



346 Albert St,
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Dear playgroup community members,

Since writing to you last week much has changed about the way the Government and Health Experts are tackling COVID-19. Yesterday the State Government Declared a State of Emergency in Victoria. This means that the Chief Health Officer now has authority to make decisions about what needs to be put in place to contain the spread of the virus and support people who become infected and get sick.

Should we suspend playgroup?

You will have heard a lot about what business, and some schools are doing. This has included asking staff to work from home and some schools closing for now. I have included the links below so you can access the information the government is providing.

I've seen on Facebook that there are several playgroups that have **decided to break early for the school holidays. We think that is a good idea.** It's only two weeks until the school holidays and the government may decide in the next few days to do the same for early childhood centres, kinders and schools. We can make more decisions about restarting playgroup at the beginning of Term 2.

By then the experts will have had an opportunity to understand what the impact of the restrictions they have put in place have been. This will enable them to know what more they could do and for how long.

You can find out more about this from the Victorian Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton [here](#).

Please click on the link to the Department of Health and Human Services [here](#) and the Department of Education [here](#). Information on these sites is being updated daily.

So, let's do our part and stay away from playgroup for the time being.



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Ideas for what you can do:

To support you and your playgroup during this time we have developed the 20 days of at home play. This will include a new play idea every day for 20 days.

We would love you to share what you are doing and post it on our [Facebook page](#), our [online community group](#) and tag us on [Instagram](#). This in turn will help and inspire others who may be feeling isolated. There will be opportunities to win Lego and Crayola packs for families who contribute.

Many of you have joined our closed Facebook page *Wonderful World of Playgroup*. Jump on and join [here](#). While we are in uncertain times, we can use this as an opportunity to do things with our children we might not have been able to or thought of doing.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you and will be in contact with more ideas and things to do in the coming weeks.

If there is anything that you think could be helpful during this time, please contact me or our team at any stage.

With thanks

Danny Schwarz
Playgroup Victoria CEO