

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 29 March 2017



The World's Biggest Playgroup comes to MoAD

Today hundreds of children will take over the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) for the **World's Biggest Playgroup**. Run by ACT Playgroups in partnership with MoAD, the World's Biggest Playgroup is a lively, hands-on celebration of a child's right to play.

Music, singing, art, craft and outdoor play are the order of the day, with the event encouraging children and families to come together as part of a nationwide celebration for National Playgroup Week.

"At MoAD we believe that children are tomorrow's change-makers and encourage this through hands-on, experiential play," says Ms Daryl Karp, Director of MoAD. "The World's Biggest Playgroup encourages 21st century skills like creative thinking and problem solving. It also provides rich opportunities for children to learn and explore in the company of adults they trust."

Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Creative Producer for Young People and Families at MoAD, says that the partnership between ACT Playgroups and MoAD was born from shared approaches to play-based learning.

"The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child says that every child has the right to play. Through this lens, MoAD has developed *PLAY UP*, an interactive space for families that turns the traditional idea of what goes on in a museum completely on its head," said Ms Louchart-Fletcher.

"There are strong synergies between *PLAY UP* and ACT Playgroups. We both recognise the benefits of play for children's wellbeing and focus on encouraging learning through play and creativity."

The World's Biggest Playgroup is also about empowering the parents and carers of young children, says Kirsten Cross, Executive Officer at ACT Playgroups.

"ACT Playgroups are about building capacity within the community to connect, play and share information and we encourage diversity, equity and participation," said Ms Cross. "The World's Biggest Playgroup embraces and celebrates this playgroup experience, encouraging parents and carers to connect with their children in new and different ways."

The Museum of Australian Democracy celebrates the spirit of Australian democracy and the power of your voice within it. It delivers engaging and participative events and exhibitions that aim to challenge thinking and spark conversation.

For more information visit www.moadoph.gov.au .

Ends

For further information, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact Alice Brown: alice.brown@moadoph.gov.au, (02) 6270 8120 or 0410 997 741.

Interview opportunities

- Daryl Karp, Director, Museum of Australian Democracy
- Nanette Louchart-Fletcher, Creative Producer, Museum of Australian Democracy
- Kirsten Cross, Executive Officer, Playgroups ACT