



5th SNAICC National Conference

For Our Children: Living and Learning Together

4 – 6 June 2013, Cairns

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS - SUMMARY FROM PRESENTERS

Session Number	12
Your Presentation Title	Taking Playgroups Beyond Play: A Simple model with real impacts for later life for Aboriginal children and families.
Abstract /Summary of Presentation (1/2 to 1 page) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • objectives • main ideas, topics and findings • evidence? • Outcomes? 	<p>Playgroup WA has established and supported various Aboriginal playgroup programs over a number of years. A key feature of the programs is to improve transition to school by building positive long term relationships between families, local schools and the broader community. However, we argue the model also delivers both broader and more specific outcomes around health and wellbeing that are significant to improving transition to school and which support families and communities.</p> <p>Playgroups offer early learning opportunities for parents and children and have a key role in supporting children, families and communities. Extending on this knowledge the programs utilize the playgroup model as an ongoing 'soft entry' point to engage with Aboriginal families and build family and community capacity. Early identification and intervention strategies, including children's health assessments and the delivery of information on parenting, child development and health, are integral to the program. Taking a strengths based approach the program creates opportunities to build the capacity and parenting confidence within families so that they can better meet theirs' and their children's health needs. Importantly the playgroups are established and developed in consultation and partnership with the families and communities encouraging a high level of ownership.</p> <p>This presentation will provide an overview of Playgroup WA's programs currently running in WA and outline in more detail how health and wellbeing are incorporated into the program. It will offer insights into how families, including young parents, have been engaged and why the playgroup model offers an effective vehicle to not just support children's development but also to build parenting confidence and facilitate positive health outcomes.</p>
References if applicable	
Presenter Contact Details (email address and telephone number)	Chris Hawkes, Team Leader Supported Playgroup Program, Playgroup WA – 0402787433 Lois Ralph, Playgroup Support Worker – 0416 891 938