



PlayConnect+

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**PlayConnect+ welcomes the release of the Australian Government's *Thriving Kids* model and its focus on earlier, easier access to support for children and families.**

As a nationally coordinated program led by Autism Queensland and delivered locally by State and Territory playgroup organisations, PlayConnect+ provides safe, inclusive community spaces where families can connect, learn and build confidence supporting their child's development. Many families access PlayConnect+ while they are waiting for, considering, or navigating formal services and often before a diagnosis.

We see strong alignment between the intent of Thriving Kids and the role PlayConnect+ already plays with low-barrier entry, peer connection, practical guidance and community-based supports. Programs like PlayConnect+ help families engage early, reduce isolation, and build capability, outcomes that are critical to the success of foundational supports.

Autism Queensland CEO Frances Scodellaro said:

*"Families don't experience systems, they experience whether support is available when they need it. Early education programs like PlayConnect+ are often the first-place parents feel understood and confident to seek help. As reforms roll out maintaining trusted, local entry points will be essential so children receive support earlier and families are not left navigating change alone."*

PlayConnect+ stands ready to work with governments and partners to scale and adapt delivery so families across Australia can continue to access trusted, community-based supports.

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Autism Queensland is the lead agency for the PlayConnect+ consortium which comprises state and territory playgroup organisations and the autism peak bodies of SA, WA and NSW.



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