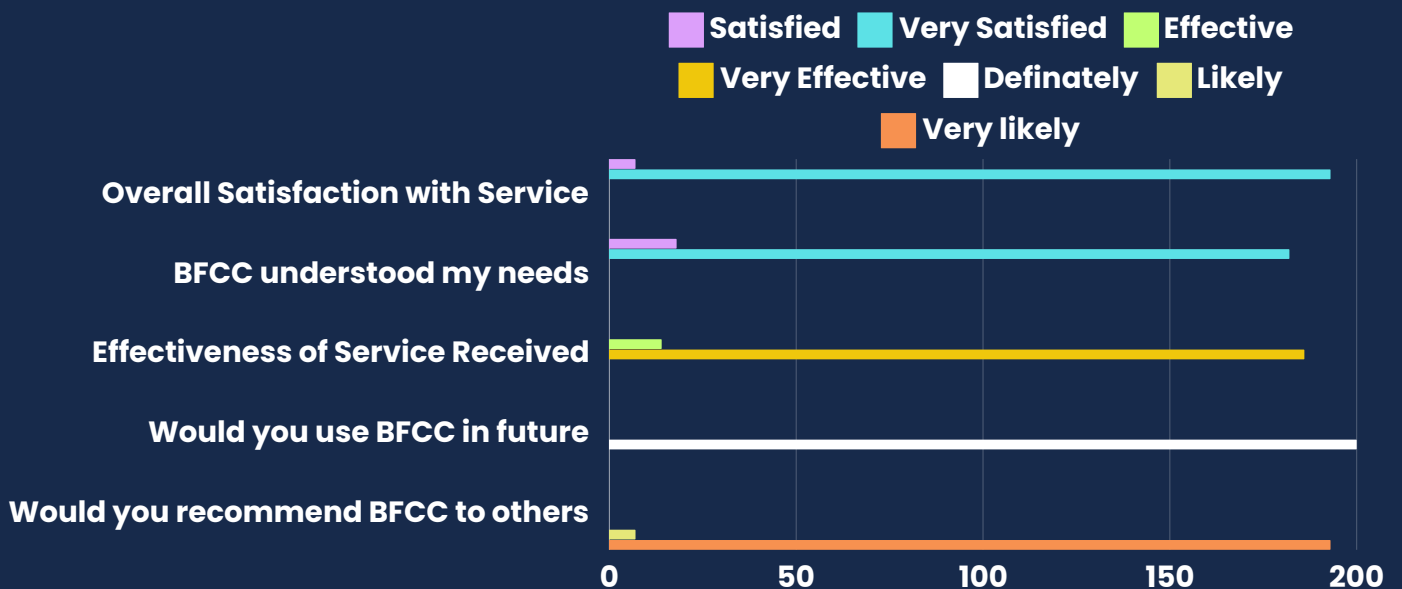
## BFCC Building Stronger Communities through Support



### DCJ Program Activities - Client Engagement



### Client Satisfaction Feedback in Focus - 200 Clients Surveyed



## Family Support Specialist Services

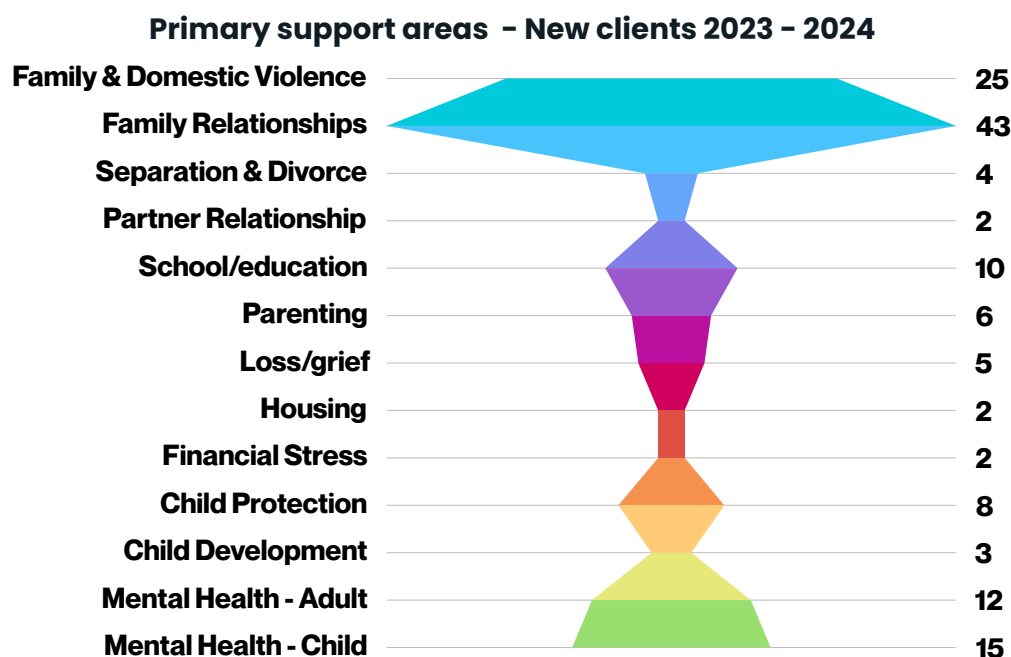
The Botany Family and Children’s Centre (BFCC) is committed to creating a safe, stable, and nurturing environment where individuals and families feel supported and comfortable discussing their life challenges. Our centre is a trusted space where the community can seek guidance and solutions with confidence.

As the Family Support Specialist at the Botany Family and Children’s Centre (BFCC), my role encompasses various responsibilities aimed at empowering and supporting our clients. I provide advocacy, casework, and comprehensive case management to address diverse needs. Additionally, I offer therapeutic counseling tailored to individual and family situations, incorporating approaches such as systemic therapy, relationship therapy, sandplay therapy, and existential therapy.

At BFCC, we are fortunate to work from a welcoming cottage setting, offering our clients a non-clinical space to navigate and process their experiences. Many of our clients come to us with profound and diverse challenges, including family-of-origin traumas, family and domestic violence, or systemic abuses they have endured. Some carry the intergenerational impact of trauma, such as parents who have fled war-torn countries. The psychological and emotional complexities our clients face highlight the depth of support needed for both them and their families, which we strive to provide with care and understanding.

Through my years of experience as a therapist, I have come to recognize the pivotal role of the relationship between therapist and client. Trust serves as a cornerstone in this relationship, fostering an environment where integrity and dignity can flourish, enabling clients to reclaim their autonomy and take responsibility for their own growth. Building a strong interpersonal connection takes time, but it creates a powerful opportunity for intrapersonal exploration. In this space, clients can reflect on their own histories, gain deeper self-awareness, and make meaningful decisions to shape a brighter future for themselves and their families.

At BFCC, we take pride in sharing resources that not only benefit our clients but also support other agencies within the Randwick and Bayside local government areas. By collaborating and exchanging knowledge, we aim to strengthen the entire community network.





## Family Support Overview

Feedback from our clients highlights the value of these shared resources, which often help them gain new perspectives about themselves and better understand the emotional and psychological challenges they are experiencing.

We work with a diverse range of clients, and I have had the privilege of receiving valuable feedback from many of them this year. Here are some of the comments and feedback shared over the past year.

- *Thank you so much. You have helped me tremendously (AT)*
- *I rang to get an appointment and I was fortunate enough that Susanne had some time to talk with me regarding an issue I was so stressed about. By the end of the conversation I was relieved, felt so much better (MR)*
- *Coming into BFCC has helped me make sense of my life (WZ)*
- *I feel like a big pair of arms wrap around me, there is a sense of peace coming into this place (LB)*

Our local community is navigating increasingly complex challenges, including the rising cost of living, housing pressures, and employment uncertainties. These factors significantly impact the emotional and psychological well-being of families. At BFCC, we have structured systems in place to provide support, offering relief from the immediate anxieties and uncertainties of both the present and the future.

At BFCC, ensuring the well-being of our clients is our priority. When client needs extend beyond the scope of our services, we promptly refer them to the appropriate agencies best equipped to provide the necessary support. This collaborative approach ensures our clients receive comprehensive care tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

We remain committed to supporting you and our community and we remain dedicated to providing compassionate and meaningful support. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your journey.

**Susanne Zapatero**  
**Family Support Specialist**



The essence of therapy is not in giving answers, but in creating a safe space where you can reflect, ask questions and tap into your own strength and clarity.



# Randwick & Botany Supported Playgroup Service



The meaningful connections children and families create in playgroups can last for years or even a lifetime



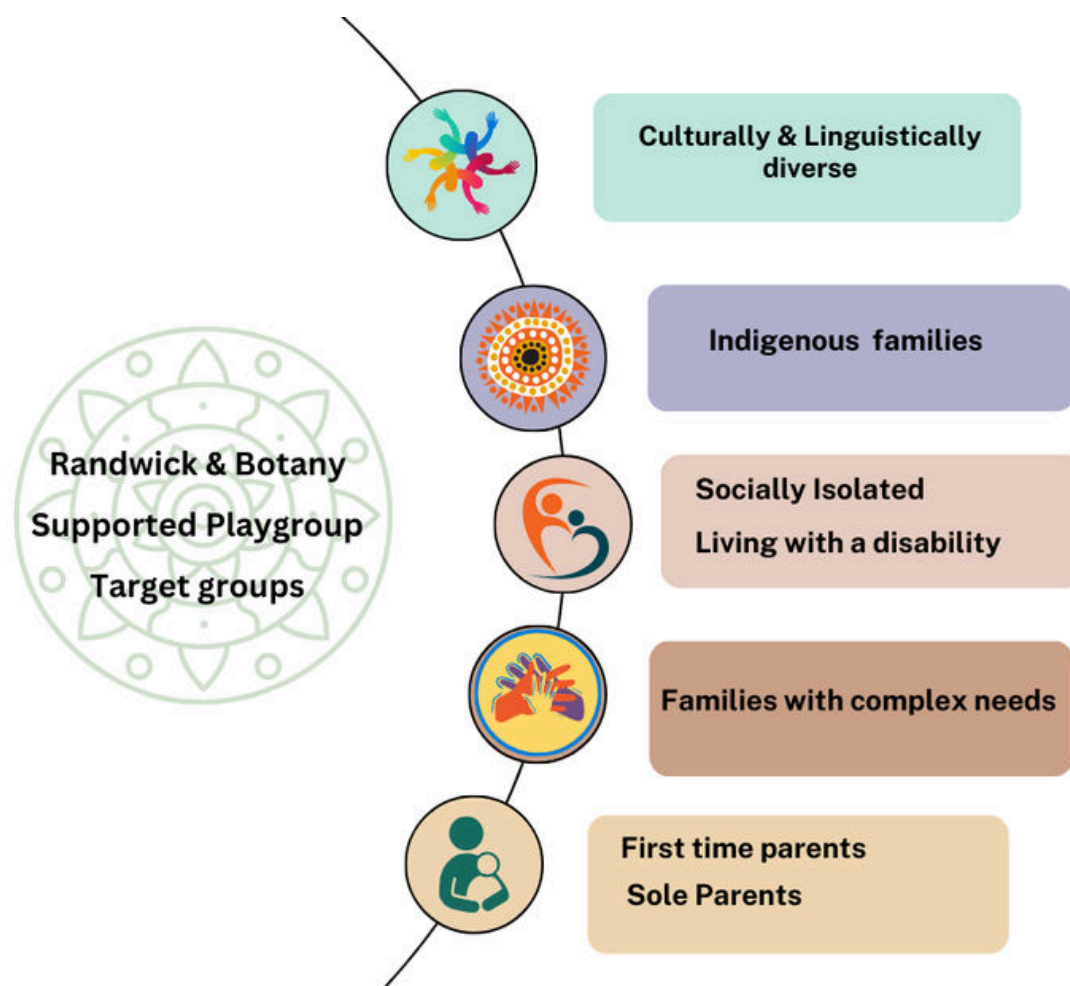
## The Randwick & Botany Supported Playgroup Service

The Randwick & Botany Supported Playgroup Service (RBSPS) offers **six weekly supported playgroups**, operating in-house and in outreach partnerships with local schools and community centres.

At the Botany Family and Children's Centre (BFCC), our playgroups are led by highly qualified Early Childhood Educators with extensive experience who are also trained parenting educators and coaches. This expertise is essential for delivering engaging, impactful playgroup sessions that foster a strong sense of belonging among families.

The demand for our playgroups has surged with the closure of other groups in the area, emphasising the vital role these sessions play in supporting families and young children. At BFCC, we focus on improving outcomes for families, especially those with complex needs, by catering to target groups and building meaningful connections that benefit both parents and children.

At Botany family and children's centre we aim to improve outcomes for the families with complex needs by focusing on the following **target groups**:



# The Randwick & Botany Supported Playgroup Service

## Mission to Thrive: Nurturing Growth, Connection, and Community

Our mission is to foster a sense of community and provide enriching educational opportunities that support children's growth and actively involve parents in the process.

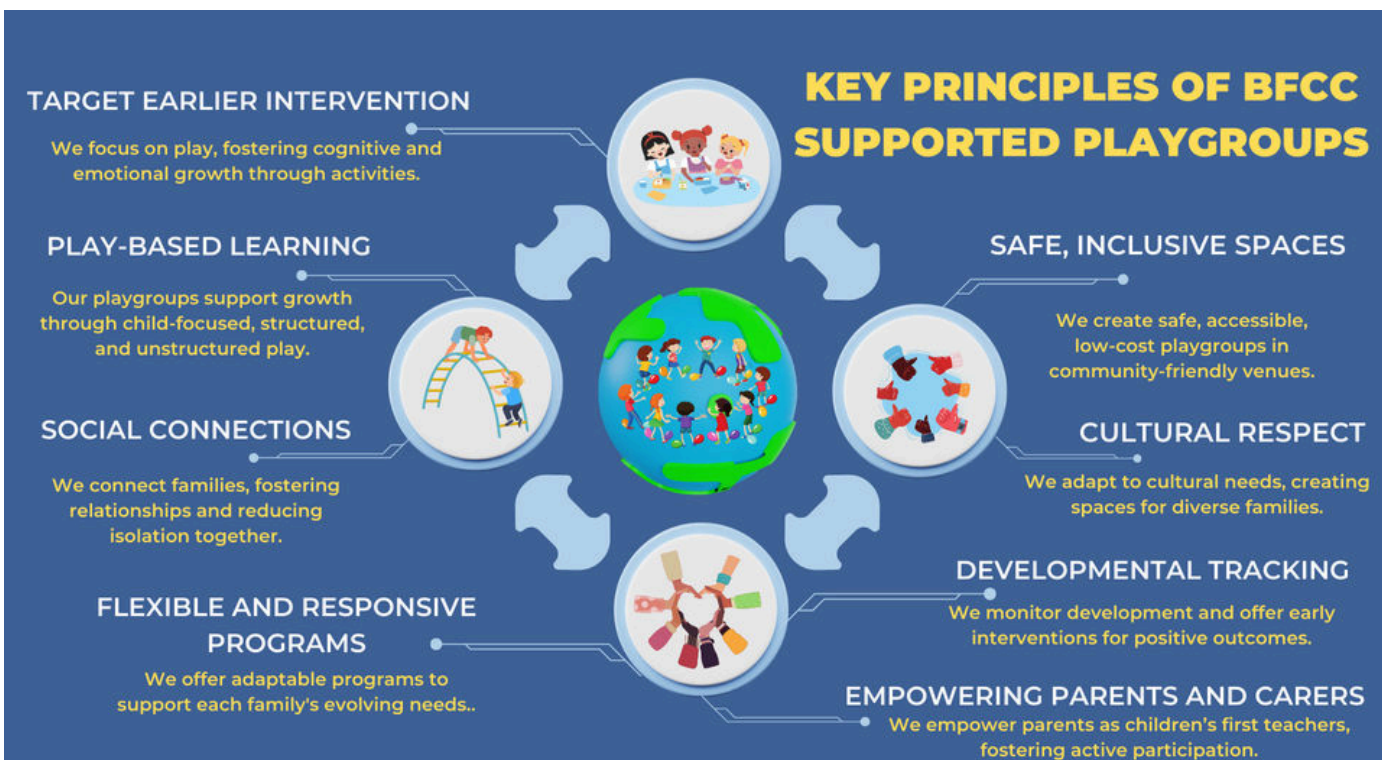
At BFCC, we create a nurturing and inclusive environment where families can connect, learn, and grow together. We are committed to delivering playgroup programs Guided by proven, evidence-based practices. By prioritising flexibility and inclusivity, we create experiences that respond to the diverse needs of our community, while also addressing the unique needs of individual families.

Our programs are informed by research, including the Australian Early Development Census (2021), which highlights the significant benefits of playgroup participation. According to the data, children who attend playgroups enter school with stronger social, emotional, and cognitive skills. This evidence reinforces our dedication to programs that enhance these developmental outcomes, setting children up for success as they transition into formal education.

At BFCC, we go beyond supporting child development by emphasising the importance of parent engagement. Our programs aim to empower caregivers with practical tools and knowledge to better support their children's learning journey, strengthening family bonds and fostering a shared sense of belonging.

To ensure our programs are accessible to all, we collaborate closely with local schools and community organisations. These partnerships allow us to offer playgroups in familiar, welcoming settings that bridge the gap between early childhood experiences and formal schooling. By hosting playgroups in school environments, we provide children with enjoyable learning experiences, helping them develop a positive association with school and easing their transition into the classroom.

Through this holistic approach, BFCC remains dedicated to supporting families, enhancing child development, and building a strong sense of community, ensuring that every child has the opportunity and right to thrive.



## Supported Playgroup - Highlights and Achievements

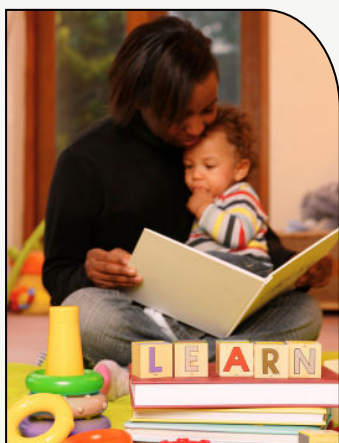


### Developmental Tracking and Early Intervention:

Each week, our facilitators observe and track children's progress in areas such as language, social skills, and motor development. For example, in one playgroup, a facilitator noticed a two-year-old who struggled with speech and suggested early intervention. After discussions with the parent, we connected them to a local speech therapist, and within a few months, the child began making significant strides in communication, helping them feel more included and engaged in playgroup activities.

### School Partnerships:

Our collaboration with local schools, such as Daceyville Public School and Matraville Soldier Settlement Public School, along with attached preschools, plays a vital role in supporting smooth transitions for children entering formal education. For example, older kindergarten students from these schools often join playgroup sessions to read to younger children, fostering a sense of connection and excitement about school. In return, playgroup children are invited to visit both the school library and attached preschools, creating fun and familiar experiences that ease potential anxieties about starting school. These visits help children feel more comfortable and confident, making the transition to preschool and school an enjoyable, supported journey.



### Enhanced Social Connections

Recognizing the challenges of parental isolation, our facilitators encourage parents to form social connections outside of playgroup. For example, a group of parents from one playgroup began meeting at a local park each week after discovering they shared common interests and lived nearby. This small support network has now grown into a broader community where parents support each other with advice, playdates, and social gatherings, helping reduce feelings of loneliness.



### Resource Accessibility:

Through our strong community partnerships, we provide parents with valuable resources on topics such as child development, health, and local services. For example, one single parent new to the area was feeling overwhelmed with finding support for her toddler. Our facilitators stepped in to provide her with tailored information on local health clinics, child-friendly activities, and early childhood education centres, helping her feel more informed and confident as she settled into the community. For families who may be moving out of the area or relocating overseas, we offer additional support, such as connecting them with resources in their new locations, guidance on early childhood programs abroad, and tips for maintaining continuity in their child's development. This commitment to resource accessibility helps parents feel supported through transitions, ensuring they remain connected to essential services, wherever they may go.





## Engagement and Growth

The program has seen strong and steady engagement from families, many of whom continue participating in sessions for months or even years, adapting the playgroup experience as their children grow from infants to preschoolers.

This **long-term involvement** highlights the high-quality content and supportive environment that families value as a consistent resource throughout the early years of childhood development. **Many families had no access to early childhood settings prior to joining the program**, and the playgroup sessions have provided an essential entry point to early education and community support.

Additionally, families often benefit from accessing multiple playgroup sessions across different locations or with varied focus areas (e.g., music, movement, or art-based playgroups). This variety allows parents to better match activities to their child's growing interests and developmental needs. By participating in multiple playgroups, families can:

### **Diversify Their Child's Learning Experiences**

Participating in various playgroups exposes children to diverse activities and social interactions, fostering the development of cognitive, social, language, and motor skills throughout all stages of early childhood.

### **Expanding Support Network**

Engaging in multiple playgroups allows parents to build connections within a wider community, expanding their support network. For instance, families can form relationships with other parents across different playgroups, fostering a deeper exchange of experiences, advice, and friendships

### **Reinforce Consistent Developmental Themes**

Children benefit from repeated exposure to similar activities across different playgroups, reinforcing key developmental themes such as sensory exploration, collaborative play, and early communication skills. These consistent experiences help children feel confident and engaged in diverse settings.

The flexibility and variety offered by accessing multiple playgroups enhance the experience for both parents and children, **keeping sessions engaging, relevant, and beneficial** over time. This extended and diverse engagement is a key reason why the playgroup program enjoys **high retention rates and positive word-of-mouth** recommendations among families in the community.

While each playgroup is tailored to meet the unique needs of its community, the core mission of Botany Family and Children's Centre is to improve outcomes for families, especially those facing complex challenges. By empowering parents, nurturing children's development, and supporting the creation of sustainable community resources, we play an active role in fostering the growth and resilience of the families we serve

**Playgroups build strong foundations  
&  
foster growth and development**



**The Transition to School Program** is designed for children aged 3.5 to 5 years and focuses on supporting their transition to school. It emphasizes creating a unique journey for each child as they start their early educational experience. The program is structured to nurture the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of the children through various activities, fostering independence and creativity.

### **Benefits of Transition to School Programs**

Transition to School (TTS) playgroups provide young children with a smooth and supportive introduction to school life, allowing them to familiarize themselves with school routines, form new friendships, and develop important skills in a nurturing environment before they begin kindergarten.

The Australian Department of Education, “early learning programs help children develop important skills such as communication, socialization, and emotional regulation,” all of which make the jump to school smoother (Department of Education, 2020).

Through play-based activities, children learn how to share, take turns, follow instructions, and interact with others in a group—skills that will serve them well in the classroom. Research backs up this approach: a study by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) found that “children who attended preschool or early childhood education programs showed higher levels of social competence and better academic outcomes once they started school” (ACER, 2019).<sup>1</sup>

Evidence shows, children who take part in TTS programs are more likely to adjust quickly to school life, feeling confident and ready to take on new challenges. By offering a gentle introduction to the school environment, TTS programs lay a strong foundation for both emotional and academic success.

## BFCC – Transition to School Program

The playgroup plays a vital role in connecting home and school settings, focusing on the following core objectives

**Promotes Independence and Communication Skills:** It provides children with the confidence to express themselves and interact with others, which are essential skills for starting school.

**Inclusive and Responsive Environment:** The program promotes an environment where children can express autonomy while feeling supported, enhancing their self-reliance.

**Understanding School Routines:** It helps children become familiar with the typical routines and practices of a school day, making the eventual transition smoother.

**Adaptation and Application:** Children learn to transfer skills they gain from one context to another, ensuring a well-rounded development.

**Fostering Social Connections:** The program also encourages social bonding among children and provides a support network for families, reinforcing the importance of community.

**Support Networks:** To facilitate the formation of support networks for participating families, encouraging peer support and social connections external to the playgroup.

**Respect for Diversity:** To create an inclusive environment that respects and celebrates diversity and difference, ensure that all children and families feel valued, supported and welcomed.



### Parent & Child: Laura & Robyn, 3 years

Robyn has loved it so far. The structure (Play, Eat, Learn) is great for the kids and Robyn loves going in the Learning Room to learn at the end of the morning.

### Parent & Child: Ivone & Elora, 4 years

We have been coming to BFCC for years now and couldn't recommend them enough, love the outdoor and indoor areas. Love how every facilitators and educator are very caring, knowledgeable and supportive.

### Parent & Child: Jose & Josefina, 4 years

It offers us a safe space and a very fun space to share, where Josefina has been learning to socialise, share, and express emotion. It's an experience we look forward to each week.

### Parent & Child: Lara & Eliza, 4 years

I have been attending playgroup with my daughter Eliza for most of 2024. Eliza loves coming. She especially loves the story time. Always a great set up of activities.

### Parent & Child: Jacqueline & Harrison/Georgia, 4 & 3 years

Playgroup has become part of our weekly routine and allows the kids to socialise with the same children regularly, fostering their first friendships.



## Transition to School Program

### Positive Outcomes and Community Connections:

A mum of four has been bringing all her children to the playgroup over the years. Even after moving out of the area last year, she chose to continue bringing her youngest daughter. This shows the lasting impact the program has had on her family. With three of her children now in school, she has observed that her youngest daughter is thriving in the nurturing environment of the playgroup, developing essential skills that prepare her for the transition to school. The mother appreciates how the program has fostered her children's independence and social connections, reinforcing the value of community and support in their educational journeys.

When E first started the Transition to School playgroup, it was tough for her to separate from her mum. At first, she didn't even want to go into the classroom and would stay outside. Gradually, she started joining the class for just 10 minutes, then eventually worked up to staying for the full 20-minute session. During that time, she'd learn a new letter, practice writing her name, take part in group activities, and watch a short video.

The educators worked closely with both E and her mum to make the transition smoother. The educator was always there to reassure E, offering plenty of encouragement and making sure she felt safe and supported. At the same time, the educators kept in close touch with E's mum, giving advice and tips to help manage the separation at home and keep things consistent between the playgroup and home.

By the end of the year, E had made amazing progress. She was much more relaxed in the classroom, happily joining in activities and even looking forward to each session. With the support of her mum and the guidance of her educators, E had gained the confidence she needed to step into school feeling excited and ready for the next adventure.



### Wrap-up

The Transition to School Playgroup offers a comprehensive early learning experience for children aged 3 to 5 years, focusing on free play, practical life skills, and structured classroom learning. It provides a nurturing and inclusive environment that fosters independence, creativity, and social skills, which are all vital for the successful transition to school. The program also supports families by helping children adjust to new routines while building a foundation for lifelong learning.

# School-Based Playgroups Daceyville and Soldiers Settlement

## A Vibrant Hub for Families

Every **Monday and Wednesday**, the **halls of Daceyville and Soldiers' Settlement Public Schools**, come alive with the joyful sounds of children and caregivers at our outreach **playgroup**. These **school-based playgroups** offer consistent, accessible platforms for local families, fostering community connections and enriching the lives of children and their caregivers through play-based learning and shared experiences.

### Building Connections Across Generations

Regular participation from dads, **grandparents**, and **extended family** at the playgroups creates **a multigenerational environment** that strengthens bonds and provides children with diverse role models. This collaborative spirit enriches the experience for everyone involved, reinforcing a strong sense of community and shared purpose.

### Partnerships with Local Schools

Our collaboration with **Daceyville Public School** aligns the playgroup program with local education. **Every Monday**, students from **Year 3 and Year 4** join the playgroup to engage in activities such as **reading to the younger children**, helping them **develop leadership while offering playgroup children valuable literacy and social experiences**.

**Soldiers' Settlement Public School** provides a nurturing environment for children aged 0-5 and their caregivers. Through structured and **play-based activities**, we foster all areas of child development, from social and emotional growth to language and motor skills. **With access to the school's hall and a beautiful outdoor area and exploration garden**, we offer children a safe space to play, learn, and explore in a supportive environment.

Each week, we typically welcome 10-16 children. Our playgroup continues to be a wonderfully **culturally inclusive space**, including families from **Indigenous backgrounds** as well as countries such as **Chile, Portugal, France, Ireland, Indonesia and China**. This cultural diversity is reflected in our activities, fostering a community where all families feel seen, respected, and celebrated.

Our continued **collaboration** with Soldiers' Settlement Public School and the nearby **Soldiers' Settlement Pre-School** has further enriched the playgroup experience this year. Through reciprocal visits, playgroup families are introduced to the preschool's environment and staff, helping both children and caregivers become familiar with early learning settings. This partnership has cultivated a strong sense of community, highlighting the value of collaborative education in shaping successful learning pathways





# School-Based Playgroups

## Daceyville and Soldiers' Settlement

### Fostering Inclusivity and Enrichment


Both playgroups are committed to supporting the well-being and development of parents and children. Our focus on inclusivity ensures that all families feel welcome and supported in environments that encourage learning, exploration, and connection. Through structured and play-based activities, we nurture children's growth while enhancing parental confidence and strengthening parent-child relationships.

### Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Sally Ann Mullane, Principal of Daceyville** Public School, **Polly Palaitis, Principal of Soldiers' Settlement** Public School, and **Elizabeth Wulff, Principal of Soldiers' Settlement Pre-School**. Their unwavering support and commitment to creating inclusive, collaborative environments have been key to the success and growth of our playgroups.

### As we move forward

As we reflect on the past year, we celebrate the connections, learning, and growth achieved within our playgroups. With a continued focus on inclusivity and educational enrichment, we look forward to building on this foundation in the coming year, ensuring that both Daceyville and Soldiers' Settlement Playgroups remain essential resources for our vibrant, diverse community.



#### Parent & Child: Paulina & Lucas, 2 years

These playgroups available to our community have been such an important part of my son's development. He loves everyday here, catching up with friends, playing with different toys/activities, seeing his teachers. Such a warm welcoming environment that is as important to all the mums as well as the kids. As well as the service available like counselling, it truly is a much cherished service available to families. Best playgroup in all the Eastern Suburbs. (Soldiers Settlement PG)

#### Parent & Child: Alex & Harrison, 2 years

We have been attending these playgroups for over a year now and love all the variety it provides. Every week there are new learning stations that are engaging and have new challenges for them.

This playgroup also provides an opportunity to socialise with other parents and staff which is important as otherwise it can be quite isolating. Staff are wonderful and professional. (Soldiers Settlement PG)

#### Parent & Child: Diana & Elodie, 2.5 years

Such a wonderful playgroup with lots of toys and activities to keep children busy. Great parent support too and lovely to be able to connect with others. Such a bonus with the lovely morning tea too. Staff are absolutely wonderful. (Soldiers Settlement PG)

#### Parent & Child: Vicky & Jeremy, 22 months

We are from Indonesia. We have been joining this playgroup for 10 months. We love being here. My son learned to socialize with other kids here. They always rotate the toys, my son gets various stimulation, The environment is great. We are happy to meet other parents and kids from other countries. We believe that by coming to this playgroup it will help us to prepare our son for school in the next few years. (Daceyville PG)

## Botany Community Playgroup

The **Botany Community Playgroup** is known for its inclusive and nurturing environment. For over 40 years, it has been a beloved **cornerstone of the Botany community**, offering a space where families can connect and grow together. Word of mouth results in regular attendance of **25 – 33 families each week**, with many families expressing that our playgroup stands out as one of the best in the area.

Every Thursday morning, families gather at our centre on Banksia Street for playgroup sessions. These sessions are thoughtfully organised by our facilitators to meet the developmental needs of each child. Our **purpose-built backyard** and excellent indoor facilities **provide a safe, engaging space for children** to grow across social, emotional, and physical areas of development. Each session includes play and learning activities tailored to different developmental needs, group time with songs and stories to foster group engagement and a nutritious morning tea.

Creating an **inclusive, welcoming and supportive space** for parents and caregivers is **a core value of our service**. The playgroup provides a welcoming and safe atmosphere where parents can connect socially, forge meaningful relationships, and expand their support networks. This environment encourages open discussions and allows parents and caregivers to seek advice from our facilitators on parenting topics or receive referrals to essential health and support services.

Over the past year, **we celebrated numerous community events** that fostered inclusion and belonging. **RUOK Day** promoted mental health awareness and community support, Mother's Day, Father's Day and **Grandparents Day**, celebrated family engagement and intergenerational bonding, and **Book Week** and **Science Week** inspired a love for learning through literature and science-focused activities. These celebrations have deepened the sense of community within our playgroup, highlighting our commitment to inclusivity and holistic development.

The **deep passion and strong connection the community** has for this playgroup became abundantly clear during the challenging period when our property was put up for sale. During this time, **we were humbled by the overwhelming support** we received from both families and the wider community. Many rallied around our service, offering assistance and **voicing their dedication to preserving the playgroup** as a vital part of Botany. This outpouring of support reinforced our determination to continue providing a meaningful space for families and children. It also highlighted the essential role our playgroup plays in the community and the collective efforts that ensure its continued success.

As we move forward, the Botany Community Supported Playgroup remains dedicated to its mission of supporting families, celebrating diversity, and building a positive and enriching environment. With ongoing community support, we are confident the playgroup will continue to thrive and serve as a reliable resource for families in Botany and beyond for years to come.







## Community Reflections

### Parent & Child: Yiling & Elizabeth 2 years

The playgroups have been the best thing that has happened for the community. It has a wide variety of activities to encourage children's creativity. It also helps children develop social skills, especially when they haven't enrolled in daycare or are the only child. The educators are great in engaging the children and we love group time. The location is convenient, and the use of school halls allows for a larger number of families to participate. We would love for playgroup to keep going for many more years to come.

### Parent & Child: Jodie & Amelia, 22 months

Playgroup has been fantastic for Amelia. She loves being here weekly on Thursdays and Fridays. We love the range of toys and interactive activities. The structure of singing songs and having morning tea is nice. Amelia loves getting up singing and dancing. The hardest part is leaving as Amelia wants to stay here all day. Educators are very open and friendly. They provide a warm, grounding, safe space. We love it and are happy we can go there.

### Parent & Child: Tatiana & Crisofer, 2 years

For me, it is a wonderful experience to come to the playgroups at Botany Family and Children Centre every day. We always find very loving, helpful, and attentive educators. They have excellent organization and creativity. Each day is a magical world of fun, surrounded by lovely toys and different play themes. My son, Christofer, is happy every day to come, socialize with all the children, and learn the English language since we speak Spanish at home. Thank you to the Botany Family and Children Centre for opening your doors to us and allowing us to have this wonderful experience.

### Parent & Child: Amara & Violet, 21 months

Botany Playgroup is a fun and happy outing for me and my daughter each week. We love the variety of toys and games, the friendly families we get to meet and the smiling faces of the educators.



## Baby Playgroups (Ages 0–3)

The Baby Playgroup Program at BFCC, designed for children ages 0–3, offers a nurturing environment that supports early childhood development, learning, and family engagement. Focusing on sensory play, early intervention, and social connection, the program has grown over the past year thanks to community support, referrals, and positive feedback from local families. This report highlights key activities, impacts, and future goals, emphasizing the crucial role of our playgroups in fostering early development and family involvement.

### Key Highlights of the Year

#### Support for First-Time and Multi-Child Families

The program offers essential support to both first-time and multi-child parents, providing tailored guidance, reassurance, and practical advice in a community-based setting.

*Example:* One mother with a toddler and newborn shared how the group helped her manage sibling interactions and engage both children with age-appropriate activities, creating a more harmonious family dynamic.

#### Early Intervention and Prevention

The playgroup incorporates regular observations and developmental check-ins, offering proactive support and tools for parents to address emerging needs.

*Example:* When a facilitator noticed a child showing signs of delayed language development, they provided simple strategies to support language growth at home, enabling the family to focus on strengthening the child's skills.

#### Referrals from Early Childhood Health Nurses

The program's growth has been fueled by referrals from early childhood health nurses and positive word-of-mouth. Health professionals see the playgroup as a valuable resource for parents seeking guidance and community.

*Example:* A newly relocated single parent was referred by a health nurse and found a supportive community that helped her settle in, offering resources and connections to ease her transition







### Key Highlights of the Year

#### Inclusion of Grandparents and Dads

Our playgroup warmly welcomes grandparents and dads, who bring unique perspectives and connections to the group. Many grandparents attend to spend quality time with their grandchildren, while dads enjoy bonding moments with their little ones in a supportive, inclusive environment.

*Example:* A grandfather who regularly attends commented on how the playgroup has been a special way to stay actively involved in his grandchild's early development. Meanwhile, one dad shared that participating in playgroup helped him connect with other fathers and feel more confident in his role as a parent.

#### Access and Inclusion

Our high-quality sessions attract families from a variety of locations, with some traveling significant distances to attend. The program's reputation for impactful, inclusive playgroup experiences has made it a preferred choice for many families across Sydney.

*Example:* One mother shared that after attending multiple playgroups closer to home, she found the unique support and high-quality activities at BFCC worth the commute. She noted that the group's positive impact on her child made the journey valuable, reinforcing her commitment to the program despite the distance.

The Baby Playgroup is a vital resource for families, especially **first-time parents**, providing a calm, engaging, and supportive environment that promotes early childhood development and community connection. Through carefully designed activities, peer support, and a nurturing atmosphere, the playgroup has consistently attracted and supported many families.



## Lexington Hub Community Playgroup

BFCC partnered with **Randwick City Council** to lead the **Lexo Hub Playgroup**, enhancing educational and social resources for local families with children aged 0-5. Running every Thursday from 10-11:30am in a warm, welcoming space where families can connect and build friendships, nurturing social bonds that support both parents and children.

The Lexo Hub Playgroup provides **play-based learning tailored to each child's developmental needs**, offering activities that promote social skills like sharing for toddlers and problem-solving for older children. These experiences help to prepare the children for future learning environments.

Serving a diverse community, the playgroup includes families from South American and Indigenous backgrounds. It honors this diversity with **culturally rich activities**, such as **traditional Indigenous stories and South American songs**, helping children connect with their heritage and explore new cultures. For example, children learn Spanish words during a storytelling session.

The Lexo Hub Playgroup exemplifies how community organizations can create lasting impact by gathering participant feedback and adapting to better serve families, proving that small, thoughtful programs can have a significant influence.



### Parent & Child: Daniela & Oliver 3 yrs / Rio 15 months

We have been coming to this playgroup literally since the day it opened. It is a fabulous safe space for my kids to come, play and develop their social skills. The work that the educators do in planning carefully for every environment to be nurturing and interesting for the kids is amazing!! Play stations are never the same, so much thought goes into it. It is also impressive how they cater for all ages as well, no kid is ever bored here. I particularly love the sensory experiences, play dough, sand, foam, rice and even little art projects for specials days like father's day, Christmas etc. We adore the fact that one of the educators speaks Spanish as it helps us keep up with the kid's bilingualism. Lexo playgroup has become a regular place as well of gathering with other Spanish speaking friends of Oli, who have a ball every Thursday, specially during morning tea and group time when they all share a little dance or a sing.

We feel very spoiled to have such a fabulous playgroup near our place with beautiful, dedicated staff running it, so thank you for brightening our Thursdays.

## Playgroup Recap and Wrap-Up

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### Lasting influence of playgroups

One of the playgroup families who relocated to Singapore maintains regular contact with their educators for ongoing parenting support. During their one-week visit in mid-August, they attended every playgroup session, strengthening their connection to the community, gaining valuable parenting insights, and supporting their transition abroad with confidence. We often see visiting relatives from overseas, accompany families to playgroup, particularly grandparents.

These outcomes reflect the enduring bonds formed within our playgroups and our ongoing commitment to providing a nurturing environment for families.

### Small Team, Big Impact

Our playgroups are led by a small, highly dedicated team of four, whose collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to quality yield outstanding results for families. Each facilitator contributes unique expertise and a hands-on approach, creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every family feels seen, valued, and empowered. This cohesive team consistently delivers impactful, high-quality outcomes, making a profound and lasting difference in the lives of both children and their families.

### Shaping the Future

To enhance our impact and continue offering enriching playgroup experiences, we are pursuing professional development for our staff, including training in music therapy, cultural responsiveness, and early intervention. This ongoing growth ensures our educators stay current with the latest research and teaching methods, enabling us to deliver high-quality, evidence-based sessions that meet the evolving needs of families.

We are also expanding our programs to offer more culturally responsive options, with a focus on creating opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. By fostering cultural safety and inclusivity, we aim to create a space that respects and celebrates all families.

Looking ahead, we are committed to reaching more families and enhancing our sessions with continued support from our funding partners. Together, we can provide transformative early childhood experiences that uplift children and families across our community.

This version conveys the same message more efficiently. Let me know if you'd like any further adjustments!

### Playgroup Overview

The RBSPS playgroup program is a crucial resource for families in Randwick and Botany, offering high-quality, inclusive, and adaptive playgroups that support children's growth, school readiness, and parental well-being. Through partnerships, tailored resources, and a focus on best-practice principles, we ensure that each playgroup experience is meaningful, enriching, and deeply connected to community needs. Our commitment to creating an accessible, supportive environment has made a lasting impact on the families we serve, strengthening the community as a whole.

### Our Dedicated Team of Playgroup Professionals

- **Gillian Newton** - Early Childhood Educator & Parent Support Coach
- **Germaine Alber** - Early Childhood Educator & Parent Support Coach
- **Evellen Tawdros** - Playgroup Program Coordinator & Parent Support Advisor
- **Daniela Herrera** - Playgroup Program Assistant Coordinator & Parent Support Coach

# Outreach Services



The Happy & Healthy Playvan is making a significant difference in communities, delivering accessible, engaging play experiences to schools & community hubs.

By fostering creativity, building social skills, and promoting physical and emotional well-being. The playvan ensures that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. Offering accessible play opportunities, whereby children have the chance to develop and flourish, regardless of their location or circumstances, while strengthening family relationships and building stronger connections within the community.





# Parenting Programs & Support



Strengthening Families Through Care and Support



## Parenting Support Service

### Parenting Support: Sustainability and Ongoing Support for Families

Research consistently shows that high levels of parental stress can significantly impact family dynamics, leading to harsher disciplinary methods and difficulty managing emotions (Havighurst & Kehoe, 2018). This highlights the need for continuous support, guidance, and parenting skills, particularly in times of stress. Our programs are designed not only to provide immediate assistance but also to ensure long-term sustainability and continued support for families, even after the program concludes.

### Programs Delivered

- BFCC delivers a suite of evidence based programs around emotional intelligent parenting; Tuning In To Kids; Tuning In to Teens; Dad's Tuning In to Kids. Circle of Security & Tantrums & Behaviour Guidance complete our parenting package.

### Sustaining Emotional Competence and Connection

Our parenting programs focus on building emotional competence, which is key to healthy family dynamics. According to Daniel Goleman (1995), people who are aware of their own and others' emotions enjoy stronger relationships, better health, and greater life satisfaction. The Tuning In series helps parents develop emotional awareness and regulation skills, so families can continue to thrive long after the program ends.

### Sustainability Through Ongoing Individual Sessions

Individual follow-up sessions offer **specialised support** for parents who may feel uncomfortable in group settings or face complex issues. These one-on-one sessions allow facilitators to address specific family dynamics, tailor strategies to individual needs, and provide **a confidential, safe space** for sensitive discussions. Parents dealing with unique challenges, such as managing multiple children or complex behavioral concerns, benefit from a more focused, comfortable environment. This personalised support ensures families receive relevant help, fostering effective problem-solving and **emotional growth**.





## Parenting Support Service

### Meeting the Needs of Working Families

Understanding the demands on working families, we offer our programs, including one-on-one sessions, at flexible times such as afternoons and evenings. This flexibility helps parents with busy schedules engage more easily. As a result, these extended time options have increased accessibility and attracted families from a broader range of areas, expanding the program's reach within the community

### Fusing In-Person and Online Formats for Ongoing Engagement

Alongside our online sessions, we continue to offer in-person programs for families who prefer direct interaction. By securing larger venues, we've been able to accommodate growing demand, ensuring both new participants and those on the waitlist can access face-to-face sessions. This blend of in-person and virtual formats allows families to participate in the program, regardless of their location or personal circumstances. Additionally, the cross-referrals between programs—such as Tuning In to Kids participants recommending the Dad's Tuning In to Kids program to their partners—encourages a collaborative environment where parents can learn and support each other, contributing to the program's long-term sustainability.

To maintain progress and engagement between sessions, parents and teens used a weekly reflection journal to track insights and challenges. Regular check-in calls and email updates kept families engaged, while an online forums. creating a sense of community and ensured that the learning process continued beyond the formal sessions.

### Program Statistics and Long-Term Impact

In the past 12 months, the depth of work achieved with families has been significant. A total of 41 sessions focused on intensive support, especially with Tuning In to Teens families. These sessions tackled complex issues like separations, living in two homes, social media challenges, and grief, all within the framework of emotional coaching.

We noted that engagement from parents increased significantly through the personalised, one-on-one approach allowing for tailored guidance, to address their unique challenges. As a result of offering parenting support beyond the group setting, we have experienced a number of parents reaching out, two, three and six months after they attended the program..



# OUR PARTNERS

**Playgroups NSW**

**Randwick Council - Lexington Hub**

**Daceyville Public School**

**Soldier's Settlement Public School**

**La Perouse Public School**

**Botany Public School**

**NSW Health**

**The Fathering Project**

**Schools, Health & Community Together Collaborative**









# The Fathering Project

The Fathering Project is an evidence-based organisation that aims to promote positive fathering behaviours and fathers' engagement with their infants, preschool, primary school and adolescent-aged children.

The Fathering Project recognises that fathers, and father figures, play a vital role in children's lives. Evidence demonstrates that a father has potential to positively influence their children's health and mental health, social success and academic achievements.

The philosophy is to support fathers, father figures and role models to positively impact the lives of children by supporting their growth and development as caring, compassionate people who treat themselves, others and their environment with respect and dignity.

## Key factors around fathering<sup>(1)</sup>

- Fathers have a crucial impact on a child's development.
- Fathers self-efficacy and warmth in parenting are the most powerful predictors of children's improved health, academic, social and emotional outcomes.
- The age and occupation of a father matters. Younger parents report more anger and hostility than older parents yet are more consistent with their parenting and had fewer argumentative relationships. Men with trade and production occupations have on average, poorer fathering skills.
- Children who have a father or father figure live with them throughout their life have better learning outcomes, general health, emotional wellbeing and fewer problem behaviors.
- While mothers have a significant influence on their child's health, academic, social and emotional outcomes, after accounting for this, fathers have a unique and diverse role in improving outcomes for their child.
- A father's influence on their child's outcomes becomes most prominent when children reach school age.

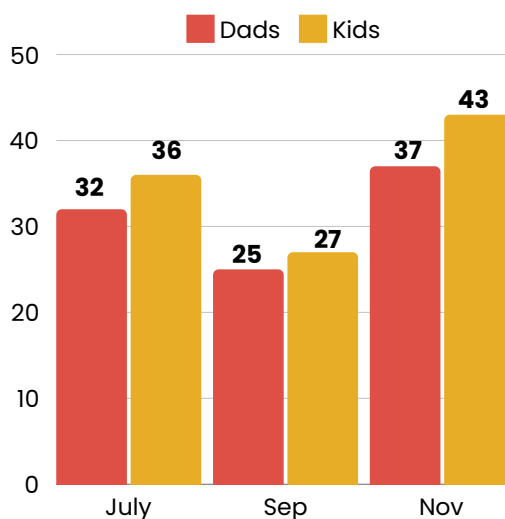
Fathers who consistently parent well over time have children who perform better academically, socially, emotionally and enjoy better health and development.

## Partnership

The BFCC partnership with The Fathering Project continued for the duration of the funding, rounding off the project in February 2024. This partnership enabled our service to provide father and child events, toolbox talks and men's parenting programs. BFCC is proud to be able to offer such an impactful and innovative program to fathers across our community.



## Dads & Kids Events



# The Fathering Project

## Closing the Gap

BFCC made a commitment to create a safe, supportive and inclusive space for fathers to come and spend time with their children and each other. To send a strong message that you are not alone and we are here to support you.

More recently, research has shown increased positive changes in children's behaviour and more positive parenting practices resulting in programs involving fathers as well as mothers.

Promotion of flexible service delivery models such as online groups, after hours, weekend<sup>(2)</sup> sessions assisted to counter the barriers for many fathers wanting to access the program.

## Sustainability

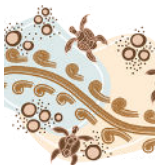
There is a strong community need to have fathers support programs, currently BFCC cannot continue with The Fathering Project. Further funding from external sources would allow this valued program to continue into the future.

BFCC is open to partnerships with other organisations to continue to successful delivery of this program. BFCC has a future goal of looking to employ a male family support worker, who could provide counselling, casework, advocacy and support to fathers and families. Part of this role would be to facilitate the fathering events and workshops.



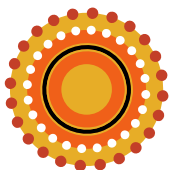
### Parent : Tony B

"The best thing I did for myself and my child, gave us time together and got to meet other dads local dads"



### Parent: Phil D

"My mate told me about the Father's Program, I went, not sure what to expect. It was great, lots of fun, great bunch of people, Lots activities for the kids and sausages – Great Job!"



### Parent: Derek L

"Really enjoyed it, the staff were welcoming and made me and my daughters feel comfortable, got to talk with other dad's. My girls loved it."



### Parent: Lindsay P

"Great events to come to, we come regularly and its good to see so many dads and kids all together, highly recommend"



### Parent: Richard M

"Best thing that's happened in Botany for a long time – enjoyed it all – keep it going"

1. Why Fathering is Critical in a Child's Life – Research Shows we shouldn't underestimate the role of fathers in children's lives The Fathering Project (September 2020)  
2. Lundahl, B. W., Tollefson, D., Risser, H., & Lovejoy, M. (2008). A meta- analysis of father involvement in parent training. Research on Social Work Practice, 18(2), 97–106.





A 3D rendering of a large, gold-colored dollar sign (\$) standing on a white reflective surface. The sign is positioned in front of a blue geometric structure that resembles a stylized house or a modern building facade. The background is a light yellow gradient with several dark blue triangles scattered around.

# 2023 - 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

**Presented By**  
**Rosenfeld Kant**  
**Business Accountants**

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

ABN: 56 512 471 870

## Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

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# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Committee's report

30 June 2024

The committee members present their report on Botany Family & Children's Centre for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

### Information on committee members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to date of the report are:

Name of Member	Position on Committee
Janelle Chapman	Chairperson
Tony Scrivens	Secretary
Max Moran	Treasurer
Peter King	General Member
Matthew Fox	General Member (Joined 13/02/2023)
Tury To	General Member (Joined 13/03/2023)
Bill Baggitt	Public Officer
Travis Bacon	Treasurer (Resigned)

Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of the report unless otherwise stated.

### Principal activities

The principal activity of Botany Family & Children's Centre during the financial year were to provide counselling, advocacy and support services to vulnerable families experiencing issues such as family domestic violence, family breakdown, financial stress as well as early intervention and prevention services for children.

### Operating results

The surplus of the Botany Family & Children's Centre Inc for the year ended 30 June 2024 amounted to \$11,543 (2023: \$29).

### Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the entity during the year.

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Committee's report

30 June 2024

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, for the year ended 30 June 2024 has been received and can be found on page 4 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the committee members.



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Janelle Chapman  
Chairperson

Dated: 30/10/2024



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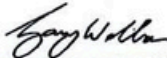
Max Moran  
Treasurer

=====

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of the Entity for the year ended 30 June 2024 I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



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**Gary Williams FCA**  
Partner

Dated 30/10/2024

SYDNEY



# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Detailed profit or loss statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Income received from DCJ (including annual, one-off and SACS ERO payments)	483,134	456,864
Other income	13,058	8,008
<b>Total income</b>	<b>496,192</b>	<b>464,872</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Wages</b>		
Salaries and Wages	262,689	270,509
<b>Total wages</b>	<b>262,689</b>	<b>270,509</b>
<b>Other Employment-Related Expenses</b>		
Annual Leave	23,746	8,199
Long Service Leave	7,094	6,506
Superannuation	31,932	31,840
Employment Support and Supervision Costs	480	1,070
Holiday Loading	360	-
Relief Staff	4,534	-
Salary Sacrifice	383	449
Sick Leave	8,928	4,402
Training & Development (Staff)	1,939	2,599
Travel & Accommodation	190	119
Workers' Compensation	5,120	4,916
<b>Total other employment-related expenses</b>	<b>84,706</b>	<b>60,100</b>
<b>Direct Contract-Related Costs</b>		
Contract and/or client related expenses	12,944	11,633
Rent and related outgoings	50,726	50,700
<b>Total direct contract-related costs</b>	<b>63,670</b>	<b>62,333</b>
<b>Indirect Contract Administration Costs</b>		
Accounting Fees	10,490	11,985
Advertising & Promotion	-	421
Audit Fees	3,711	4,375
Bank Charges	154	157
Computer Expenses	9,423	9,655
Depreciation	13,303	13,778

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Detailed profit or loss statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Insurance	5,462	5,503
Membership Fees Paid	1,116	567
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,776	2,890
Postage, Freight and Courier	154	207
Printing & Stationery	5,519	6,100
Publications and Information Resources	1,673	195
Repairs & Maintenance	8,925	5,299
Security Expenses	678	1,105
Staff Amenities	1,333	1,356
Sundry Expenses	-	268
Telephone & Fax Charges & Internet	5,285	5,711
Utilities (Electricity and water)	2,582	2,329
<b>Total indirect contract administration costs</b>	<b>73,584</b>	<b>71,901</b>
Capital Acquisitions	-	-
<b>Total capital acquisitions</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>484,649</b>	<b>464,843</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>11,543</b>	<b>29</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	325,971	291,325
Trade and other receivables	6	924	660
Prepayments		1,583	6,916
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>328,478</b>	<b>298,901</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	43,387	55,290
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>43,387</b>	<b>55,290</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>371,865</b>	<b>354,191</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	48,413	56,689
Employee benefits	9	35,622	32,697
Provision for interpreter services		486	486
Other financial liabilities		3,461	-
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>87,982</b>	<b>89,872</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	9	43,403	35,382
Provision for building restoration		60,000	60,000
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>103,403</b>	<b>95,382</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>191,385</b>	<b>185,254</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>180,480</b>	<b>168,937</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		135,694	124,151
Reserves		44,786	44,786
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>180,480</b>	<b>168,937</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 30 June 2024

<b>2024</b>	<b>Retained earnings \$</b>	<b>Other reserves \$</b>	<b>Total equity \$</b>
Opening balance	124,151	44,786	168,937
Surplus for the year	11,543	-	11,543
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>135,694</b>	<b>44,786</b>	<b>180,480</b>

<b>2023</b>	<b>Retained earnings \$</b>	<b>Other reserves \$</b>	<b>Total equity \$</b>
Opening balance	124,122	44,786	168,908
Surplus for the year	29	-	29
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>124,151</b>	<b>44,786</b>	<b>168,937</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Receipts from funding and customers		495,928	464,212
Payments to suppliers and employees		(459,882)	(442,493)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	11	36,046	21,719
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,400)	(1,453)
<b>Net cash provided (used in) investing activities</b>		(1,400)	(1,453)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		34,646	20,266
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		291,325	271,059
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	5	325,971	291,325

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### 1. Introduction

The financial statements cover Botany Family & Children's Centre as an individual entity. Botany Family & Children's Centre is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in NSW under the Associations Incorporation Act (NSW) 2009 and Associations Incorporation Regulation (NSW) 2010 ('the Act').

The functional and presentation currency of Botany Family & Children's Centre is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

### 2. Basis of preparation

In the opinion of those charged with Governance the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

### 3. Material accounting policy information

#### a. Income tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### b. Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

#### c. Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### 3. Material accounting policy information (continued)

#### c. Goods and services tax (GST) (continued)

Cash flows in the Statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### d. Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for significantly less than fair value have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

##### i. Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

#### e. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand and demand deposits, which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### f. Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

### 4. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The Management Committee make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

#### a. Key estimates - provisions

As described in the accounting policies, provisions are measured at management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. These estimates are made taking into account a range of possible outcomes and will vary as further information is obtained.

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### 5. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	325,971	291,325
	325,971	291,325

### 6. Trade and other receivables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Trade debtors	6,699	660
Provision for Bad Debts	(5,775)	-
	924	660

The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements.

### 7. Property, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Improvements</b>		
At cost	123,121	123,121
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(83,349)	(71,567)
	39,772	51,554
<b>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>		
At cost	26,566	18,062
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(22,951)	(23,212)
	3,615	(5,150)
<b>Motor vehicles</b>		
At cost	38,741	38,741
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(38,741)	(36,960)
	-	1,781
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>43,387</b>	<b>48,185</b>



# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### 8. Trade and other payables

<b>Current</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade payables	15,997	25,466
Accrued expenses	18,731	18,361
GST payable	9,700	9,093
PAYG withholding and Superannuation Payable	3,985	3,769
	<b>48,413</b>	<b>56,689</b>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

### 9. Employee benefits

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Holiday Leave Accrual	32,938	30,013
Employee Training Provision	2,684	2,684
	<b>35,622</b>	<b>32,697</b>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Long Service Leave Accrual	43,403	35,382
	<b>43,403</b>	<b>35,382</b>

### 10. Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2024 (30 June 2023 : None).

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### 11. Cash flow information

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Profit for the year	11,543	29
<b>Add / (less) non-cash items:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	13,303	13,778
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities:</b>		
(increase) / decrease in receivables	(264)	(660)
(increase) / decrease in prepayments	5,333	(4,947)
increase / (decrease) in payables	(8,276)	290
increase / (decrease) in employee benefits	10,946	13,229
increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	3,461	-
<b>Cash flows from operations</b>	<b>36,046</b>	<b>21,719</b>

### 12. Events occurring after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

### 13. Statutory information

The registered office and principal place of business of the Association is:

Botany Family & Children's Centre

13 Banksia Street,

Botany, NSW, 2019

# Botany Family & Children's Centre

## Committee's declaration

The committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 3 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

- Presents fairly the financial position of Botany Family & Children's Centre as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Botany Family & Children's Centre will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



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Janelle Chapman  
Chairperson

Dated: 30/10/2024



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Max Moran  
Treasurer



## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Botany Family & Children's Centre Inc

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Botany Family & Children's Centre Inc (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The responsible entities are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.



## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Botany Family & Children's Centre Inc

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *ACNC Act*, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, responsible entities are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intends to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an independent auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### Independence

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *ACNC Act*, which has been given to the responsible entities of the Entity, would be in the same terms if given to the responsible entities as at the time of this auditor's report.

  
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Gary Williams FCA  
Partner

Dated 30/10/2024

SYDNEY







