



# 2023-24

## Annual Report

Artist: Leah Cummings @bunyadesigns

### Toy Libraries



### AUSTRALIA



A smiling woman with long brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, sits on a light-colored floor. She is looking down at a baby who is sitting in front of her. The baby is wearing a white tank top and a headband with a white bow. They are playing with wooden toys, including a colorful stacking ring and a wooden shape-sorter. In the background, another person is visible, and the scene is brightly lit with natural light from a window.

# Vision

All communities can access a quality toy library

# Purpose

To support a growing community of Australian not-for-profit toy libraries, encouraging families to play and learn together in a sustainable way

Toy Libraries  
AUSTRALIA





# A word from our President

Toy Libraries have been a part of my life. My parents were involved in running the Bridgetown Toy Library in the 1990s where I spent many happy hours playing with and borrowing toys. Being part of that toy library allowed me to access many toys and resources my parents would never have been able to afford.

When I had my own children one of the first things I did as a parent was search for a toy library to join. I couldn't wait to share the joy of toys and play with my own children. My two boys are now some of the oldest toy library children at Cockburn Toy Library at 6 and 8 but they still look forward to each visit and the new toys we get to borrow each time.

It was a great joy to be elected to the Board and then as President of Toy Libraries Australia. As President I have had the opportunity to give back to the community that has given me and my family so much. My first 12 months as President has seen a lot of change and growth for Toy Libraries Australia and a steep learning curve for me. However, the best thing about toy libraries is the people. Toy Libraries Australia is supported by an amazing group of humans in our staff, Board members and all of the wonderful people who run and support toy libraries across Australia. In my role I have always felt supported for which I am very grateful. I am looking forward to an even bigger year ahead with many exciting things in the pipeline.

Dr Renae Barker  
President  
Toy Libraries Australia

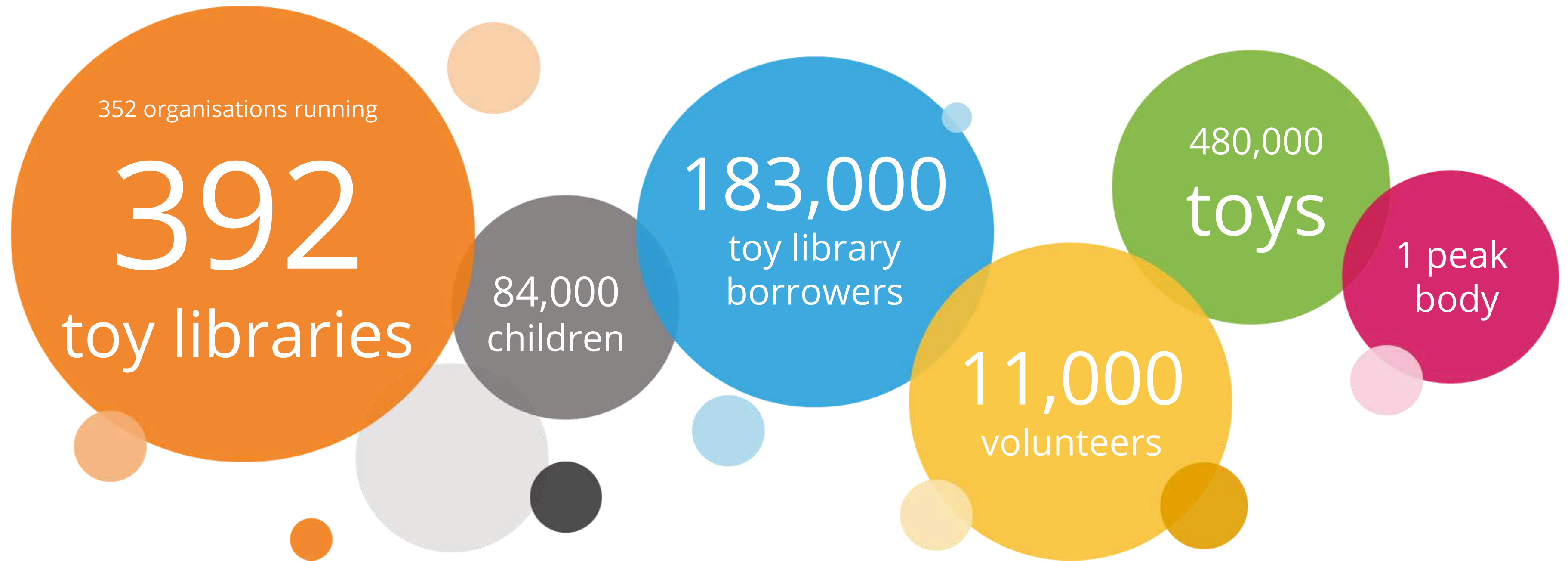


**Toy Libraries**  
AUSTRALIA



# A word from our President

# Snapshot of toy libraries in Australia







A toy library enables families to borrow a large variety of educational toys, games, and puzzles in a process similar to that of a book library. These toys suit children from birth to primary school and beyond.

Toy Libraries Australia's members have a specific focus on promoting the educational value of play for younger children, encouraging positive adult/child interactions through play, and creating strong community connections in a setting that encourages the sustainable use of resources.

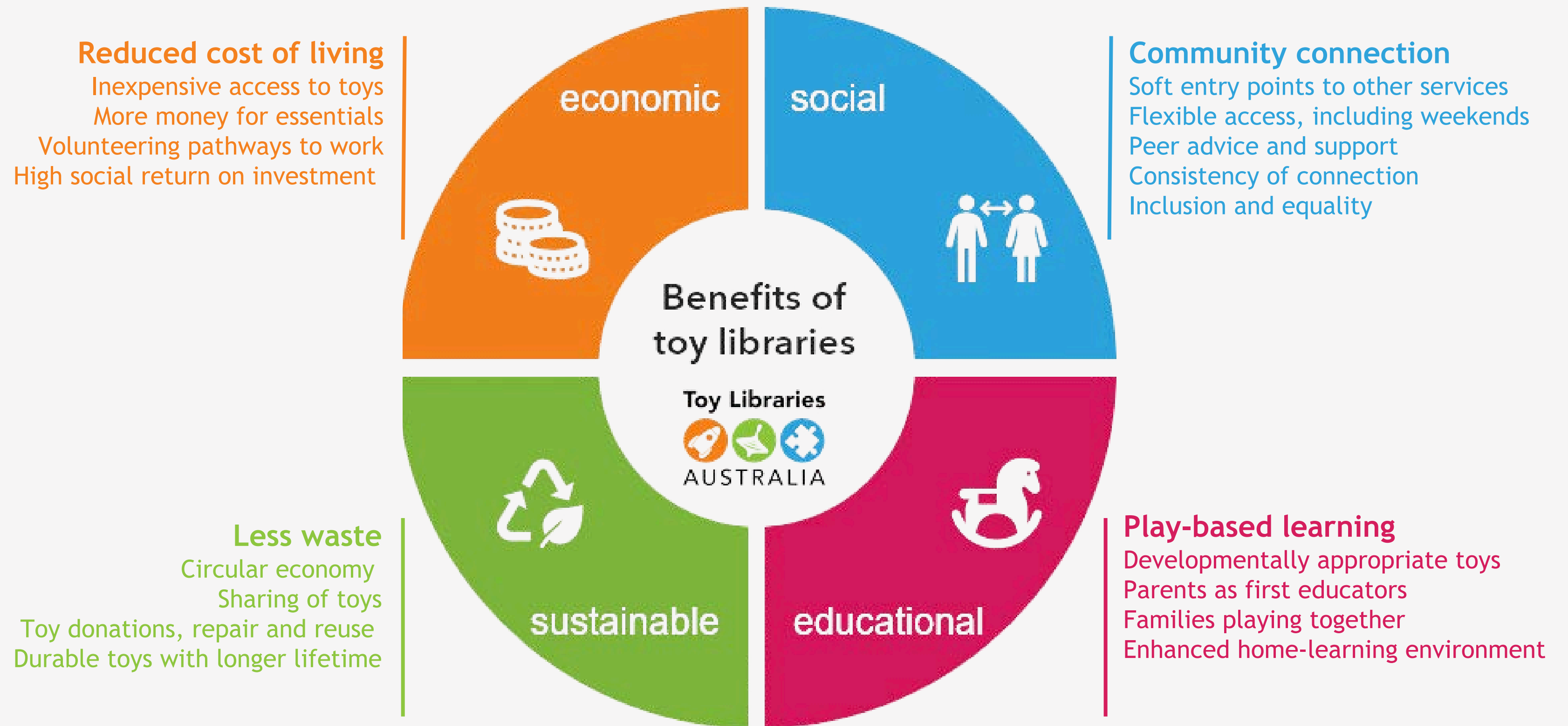
Our member toy libraries operate in a variety of formats and settings, including councils-run toy libraries and toy libraries run by larger early years providers. However, most toy libraries are still small community organisations run by dedicated volunteers to provide a loved service to generations of families in their community.

We welcome the increasing investment in toy libraries made by both the Australian and Victorian governments, although the majority of funding for toy libraries still comes from membership fees and the fundraising efforts of volunteers.





# Benefits of toy libraries





# Community volunteer partnerships



Northam Toy Library developed a community partnership with St Joseph's School's special needs program. After training by toy library volunteers, two students, Cooper and Santi, and their teachers Caroline and Sally, took on the running of one toy library session each week. To grow a healthy and sustainable partnership required champions and vision from both organisations.

This partnership will help Northam Toy Library grow as an inclusive organisation and help the sustainable running of the toy library. For the students at St Joseph's School, the toy library volunteering represents a pathway for special needs students to attain important retail and management experience to support their in-school learning, and a means to meaningfully connect with and contribute to their local community.

The toy library community takes inspiration from Northam and other toy libraries with similar partnerships. This community volunteer partnership model can assist many to run a sustainable toy library.





# \$1.3m in grants have supported toy libraries in the 12 months

## Victorian Government **\$520,000**

### Department of Education

- \$365,000 to 58 Victorian toy libraries in Existing Toy Library Grants
- \$80,000 to Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative and Toy Well to establish 6 new toy libraries
- \$75,000 to Toy Libraries Australia to support Victorian members and the Department

## Australian Government **\$612,885**

### Department of Social Services

- \$255,385 to Toy Libraries Australia to build the capacity of existing toy libraries and support the establishment of new toy libraries
- \$140,000 to establish 22 new toy libraries
- \$30,000 to 17 toy libraries for diversity and inclusion grants
- \$30,000 to 30 toy libraries for rural and remote grants
- \$47,500 to support children with developmental delay, ADHD and Autism (opening soon)
- \$110,000 of election commitments to specified toy libraries

Toy Well

**Trawalla Foundation and Besen Family Foundation \$130,000**

**Hume City Council \$10,000**



The Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn, Victorian Minister for Children, visiting existing toy library grant winner Sunbury Toy Library

**Toy Libraries**  
**AUSTRALIA**



Government grants



# TOYS WITHOUT BARRIERS

## INCLUSIVE TOY LIBRARY

A library of play with therapy toys

- An affordable means to access therapy toys
- Toy librarians available to provide insight on the toy function
- Multiple branches- Malvern & Mordialloc
- Rotation of toys
- Reduce waste and save on space



A partnership between






Email for more information: [toyswithoutbarriers@gmail.com](mailto:toyswithoutbarriers@gmail.com)



### Join a toy Library.

खेलौना राख्ने आफ्नो स्थानीय लाइब्रेरीमा सम्मिलित हुनुहोस्।



### Welcome to the Brisbane South Toy Library

On this page, you can find basic information about the Brisbane South Toy Library in some languages other than English. To learn more about our service in a specific language, simply click on the corresponding link below.



Trupti  
(one of our amazing bilingual volunteers)

Our bilingual volunteers are here to help

# Diversity and inclusion grants

In the second half of 2023, 15 toy libraries completed 11 projects to improve, expand or reorientate their services to better meet the needs of diverse cultures and people with disabilities in their local community.

### Find so many ways to learn and play.




सिक्ने र खेलने धेरै तरिकाहरु भेटाउनुहोस्।



### First Nations Toy Collection

Explore a world of creativity and tradition as your children dive into imaginative play with these culturally enriching and diverse toys. Look out for:



Made possible by funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



### अपनी स्थानीय टॉयलाइब्रेरी की सदस्यता लें।

Join your local toy library.



We are committed to making the Brisbane South Toy Library inclusive for all

Swipe to learn more

### SELAMAT DATANG! 欢迎光临 WELCOME!

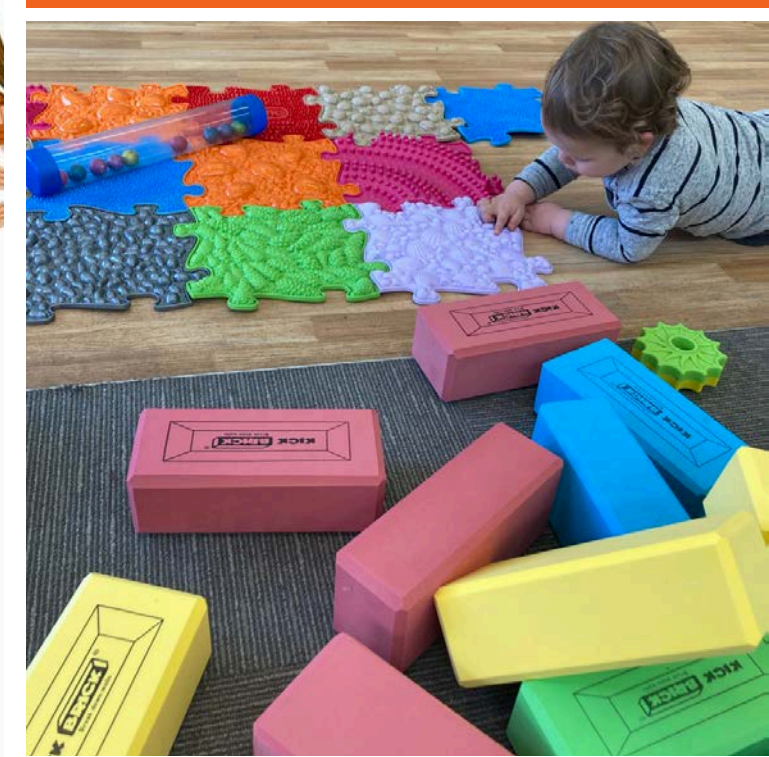
MULTICULTURAL PLAY DATE  
NOVEMBER 8TH  
9:30AM - 11:00AM  
@ GERALDTON TOY LIBRARY



Sensory Play - Mandarin Storytime - Morning Tea - Toy Library Tours









# Supporting new toy libraries

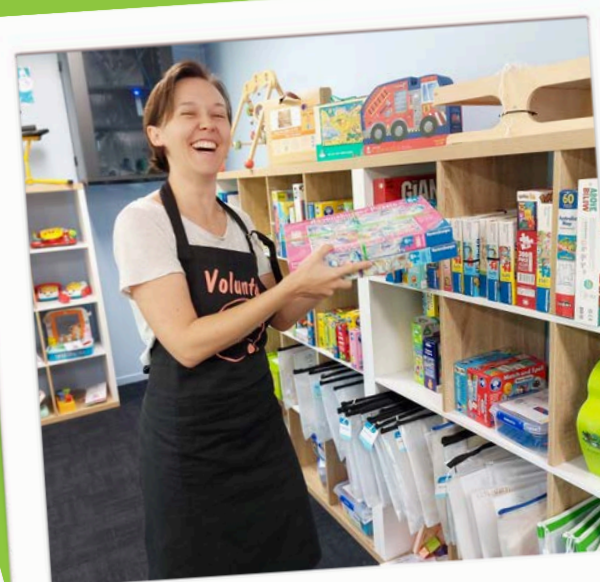
With funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services, we have supported the establishment of 12 new toy libraries with start-up grants, mentoring and training



Limestone Coast (SA)



Inala Toy Library



Capricorn Coast (QLD)



Sunbury Toy Library



St Augustine's



Tuart Forest (WA)



Middle Dural (NSW)



Manor Lakes (VIC)



Parlowie (SA)

Toy Libraries  
AUSTRALIA





# Tuart Forest Toy Library

## From little things, fun things grow



**Friends** through the toy library community, Tuart Forest founding Co-Presidents, Kate Pikor and CJ Aston saw a need for a toy library in their local community. They had a **dream**, a whole lot of **passion**, the **vision** and **supports** to turn that dream into a thriving toy library.

By the time the doors of the toy library were first opened in March 2023 they had gathered a **team of people** around them, a cheer squad full of **supporters**, secured a **premises**, sourced **funding** to have the start up equipment needed and developed the necessary policies and **procedures** so everyone involved in the toy library knows how it operates. Funding included a New Toy Library grant from the Australian Government Department of Social Services managed by TLA.

The toy library membership quickly grew, and with the planning and partnership development that had already been established the toy library was able to support the quickly growing demand. The committee were well established members of the Australian toy library community, often both seeking and sharing advice with others running toy libraries across the country and state.

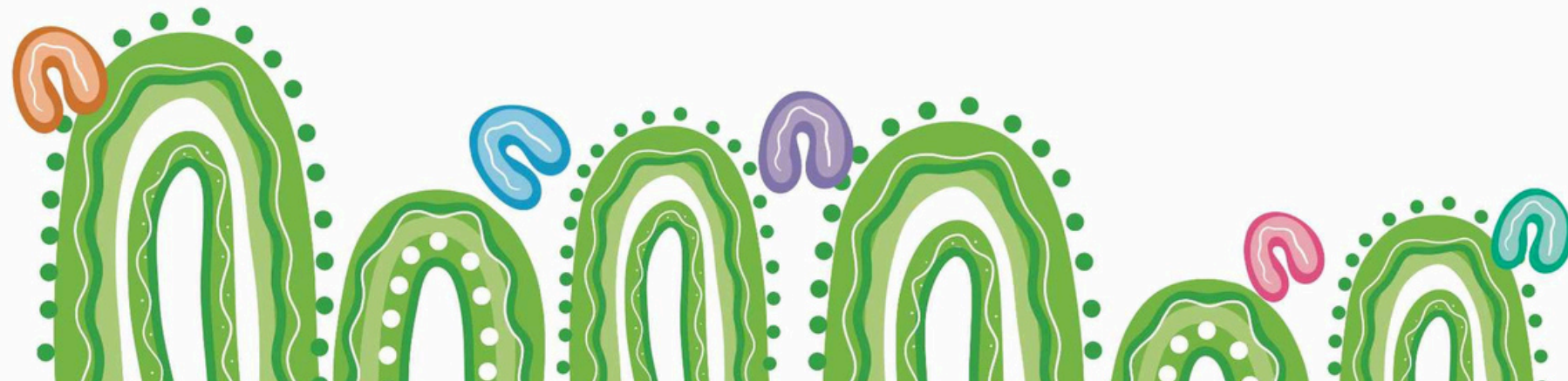
CJ reflects that it is more than their wonderfully curated collection of toys and games that makes a difference "We focused on our culture within the library not the numbers so everyone is truly part of the library, involving people however we can."





# Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan

November 2023 – December 2024



Toy Libraries Australia is proud to have its *Reflect* Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) endorsed by Reconciliation Australia.

Key actions in our RAP include:

- Updating our Child Safe policy, Code of Conduct and position descriptions to outline the expectations of staff and volunteers to create a culturally safe environment
- Providing formal cultural learning training for staff and members run by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisor
- Developing, implementing and communicating a cultural protocol document, including protocols for Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country
- Raising awareness of National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week
- Identifying all known Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander toy manufacturers and retailers, adding them to Toy Community, and developing a purchasing policy

*Bunya*  
DESIGNS

Sharing my love of Indigenous art to the world.  
I find inspiration in my cultural identity and bring my  
stories of my country and people to life in my art.

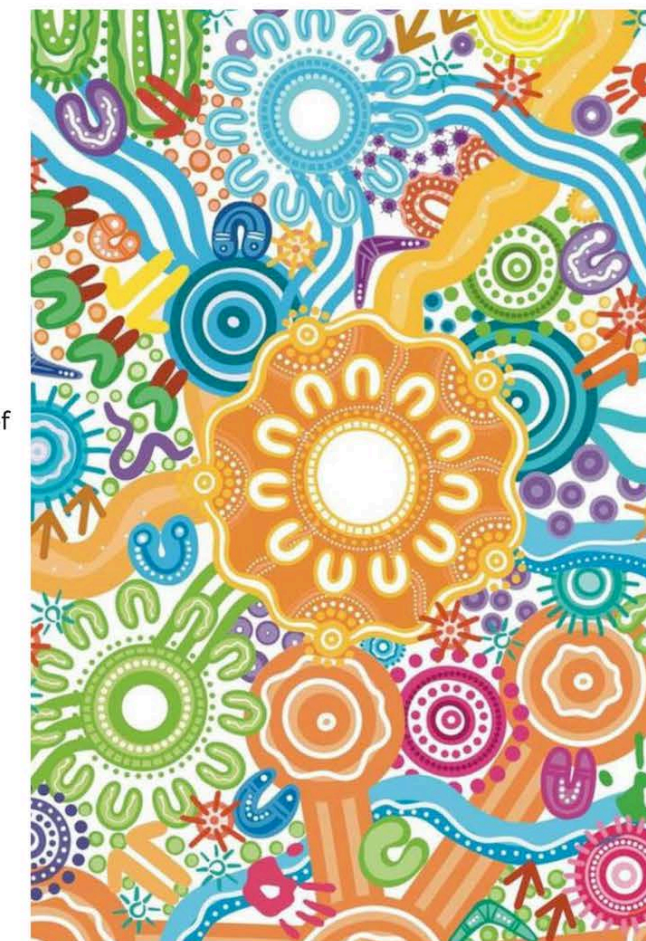
## CHILDREN'S JOURNEY

This piece is inspired by the journey of children through exploring toy libraries.

This tells a story of Toy Libraries and its pathway to reaching children by what they do. The art pays respect to the land and the environment that brings calmness in times of reflection.

The community plays a roll in guiding our children to grow strong, just like seeds are planted and grow strong into healthy plant ecosystems, our children do the same in when free to explore their imagination.

I want to share this piece with love and harmony.



*"As proud Mayji woman from North Western  
Queensland I want to share my culture in art"*



Authentic Aboriginal Art by Leah Cummins

Our Reconciliation Action Plan is  
available at [toylibraries.org.au/RAP](https://toylibraries.org.au/RAP)





# 2024 Toy Libraries Australia award winners

**Rural and Remote Toy Library of the Year**  
Sunraysia Toy Library

★ **Metro Toy Library of the Year**  
Pakenham Toy Library

**Council Toy Library of the Year**  
Unley Toy Library

**Committee Member of the Year**  
Esther Kerr, Bendigo Toy Library

★ **Toy Well Volunteer of the Year**  
Salwa Chowdhury, Davis Creek Toy Well Toy Library

**Community Volunteer of the Year**  
Leonie Knowles, Cubby House Toy Library

**Paid Toy Librarian of the Year**  
Bec Brannigan, Maroondah Toy Library

**Award for Excellence: Diversity and Inclusion**  
Bundaberg Toy Library

**Award for Excellence: Growth and Innovation**  
Canterbury Toy Library

## **President's Award**

Kirsten Marran,  
Little Buddies Toy Library





# Toy libraries in the media

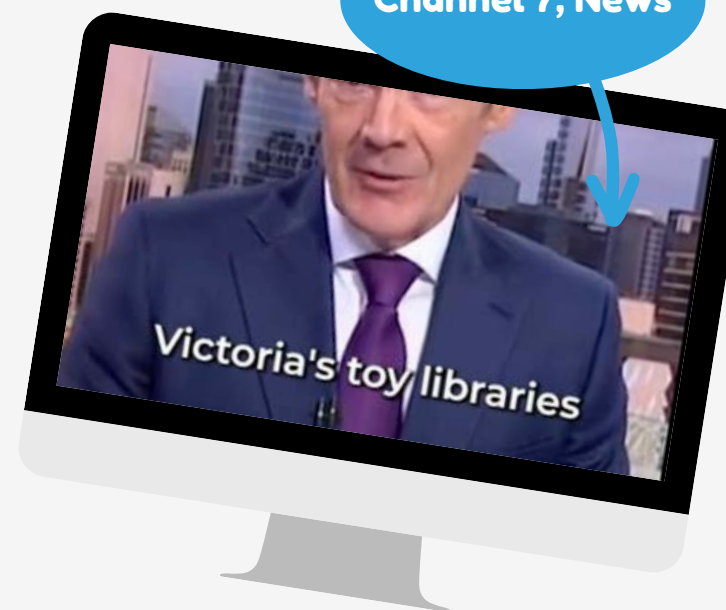
## Broadcast and print media

As the impact of the cost of living pressures grows and families seek to reduce their environmental footprint, connect with their local community and support their children's development, the media has connected with toy libraries to provide a good news story of hope and practical solutions to the challenges they face.

Channel 7, News



Channel 7, News



## Social Media

With the goals of increasing awareness of Toy libraries and normalising toy library use across Australia TLA Social media has seen growth and increased reach.

This post had a reach of over 44,500



The West Australian



Toy Libraries  
AUSTRALIA



Media





Toy Well establishes a small free toy lending service in school-based community hubs, with a particular focus on migrants, refugees and families experiencing hardship.

2023 was a big year for the Toy Well Program, with the opening of eight new Toy Well toy libraries including the expansion into Adelaide and Brisbane. There are now 14 Toy Wells providing families with access to high-quality toys that support children in their developmental journey.

Two additional regional coordinators were employed to support the hub leaders and volunteers in the new Adelaide and Brisbane based Toy Wells. The first Toy Well census was conducted with generally positive responses on the benefits that Toy Well provided. Notably 100% of hub leaders would recommend having a Toy Well toy library at the Hub and since joining the toy library parents reported that they play more with their kids.



#### Current Toy Well sites

- Greater Melbourne: 12 sites
- Adelaide: 2 sites
- Brisbane: 1 site

#### Toy Well grant successes

- Hume City Council, Partnership Grant of \$30,000 to for regional coordinator costs to open 6 new Toy Wells in Hume council over 3 years.
- Department of Education Victoria, New Toy Library Grant of \$40,000 to support the creation of four new toy libraries
- Five Department of Education Victoria, Existing Toy Library Grants (\$3,000 each) to purchase new toys and shelving



**Toy Libraries**  
**AUSTRALIA**



Toy Well





Diane Bish  
National Manager



Hina Batool  
Dandenong



Manar Eissa  
Geelong



Mervat Abdou  
Hume



Sonam Sagho  
Wyndham



Ritu Ahir  
Brisbane



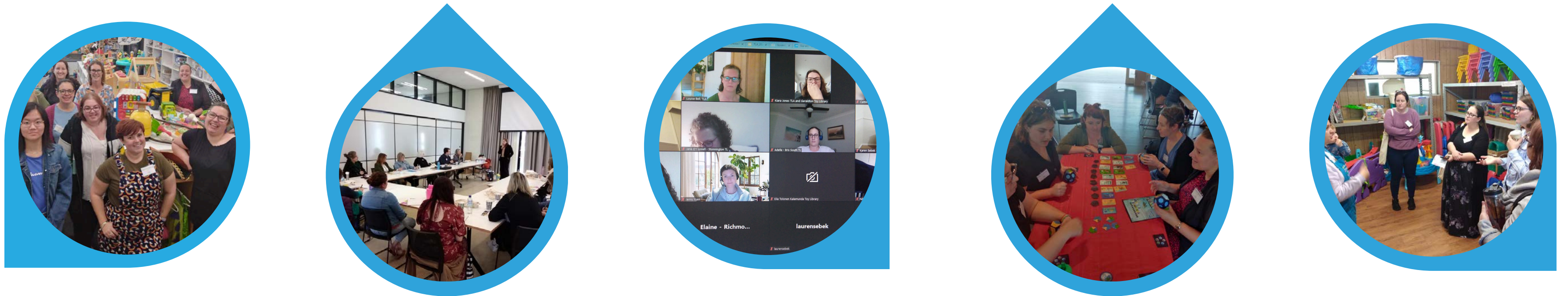
Bearta Pye  
Adelaide





# With diverse member needs, a diverse approach to support is required.

Member training and support services looks to build our toy library **community**, working with the **strengths** of toy libraries, and using the Toy Library **Quality Standards** to develop a common understanding of toy library best practices. Alongside this we are always looking to make sure **practical knowledge** and **skills** on how to build and grow a sustainable, inclusive toy library are shared.



Supports are offered through a variety of means available to all member toy libraries:

- **Knowledge base:** online, tipsheets and guiding documents, available any time, any where
- **Supportive online community:** members continue to connect & provide peers support through our growing national & state based online discussion groups.
- **Face to face training:** state-based training & toy library tours are a great way for people to connect and learn, building friendships through a shared passion.
- **Online live training:** making training accessible to members no matter where they are based or their current circumstances, if they have an internet connection members can join our Bite Sized learning or In-Focus training sessions live or where possible view the recording on 'catch-up'.
- **Individual support:** Member Development Officers work with individual toy libraries to understand their current needs & assist to map a path forward.





# Committee of Management 2023-24



**President**  
Dr Renae Barker



**Vice President**  
Kiara Jones



**Secretary**  
Aimee Mundt



**Treasurer**  
Kylie McBain



Seamus Coleman



Kerry Dominish



Claire Kingdon



Jane O'Connell





# Staff



Debbie Williams  
CEO



Helen Nicholson  
Administration



Diane Bish  
Toy Well National Manager

## Member Development team



Louise Bell  
National Manager/SA/NT



Erin Krusic-Golub  
VIC



Adelle Suitor  
QLD/NSW/TAS



Caitlin McDonald  
WA





# INCOME STATEMENT

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Membership fees	32,355	27,038
Insurance Income	105,718	77,337
Grants	407,881	141,164
Donations	7,373	314
Toy Sales	16,703	39,073
Conference Income	36,433	286
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>606,464</b>	<b>285,212</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Other Income	6,228	1,692
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>612,692</b>	<b>286,905</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Toy Purchases	15,781	39,076
Accounting and Administration	8,690	7,527
Marketing Expenses	22,773	204
Training and Conference	18,029	4,325
Insurance	102,561	73,919
Employment Costs	251,991	140,658
Travel & Accommodation	5,776	6,478
Toywell Non-Staff Cost	53,874	21,219
ITLA conference costs	43,699	-
TLA grant payments	85,000	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>608,174</b>	<b>293,406</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>4,518</b>	<b>(6,502)</b>

# BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5	400,736	177,525
Trade & Other Receivables	6	2,168	16,191
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>402,904</b>	<b>193,716</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>402,904</b>	<b>193,716</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade & Other Payables	7	34,972	4,209
Annual Leave Provision	8	20,849	2,105
Income Received in Advance	9	262,494	107,332
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>318,315</b>	<b>113,646</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>318,315</b>	<b>113,646</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>84,589</b>	<b>80,070</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		<b>84,588</b>	<b>80,070</b>

Full financial statements including notes are available at [toylibraries.org.au/strategy](http://toylibraries.org.au/strategy) and on the ACNC website







1300 123 637 • enquiries@nfpas.com.au • www.nfpas.com.au

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR TOY LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA INC

### Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a general purpose financial report, of Toy Libraries Australia Inc, comprising the statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity as at 31 December 2023, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Toy Libraries Australia Inc has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

## TOY LIBRARIES AUSTRALIA INC COMMITTEE'S DECLARATION

In the opinion of the Committee of Toy Libraries Australia Inc (Association):

1. the attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position of Toy Libraries Australia Inc (Association) on 31 December 2023 and of their performance for the financial year ended on that date;
2. the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Accounting Standards as described in note 2 to the financial statements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
3. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of committee members made pursuant to section 60.15 (2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

On behalf of the Directors:

A blue ink signature of Renae Barker.

Renae Barker  
President

10 April 2024

Date:







**Toy Libraries**  
**AUSTRALIA**



**Contact us:** [info@toylibraries.org.au](mailto:info@toylibraries.org.au)