**STORIES OF SUCCESS IN PLAYGROUPS TRANSCRIPTS**

Mikayla Cronin: So with a playgroup we had a little boy that couldn't thread the beads. He used to get frustrated, every week they used to be on the floor. His mum used to panic about it and I used to say, he's learning; if he gets frustrated he's showing you that he needs a little bit of help and in a few weeks he's going to be able to thread those beads really well. With practice - and I put them out every week for him and encouraged him to go over and have a turn - in the end he could do it. He said to me, yes, and I knew I'd done my job well [laughs].

Andrew McMahon: There are other, many other, outcomes that come from these playgroups. Just to list a few, some are parents enrol their kids in kindy or prep and then they – the parents move on as well too. So those parents who were initially involved in the empowerment phase move on; parents go off and study and they put their kids into care if they can then afford that; parents go off to work. Another success story that we've had around dads' playgroups, and a group of dads that we sort of didn't think much about at the start but turned out to be quite a vulnerable group, was Defence dads.

 A lot of the Defence dads have moved up from somewhere, say like Canberra at the training ground, to Brisbane. They have no family, no friends. They came to playgroup, these dads, to connect and ended up making friends that they then went and met during the week and continued to see at barbecues and things like that. One story from that is that one of the dads, he was in the Defence but his wife was as well too and his wife was serving for nine months. So he had his child for nine months while his wife was away overseas. So he was finding that a challenge with no family and friends here and the playgroup helped him in that, in him connecting.

Sarah Irwin: Well, there is one particular family and they were actually living in a car when we met them. So it was a mother with three children and she was living in her car and still getting her children to school and to playgroup and doing all those normal things that mums do, it's just that she was homeless at the time. The success story was that we were able to help her, help her get back on her feet, help her keep her kids engaged in activities and staying at school, and she moved on from there and that was great.

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