

# **AN ONLINE GUIDE TO FINANCIAL & OTHER SUPPORT RESOURCES FOR KINSHIP CARERS AVAILABLE ON THE KCV WEBSITE**

**Many of these resources are also of  
interest to permanent, foster and  
informal carers**

**2024**  
**August**





GPV/KCV acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of our great land and offers respect to Elders, past and present.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that the Aboriginal culture existed in Australia before European settlement and consisted of many community groups. Further, we acknowledge the Indigenous peoples of this land as the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

GPV/KCV acknowledges that laws and policies of the past have inflicted grief and suffering on our fellow Australians and regrets the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

GPV/KCV believes that a society that is inclusive of all is crucial to individual and community wellbeing and will behave with respect towards all irrespective of their race, religion, sexuality, gender or socio-economic background.

GPV/KCV acknowledges 13th of February as National Apology Day, the anniversary of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, delivering the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples in 2008. GPV/KCV will take steps that promote a happier and healthier future for Indigenous Australians, particularly the children and young people.

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[www.kinshipcarersvictoria.org](http://www.kinshipcarersvictoria.org)

Kinship Carers Victoria  
acknowledges the support of the  
Victorian government.



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# How to use this guide

There are easy ways to access these resources:

1. View the contents presented in this guide, and much more, on the KCV website at
  - <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/resource-booklets/>
  - <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/fact-sheets/>
  - <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/podcasts-videos/>

or by doing a web search for Kinship Carers Victoria

- <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/>

2. Use the QR codes below to access the Resource Booklets, Factsheets and Podcasts/Videos pages on the KCV website





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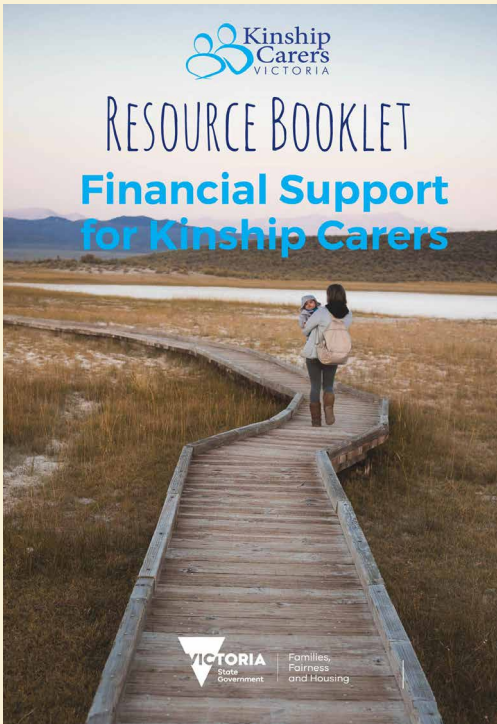
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## Financial support for kinship carers

Invaluable listing of numerous types of state and federal government assistance for kinship carers, including eligibility criteria and details on how to apply.

Included is information on Victorian assistance, such as care allowances, the carer card, client support funding, education and medical payments, and more.

The listing of Commonwealth assistance includes the family tax benefit, carer payment, child support, jobseeker payment, rent assistance and others.

## Support for informal kinship carers

Invaluable information about the types of assistance, support, services and advice available to informal kinship carers. This booklet includes a comprehensive listing of federal and state government support, such as carer payments and allowances, the Victorian state schools relief fund and more.

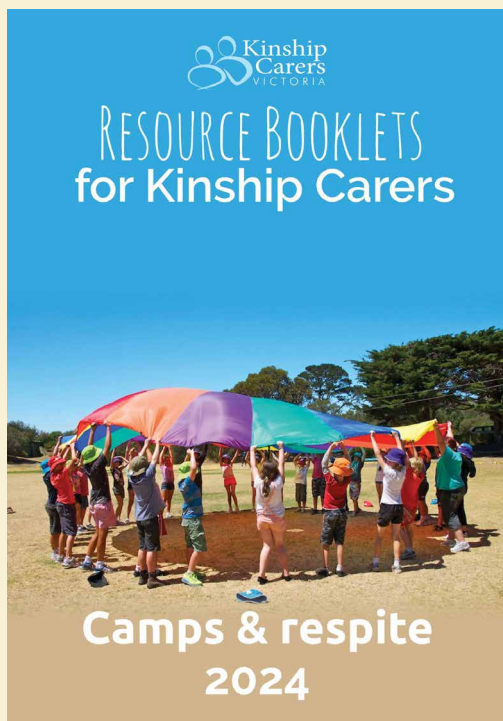
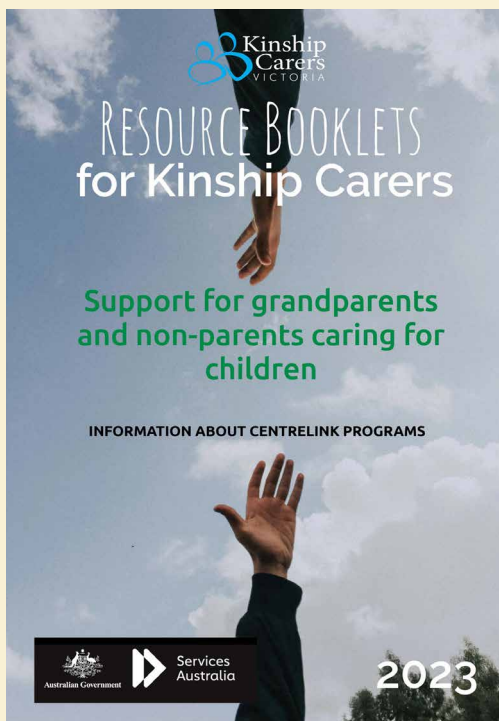
Also included is a listing of non-government organisations that provide support, such as Parentline, Griefline, Women's Legal Service Victoria, Partners in Wellbeing, Family Relationships Online and more.



## Support for grandparents and non-parents caring for children

Information in this booklet is for grandparent and non-parent carers who are looking after a child under formal or informal arrangements.

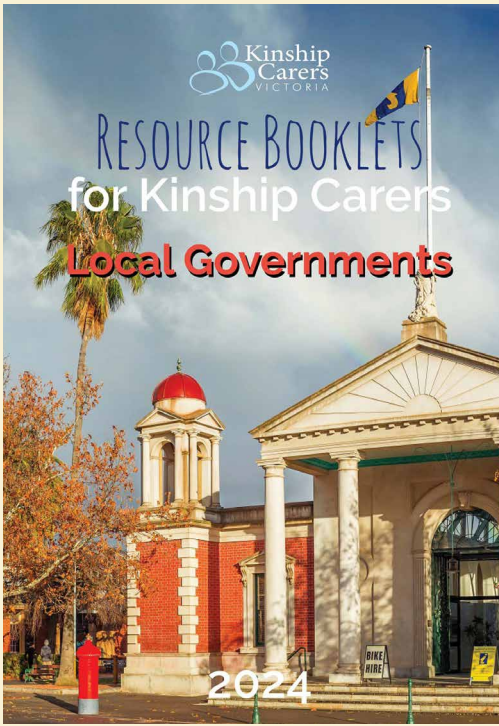
Contains an invaluable listing of Centrelink/Services Australia supports available to kinship carers, including allowances, payments, benefits and how to apply for these and other forms of financial help, plus information, advice and other services.



## Camps & respite

Respite services support carers by allowing them time alone to rest and recharge after the demands of their carer role. Bodies providing respite services include Abracadabra Childcare Services and Family Contact Service.

This booklet also includes a list of camps offered for children who have suffered trauma, substance abuse in the home, domestic violence, family breakdown, difficulty in school and/or are living in out-of-home care. Types of camps available include kids camps, family camps, teen girls camps, teen boys camps, week-long or weekend camps.



## Local government areas (LGAs)

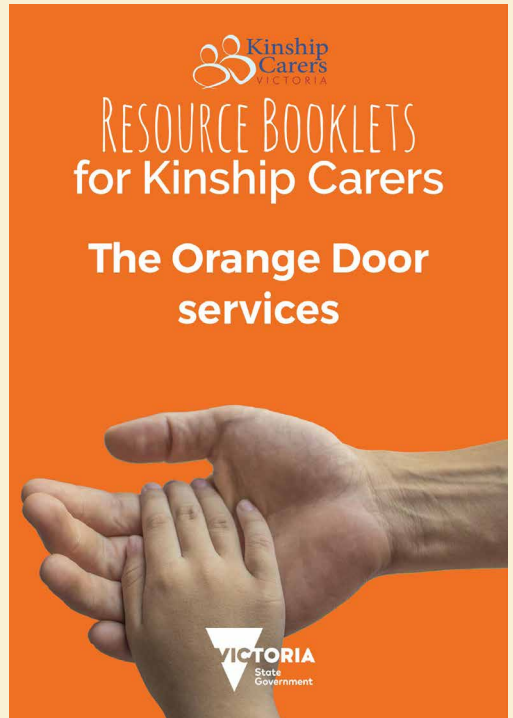
Local governments offer a wide variety of programs to support families. These programs can suit the needs and interests of kinship care families. Therefore, we urge all kinship care families to make contact with their own local government to ask for information about family support programs. If you have a computer, you can search for your local government's website to find what is available. Just type in the name of your local government.

This booklet contains an up-to-date listing of contact details for all 79 Victorian LGAs.

## The Orange Door services

The Orange Door (formerly child FIRST) network provides help for women, children and young people who are experiencing family violence. It is also the entry point into family services for families who need assistance with the care and wellbeing of children to access the services they need to feel safe and supported.

Includes a list of contact details for statewide Orange Door services plus after-hours services such as Safe Steps, Sexual Assault Crisis Line, Men's Referral Service, the Rainbow Door, Kids Helpline and more.

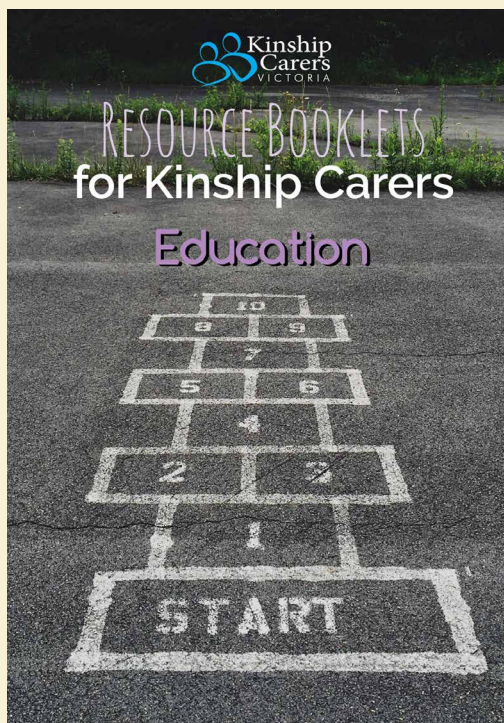
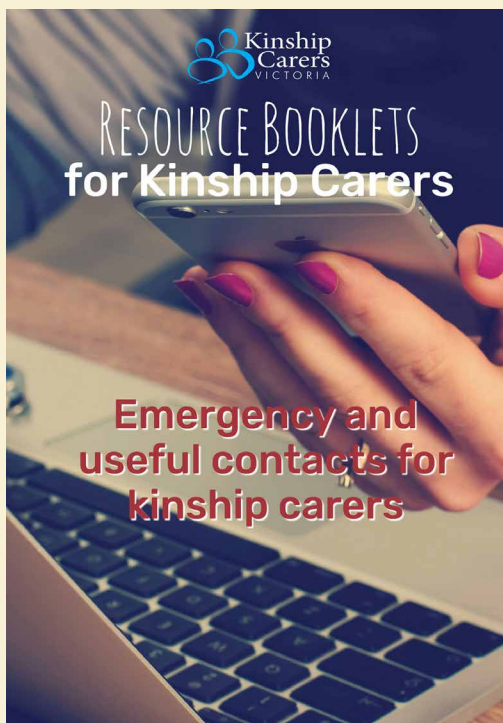




## Emergency and useful contacts for kinship carers

A comprehensive – but by no means exhaustive – list of contact details for organisations providing services, support and information for carers and the children and young people in their care.

Includes emergency numbers such as police, ambulance, fire but also contact details for many other vitally important organisations in areas such as suicide prevention, mental health, alcohol and other drugs addiction, children and youth helplines, sexual assault, legal help, financial assistance, seniors' rights and more.

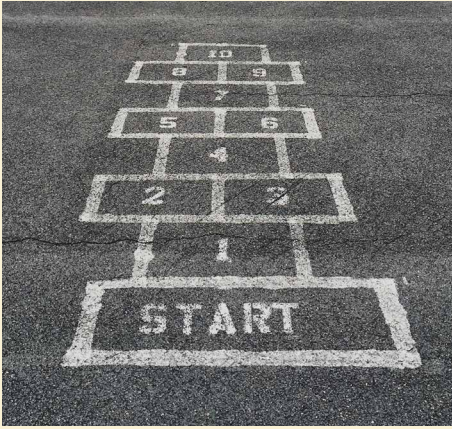


## Education

This booklet contains a listing of Victorian Government Department of Education resources and support for children and young people in out-of-home care.

Includes details on funding sources, supported playgroups and programs, such as those run by not-for-profit organisation State Schools' Relief, the Early Start Kindergarten program, Raising Expectations, Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD), Koorie Engagement Support Officers and LOOKOUT Education Support Centres.

## Podcast #5 – LOOKOUT Centres (Aug 2018)



In this podcast Director of Kinship Carers Victoria (KCV) Anne McLeish discusses how education is a key factor in ensuring positive outcomes for children as they mature into adults. KCV believes children have the right to a high-quality education that ensures all students experience success at school.

This has led KCV to call for reinforcement of the capacity of the state's LOOKOUT Education Support Centres in their efforts to support children and young people in out-of-home care.

Murray Geddes, Principal of the LOOKOUT Centre for the South Eastern Victoria Region, also explains the role the centres play and how kinship carers and the children in their care can benefit.

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### Victorian Carer Card

The Victorian Carer Card recognises the significant contribution carers make to the lives of people they care for and the communities in which they live. Carers can use the card independently of the person in their care.



Carer Card holders can also now benefit from the same discounts available to Seniors Card holders. There are more than 4,000 participating businesses whose discounts are now available. These include discounts on a range of goods and services like eating out, shopping, getting help with your finances, or even leisure and recreation activities, like seeing a movie at a Village cinema. There are also new carer transport concessions now available for Carer Card holders.

This factsheet contains information on who is eligible for the card, how to apply for one, how to update/renew your card, and it also contains a link to an online directory of thousands of discounts available to carers.





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