

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
October





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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Kinship Carers Victoria
acknowledges the support of the
Victorian government.



Families,
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and Housing

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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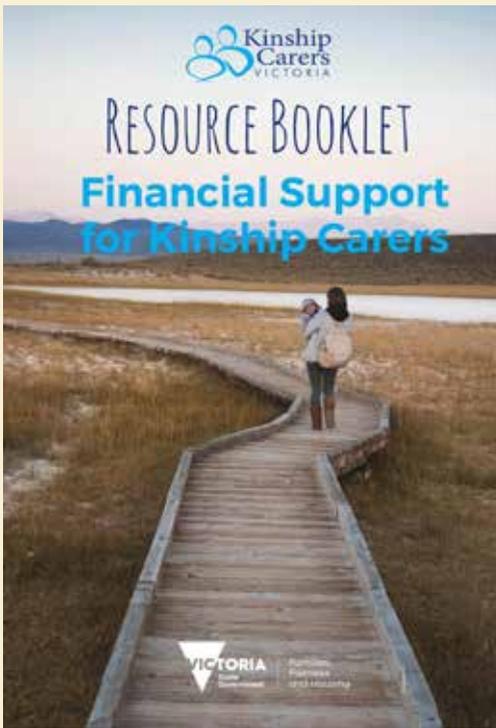
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Financial support for kinship carers

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.

[← Click here for more detail](#)

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.

[Click here for more detail →](#)

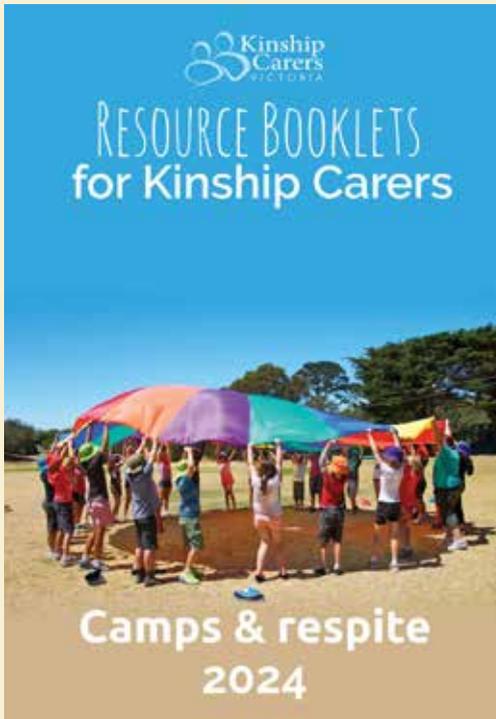
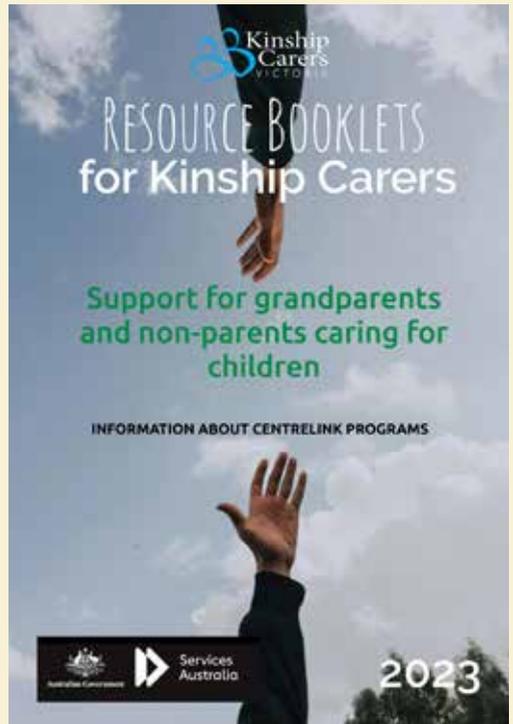


Support for grandparents and non-parents caring for children

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.

[Click here for more detail](#) →

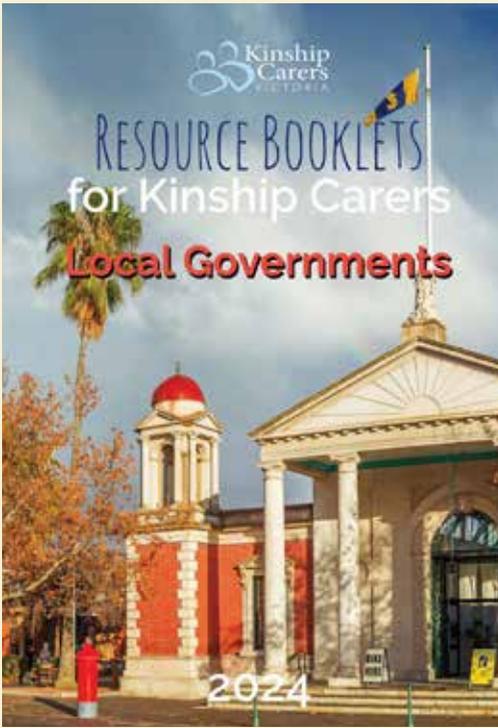


Camps & respite

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.

← [Click here for more detail](#)



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.

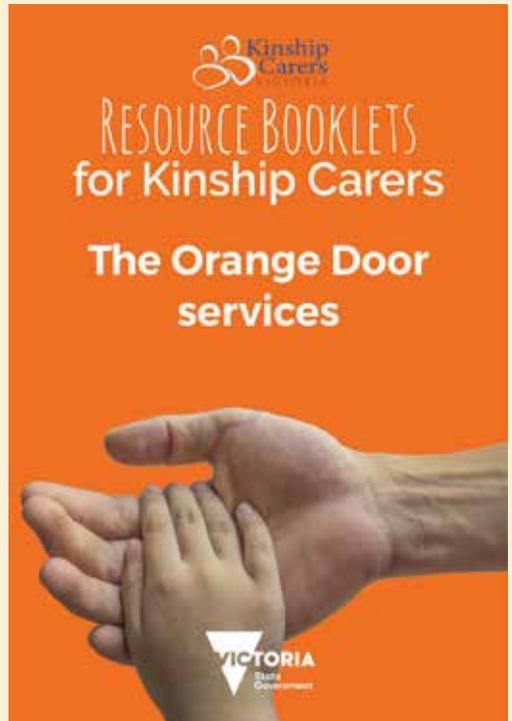
[← Click here for more detail](#)

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.

[Click here for more detail →](#)

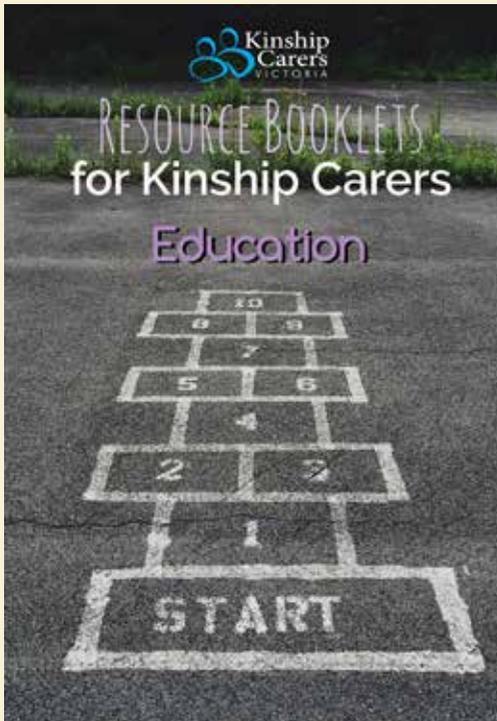
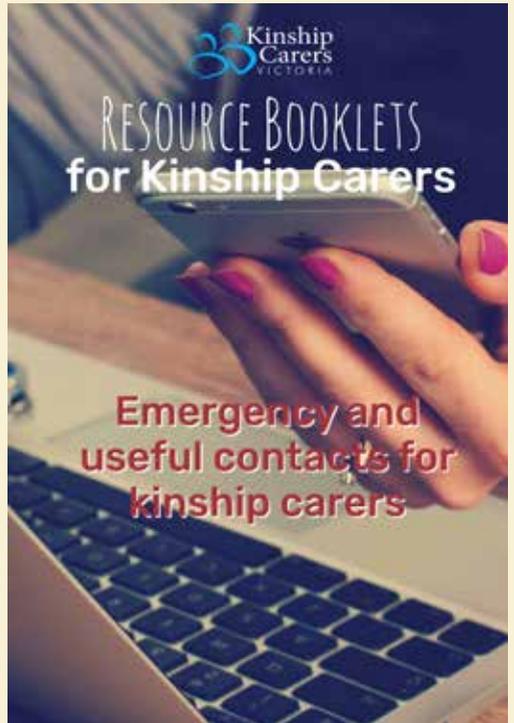


Emergency and useful contacts for kinship carers

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.

[Click here for more detail](#) →



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.

← [Click here for more detail](#)

LOOKOUT Centres

LOOKOUT Education Support Centres

[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

LOOKOUT Education Support Centres are designed to boost the capability of early childhood services, schools, carers, child

protection practitioners and out-of-home care services to improve educational outcomes for children and young people living in out-of-home care.

LOOKOUT centres assist children and young people in schools through:

- professional development with staff to support students educational and socio-emotional needs
- advice to schools to support individual students
- reviewing enrolment decisions that aren't in a student's best interests
- facilitating opportunities for students to participate fully in school life (including camps, excursions and extracurricular activities).

LOOKOUT centres support is available to statutory kinship carers only.

Podcast #5 – LOOKOUT Centres (Aug 2018)



In this podcast Director of KCV Anne McLeish discusses how education is a key factor in ensuring positive outcomes for children and young people. 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.

[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

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.



[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

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 resource 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.



[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

Kids Voucher Program

Eligible children may receive costs for membership and registration fees.

Vouchers could be used to pay for membership, registration, or participation fees at a registered Get Active Kids sport or active recreation club, association or program.

If uniform and equipment are part of the membership or registration fee, a voucher can be used to pay for that uniform or equipment (for example, safety equipment, mouthguards).

To be eligible for a voucher your child must be: aged 0 to 18 years, and a resident in Victoria, and named on a valid Australian Government Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, and named on a valid Australian Government Medicare Card.

The resource also includes information on how to apply for vouchers.



Victorian Companion Card

This card is provided by the state government to people who have a significant and permanent disability and have a lifelong need for a high level of support in order to participate in community events and activities.

[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

The card allows the person's carer free entry into participating venues and events and use

all Victorian public transport services.

This resource contains information on who is eligible for the card, how to apply for one, and where the card is accepted.

Dental Care for Out-of-Home Care Children

The Victorian Government provides a dental service for vulnerable children in Victoria, including those in out-of-home care.

The following are eligible for public dental care:

- all children and young people in out-of-home care provided by the DFFH, up to 18 years of age (including kinship and foster care)

Victorians can also access dental services through the Australian Government's Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

This resource contains useful links for more information and how to apply.



[↑ Click here for more detail](#)

TeamSports4All

This program assists families experiencing severe financial hardship to get their kids playing sport. The program connects families with a club, pays their fees & uniform costs, and, most importantly, gives them ongoing support.

The program currently assists over 400 children, with this number growing each month.

TeamSports4All accepts financial and boot and apparel donations.

TS4A relies on volunteers who are passionate about helping youth within their own communities. Some volunteers give a small number of hours per month and other give more. Roles are sports mentor, sporting club liaison, school liaison, community services liaison, fundraising, and events coordinator.



[Click here for more detail](#) ↑



↑ [Click here for more detail](#)

The Care Support Help Desk

The Care Support Help Desk provides support for children in Foster, Kinship or Residential care by:

- applying for vital documents for children in care, including Medicare details and birth certificates
- establishing a link with their My Health Record, where appropriate
- recording and updating immunisations
- preparing letters to Centrelink to enable carers to access financial supports
- preparing letters to access Additional Child Care Subsidy, including before and after school care
- assisting with queries about care allowance payment
- recording school and childcare enrolments.

The Care Support Help Desk is primarily for new carers. However, the phone line and email is also available to existing carers if they need help with obtaining vital documents or support.

Early Parenting Centres (EPCs)

EPCs provide specialist, targeted and flexible supports to parents/carers of children aged 0 and up to 4 years, in the areas of sleep and settling, feeding, behaviours, parent-child attachment and strengthening parenting capacity.

EPCs provide a free service that can be accessed by people with or without a Medicare card, including those on visas.

Referrals to the service are usually from:

- maternal and child health services
- maternity services
- general practitioners

Child FIRST (Family Information Referral and Support Team) and Child Protection – delivered by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).



[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

Pathway to Good Health for Children in Care



[Click here for more detail](#) ↑

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.

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.

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





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