

Case Management/Brokerage Service Making a Difference

The purpose of this program is to assist families to continue to care for their children with moderate to severe disabilities at home by providing a flexible range of services that meet the family's additional support needs.

Assistance is provided in areas such as personal support, information provision, advocacy, arranging additional services and support, assistance with the purchase of equipment and supplies etc.



The key aim of the program is to enhance family decision making. A Case Manager works in partnership with the family to develop plans for future care. Referral to this program is for children aged between five years and eighteen years. Assistance can be provided on either a short or long-term basis.

Family Options

When a child or young person with a disability is no longer able to be cared for full time by his or her own family, this service provides long term ongoing family based placements. Family Options recognises and acts upon the idea that family based care is the most desirable long-term living arrangement for children with disabilities. Wherever possible the caring roles of both the birth family and the carer family are negotiated to suit the individual situation. Family Options case planning aims to promote the child's development and well being in all areas of his or her life.

Eligibility and referral to Family Options is determined by the Department of Human Services, Phone 5561 9444

For further information contact
The Disability Services Team on

1300 361 680*

*(Cost of a local call)

What is Community Connections ?

Community Connections (Vic) Ltd is an independent, not-for-profit, non-government organisation that provides a range of human and social justice services to families, children and individuals who are residents of the southwestern region of Victoria.

We aim to provide human and community services in a way that reflects the needs and aspirations of the communities serviced, with due respect to the worth of the individual, the right to quality of life and personal dignity.

Regional Offices

- Warrnambool
135 Kepler Street Warrnambool
- Hamilton
92-94 Thompson Street Hamilton
- Portland District Health Centre
33 Otway Street Portland
- Camperdown Manifold Place
140 Manifold Street Camperdown

PO Box 404 Warrnambool
VIC Australia 3280

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Website [http:// www.comconnect.com.au](http://www.comconnect.com.au)

ABN 23 083 100 118



1300 361 680

Disability Services



1300 361 680

Disability Services

The Disability Team aims to provide flexible and responsive services to meet the needs of families who have a child / young person with a disability. The programs listed are funded by the Department of Human Services.



Respite Care

Interchange

Provides information, respite and social support to families who have a child or young person with a disability. Interchange aims to offer young people with a disability the opportunity to enhance their social and emotional well being through a range of programs, some of which also cater to siblings.

The Host Program

Involves a volunteer being matched with and caring for a child with a disability in the volunteer's home on a regular basis.

The Buddy Program

Involves the volunteer teaming up with a disabled child in a formal setting such as a special development school. They offer extra support and attention on a one to one basis for a few hours a week.

In-Home Care

Is respite provided by trained carers in the family home for a few hours a day or overnight.

Interchange Recreation & Leisure Activities The Mates Program

Involves a volunteer taking a child with a disability on an outing on a regular basis. This may be for a few hours or a day but does not involve overnight stays.



The Recreation Program

Involves volunteers assisting staff to run group activities, holiday programs and camps for disabled children and their siblings.



The School Holiday Program

Offers planned activities in group settings. Art, craft, sporting activities, day trips and group outings are held each school holiday period.



Youth Groups (12-18)

Are fully supervised regular Saturday afternoon activities involving art, craft and sporting activities as part of accessing and enjoying community life.

We are always interested to hear from caring and committed people who may wish to volunteer to assist with the Interchange program activities.



RAPT (Respite and Part Time Care)

Provides flexible, regular respite and short-term placements with carer families or in facility-based respite for children with a disability and with high support needs.

Facility Based Respite

Puddle Jump House



Puddle Jump House is a purpose built, fully equipped residential respite care facility located in Warrnambool, which provides respite care for children (aged 5-18 years) who have a disability and who reside in the Camperdown and Warrnambool areas. The house is currently open every day. Puddle Jump House is staffed by fully trained residential care workers and operates on a high staff to child ratio of one staff member to every three children.

Puddle Jump House aims to provide a positive experience for the child in care. With the provision of planned regular respite we hope to support, complement and maintain the family's ability to fulfill their role as primary caregivers.



Please note that a waiting list may exist and that priority is given to children with severe or multiple disabilities. If you wish to access Puddle Jump House, please contact the Team Leader, Disability Services. Ph: 1300 361 680

For further information or advice contact Community Connections Vic Ltd The Disability Services Team on 1300 361 680*