

25 August 2017

Mrs Rosie Dymus  
96 Noga Avenue  
Keilor East VIC 3033

Rosie,

Dear Mrs Dymus,  
On Thursday 10 August, I gave a speech in the Victorian Parliament about Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup.

In this speech I formally congratulate Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup for being awarded playgroup of the month in June.

I thank you for your continued work and commitment to our community, and for providing social support to grandparents, who have such an important role in our children's lives.

These comments are now on the public record forever, in the Victorian Parliament's *Hansard*. I have attached a copy of my speech for your reference.

Yours sincerely,



**BEN CARROLL MP**  
State Member for Niddrie  
Parliamentary Secretary for Justice





EXTRACT FROM  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*HANSARD*



*Mr CARROLL  
Niddrie*

*MEMBERS STATEMENTS*

*Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup*

*Thursday, 10 August 2017*



### Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup

**Mr CARROLL** (Niddrie) — I rise to congratulate the Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup, which was recently awarded playgroup of the month by Playgroup Victoria in recognition of the valuable role the group plays in bridging the intergenerational gap between grandparents and grandchildren. As a new dad it was my honour to join this wonderful community organisation over morning tea on 2 August to celebrate its local success and the health benefits this intergenerational group brings to both grandchildren and grandparents.

Traditional parental duties are continuing to evolve and be modified for the modern world, and it is very common now for new mums and dads to return to work earlier to service their mortgages and stay on top of day-to-day expenses, including child care. Grandparents, more than ever before, are being relied upon to help out. This is why the Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup is such an important local community organisation.

For grandparents it is more than just helping out family. As Sinead Halliday, public relations officer at Playgroup Victoria, said in her important article 'Generational gifts':

For many grandparents, caring for their grandchildren is a joy that continues to give them meaning. Young children are good at reminding us of innocence and, in many ways, simplicity. Children have the knack of erasing the complexities that swarm the grown-up world. They bring us back to the present, connecting.

This is so true of the Avondale Heights Grandparents Playgroup, where the grandparent is given a new role and purpose in their grandchild's life. Their grandchildren have an uplifting and energising role, and the joy that they bring is immeasurable. The benefits extend both ways, and the nurture and experience that the grandparent bestows upon the grandchild is incredibly powerful.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Elizabeth Vescio for her leadership of the playgroup and the playgroup's adviser, Rosie Dymus, who is moving on to a new role.