

NEIGHBOURHOOD BACKYARDS

**This Isn't Just Play.
It's a Comeback Story.**

**A Documentary about
Reclaiming Childhood,
Rebuilding Community,
and Rediscovering the
Power of Play.**

**"We went from being
place-based and
relational to distance-
based, placeless, and
transactional."**

**— Prof Seth Kaplan
(Author *Fragile
Neighbourhoods* - & Johns
Hopkins University)**

WHAT IF THE SOLUTION WAS RIGHT OUTSIDE OUR FRONT DOOR?

**Across suburban Australia, children are
becoming increasingly disconnected from
their neighbours, communities, and
opportunities for everyday outdoor play.**

**Neighbourhood Backyard follows an
inspiring movement that is bringing
children back together, transforming local
spaces, and rebuilding the social fabric of
communities through the simple act of play**



RECLAIMING CHILDHOOD. REBUILDING COMMUNITY. ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD AT A TIME

MORE THAN A FILM

A Movement Coming Into Focus

Neighbourhood Backyard explores the lived experiences of children, parents, educators, researchers, and community leaders who are working to create neighbourhoods where children can thrive. The documentary examines not only play, but also wellbeing, child development, social connection, belonging, and the future of our communities.

"Play is a public health imperative."

— Associate Professor Divna Haslam (University of Queensland)

"Play inoculates us against some of the worst, most rigid ways we have organized modern life."

— Prof Gabrielle Ivinson (Manchester Metropolitan University)

"The growth I've seen in my kids—especially their emotional regulation—has been incredible."

— Emma (Parent and Site Manager for Freedom Fortress NBY)



"I've seen people go from angry or sad or gloomy. And then they were just happy."

— Jaxson, 12 Neighbourhood Backyard Participant

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Watch the Documentary

Experience the inspiring stories of children, families, and communities rediscovering the power of local play.

Share the Message

Help spread the vision of neighbourhoods coming back to life through connection, belonging, and play.

Host a Community Screening

Start conversations in your school, organisation, council, or community group and inspire local action.

Start Your Own Neighbourhood Backyard

Turn inspiration into action by creating opportunities for children to play where they live, every day.

Stay Connected

Visit the documentary page to watch updates, follow the journey, and learn how you can be part of this growing movement

www.australianinstituteofplay.org/neighbourhoodbackyarddoco

