

# Pathway to Good Health for Children in Care



The Pathway to Good Health initiative delivers health screening, assessment, referrals, and health planning to all Victorian children aged 0-17 years entering or re-entering statutory kinship care, foster care, or residential care for the first time.

Children and young people eligible for the service are:

- aged from birth up to and including 17 years; and
- currently in care (including kinship care, foster care, or residential care) resulting from a statutory court order.

The priority cohort to receive services are those children who have recently entered care (in the last three months) either for the first or subsequent times.

If children's health needs are assessed they can be referred and supported to receive the right care they need to prevent poor health and wellbeing.

## Referral from Child Protection to Pathway to Good Health services

Child Protection makes the referral to the local Pathway to Good Health program (see list below) and shares relevant health and social information with the Pathway to Good Health provider.

The Pathway to Good Health program is being rolled out across Victoria from 2023–2026. As health service providers come on board, the details will be updated.

### Current providers:

| NAME OF PROVIDER                | AREAS COVERED BY THE PROVIDER        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| DPV Health                      | Hume Merri-bek, North East Melbourne |
| Western Health                  | Brimbank Melton, Western Melbourne   |
| Latrobe Community Health        | Inner Gippsland                      |
| Gippsland Lakes Complete Health | Outer Gippsland                      |
| Sunraysia Community Health      | Mallee                               |

## A high-quality service

The Victorian Centre for Health Leadership for Children in Care based at the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital is providing clinical expertise to the service. This will support workforce capacity building, quality improvement, health record management and will build a community of practice network.

The Victorian Foetal Alcohol Service at Monash Health (VicFAS) is providing specialist clinical expertise to the service. This will improve identification, assessment, and referral of children with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

All services provide culturally safe services for Aboriginal children and their families. Work is also underway to enable Aboriginal communities to design self-determined models of care as part of this program.

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/populations/vulnerable-children/pathway-to-good-health-for-children-in-care>