

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ash Barty visits Cairns as First 5 Forever Ambassador

Australian sporting legend Ashleigh Barty AO visited Cairns City Library for a special Grandparents Storytime on Friday 1 November.

The First 5 Forever Ambassador brought her star power to Far North Queensland to promote State Library of Queensland's successful play-based learning initiative while highlighting the significant role of grandparents.

"As a new mum and auntie, I know grandparents make a unique contribution to the lives of children.

"As First 5 Forever Ambassador I am proud to honour their role as community elders and caregivers who bring wisdom and fun to playtime.

"It is wonderful to be in Cairns to promote the importance of parents and caregivers talking, reading, singing, and playing with children in everyday places."

Ash's role as ambassador was announced at a special event at State Library in April this year.

First 5 Forever helps families throughout the state discover ways to support their children's development in the first 5 years. Last financial year, over 897,000 visits were recorded for First 5 Forever sessions at public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres throughout the state.

Launched in 2015, First 5 Forever is an initiative of the Queensland Government, coordinated by State Library and delivered in partnership with local government, through 325 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across Queensland.

Quotes from State Librarian and CEO Vicki McDonald AM:

"Grandparents play a special role in the lives of many Queensland children.

"First 5 Forever encourages grandparents, and all caregivers, to give children the very best start in life, by helping to build healthy brains and bodies through play.

"The early years matter, which is why it is great to have Ash Barty in Cairns promoting this important statewide initiative as First 5 Forever Ambassador."

Media kit: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/AshBarty>

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