



Executive Director's Update February 2022

Welcome to another important year in working towards growing our capacity to lift the play provision for all children. This Member News will bring you details of our many [Professional Development and Training programs](#) to be offered to Members in 2022.

We received an enormously positive response to our [Online Learning Series](#) introduced in 2021 and thus our commitment to continue this initiative in 2022. We have introduced an [Early Years Online Learning Series](#) this year given the significant needs as expressed by the sector for support.

Our 2 Day Playspace Development Training program will resume in March, with dates advertised for the remainder of the year. Given a request from LGAs we have also introduced a [1 Day Maintenance Requirements for Early Years Outdoor Play Areas](#) program, beginning on Wednesday March 2 which is fully booked, and a further program, now open for registrations on [Wednesday April 6](#).

Play Australia Risk Assessors Network

Our Risk Assessors Network, comprising risk assessors within our industry who are Play Australia Members and who work independently of government and industry has begun, and information of risk management issues will be available in the **Risk Management Hub** for all Full Benefits Members shortly.

Play Australia Staff for 2022

We are delighted that **Gavin Mahoney** and **Peter Curry** will continue to work with Play Australia and develop these two important programs for us. Plus we have an addition to our team with **Leeza Peters** joining us as the Project Manager for 1000 Play Streets.



Gavin Mahoney



Peter Curry



Leeza Peters

The Victorian Government's Working for Victoria program in 2021 funded Play Australia to further develop the [Playground Finder](#) data base, in collaboration with Local Government in Victoria. We will be promoting this program shortly, and we are thrilled to announce that Gavin Mahony will continue to monitor this project as we hope to develop Playground Finder further on a national basis.

Our [Playspace Development Online Training](#) program is nearing completion and will be advertised in the next few months. This program is a high priority for Play Australia given our commitment to provide quality training for our Members nationally. We are further delighted that funding has been achieved from Sport Australia to further develop our online training programs, focussing on the role and responsibilities of the Local Government sector in the promotion of the value of play.

[1000 Play Streets](#) is surging ahead and we are delighted to see the interest from Local Government to open their neighbourhood streets for community connection and play. Leeza has joined the Play Australia team as Project Manager after completing a successful year working with the City of Onkaparinga in South Australia as Community Activation Officer for Play Streets. Leeza has an extensive background in local government and we gladly welcome her into our team.

Best wishes for a great year

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb Champion". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.