Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

OUR VISION: EVERY YOUNG CHILD IS THRIVING AND LEARNING

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

ECA celebrates the *International Day of Play: The right of every child* by hosting a webinar with the LEGO Group and Play Australia

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is excited to announce a special webinar in collaboration with the LEGO Group and Play Australia to celebrate the inaugural International Day of Play today (11 June 2024). The webinar will highlight the importance of play in children's development, discuss ECA's *Statement on Play* and provide practical insights to support children's right to play.

Event details:

- **Webinar title:** Celebrating the International Day of Play: The right of every child
- **Date:** 11 June
- **Time:** 3.30 pm – 4.30 pm AEST
- **Speakers:**
  - Sam Page, CEO of Early Childhood Australia (HOST)
  - Robyn Monro Miller AM, CEO of Play Australia
  - Emma Watkins (Emma Memma), LEGO Play Ambassador
  - Catharina Sørensen, Director of Policy and Global Engagement, Government and Public Affairs, the LEGO Group
- **Free registration:** https://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/events/international-day-of-play/

This webinar is part of a global effort to advocate for and protect children's right to play, recognising its essential role in fostering resilience, confidence and essential life skills in children. An International Day of Play will celebrate the universal right to play and accelerate global action to protect, promote and prioritise opportunities for children to play.

LEGO Play Ambassador Emma Watkins, says 'Children are at the heart of the International Day of Play, but an integral part of children's environments are parents and industry professionals, and so I'm thrilled to join the discussion for the ECA webinar. There is an overwhelming sense of support from the adults in this space, but coming together and reviewing challenges and current practices is

critical in understanding the needs and issues associated with children's play time. In turn, these conversations and reflections can have such an important effect on health and well-being for everyone.'

ECA CEO Sam Page, says 'Play is such a lovely part of childhood and we want policy-makers, educators, parents and communities to know they all have a part to play to provide children opportunities to play. Our own *Statement on Play* was developed to support better understandings of the power of play, and make sure it is a part of every child's day.'

Play Australia CEO Robyn Monro Miller AM says 'This International Day of Play is a chance to shine the spotlight on play, as not just a celebration of play but a chance to educate people that play is a biological necessity. We are not the only species that plays, but we are the only species that regularly deprives our young of play. Neuroscience has proven that play is critical not just for physical development but for brain development too!'

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Early Childhood Australia's Chief Executive Officer Samantha Page, is available for comment. For interviews, please contact ECA on 02 6242 1800. Play Australia's Chief Executive Officer Robyn Monro Miller AM is also available for comment, please contact Robyn on 0403 028781.

Early Childhood Australia is the peak early childhood advocacy organisation, acting in the interests of young children, their families and those in the early childhood field. ECA advocates to ensure quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children aged birth to eight years.

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