



VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS

A RESOURCE FOR VICTORIA'S
KINSHIP CARERS



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 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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HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

Visit the Kinship Carers Victoria (KCV) website via the QR code provided below or via the website address:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/>



CONTENTS

HEALTH SUPPORTS

Free dental for all Victorian public school students	6
Pathway to good health for children in care	6
Partners in Wellbeing support to manage anxiety, depression or stress.....	7
Glasses for kids.....	7
Doctors in Victorian secondary schools.....	7
Affordable eyecare and visual aids.....	7
Free feminine hygiene products in government schools	8
Patient travel subsidies.....	8
Community pharmacy program	8

EDUCATION SUPPORTS

Early Parenting Centres	9
Discounted kindergarten programs	9
Free swimming lessons.....	9
Affordable school uniforms.....	9
Camps, Sports and Excursions Funds (CSEF)	10
Pre-accredited training Koorie access fee waiver	10
Pre-accredited training fee concession	10
State Schools' Relief	11
Education supports for children in care	11
Rural school transport financial assistance	11
Free breakfast programs	11
Youth access initiative	12
Student with disabilities transport program.....	13
Discounts on Centre for Adult Education (CAE) fees	13
Free TAFE courses.....	13
Youth first skills Initiative.....	13
Discounted training through Skills First	14
School attendance allowance.....	14

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Free Zoos Victoria visits	15
Get Active Victoria sports vouchers.....	15
Half-price camping.....	15
Recreational fishing licence.....	16
Discounted recreation facilities.....	16

HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

Power savings bonus	17
Energy assistance program.....	17
Extra savings on energy	17
Extra savings on gas	17
Save 50% on water and sewerage charges.....	18
Utility relief.....	18
Deduction on council rates	19
Save on non-mains energy costs	19

EXTRA DFFH SUPPORTS

Home Stretch home-based carer allowance	20
Client expenses/client support funding.....	20
Kinship carers Welcome Pack.....	20
Care support help desk	20
Victorian Carer Card.....	21
Companion Card	21
Care allowance.....	21
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority.....	22
Respite	22
Kinship Engagement Workers	22
Kinship Care Placement Support	22
Kinship Carers Victoria (KCV)	23
First supports brokerage.....	23
First supports program	23
Carer Kafe	23

TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

Free public transport for young people under 18.....	24
Free travel on weekends for carers.....	24
Free travel on weekends for seniors	25
Free travel vouchers for concession card holders.....	25
Vehicle registration discount for eligible health care card/pensioner and concession cards.....	25
Student discounts on public transport	25
Travel passes for vulnerable Victorians.....	26
Free vehicle registration for those transporting wheelchair users	26
Seniors myki	27
Motorist package and safe driver registration discount	27
Safe driver licence discount.....	27

FREE DENTAL FOR ALL VICTORIAN PUBLIC-SCHOOL STUDENTS

All Victorian government school students can access free dental care.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Dental-Care-for-children-in-oohc-flyer-23.9.24.pdf>



PATHWAY TO GOOD HEALTH FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Delivers health screening, assessment, referrals and health planning for all Victorian children aged 0-17 years entering or re-entering statutory kinship care, foster care, or residential care for the first time.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Pathway-to-good-health-for-children-in-oohc-flyer-140325.pdf>

PARTNERS IN WELLBEING SUPPORT TO MANAGE ANXIETY, DEPRESSION OR STRESS

Free support and advice to improve mental health and wellbeing for all Victorians of all ages.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Partners-in-wellbeing-flyer-with-pic-050825.pdf>

GLASSES FOR KIDS

Provides free vision screening and, if needed, further testing and free glasses to participating Prep to Year 3 students. Glasses for Kids targets school communities across Victoria based on areas of disadvantage.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Glasses-for-Kids-Program-Flyer-1-2.pdf>

DOCTORS IN VICTORIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program provides youth-friendly primary healthcare services to 100 Victorian government secondary schools. .

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Doctors-in-Secondary-Schools-190326-2.pdf>

AFFORDABLE EYECARE AND VISUAL AIDS

Get lower-cost eye care and visual aids if you hold an eligible concession card.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/eye-care-and-glasses>



FREE FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Every government school student can access free period products at school, issued from a vending machine.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

PATIENT TRAVEL SUBSIDIES

Get subsidised travel and accommodation if you need to travel a long way for approved medical specialist services.

More information can be found at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/rural-health/victorian-patient-transport-assistance-scheme-vptas>

COMMUNITY PHARMACY PROGRAM

Victorians can now be treated for a range of health conditions by a pharmacist for free, saving a trip to the doctor.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

EARLY PARENTING CENTRES

Providing specialised support for families with babies until they are four years old for all Victorian parents.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/EPCs-flyer-12.9.24.pdf>

DISCOUNTED KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Children may be able to attend kindergarten for free or lower cost if you hold an eligible concession card.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

Free curriculum-based quality swimming and water safety education for students in government schools.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

AFFORDABLE SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Apply through your school for free uniforms and other supplies. For students facing short-term or financial difficulties.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUNDS (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provides payments for eligible families.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

PRE-ACCREDITED TRAINING KOORIE ACCESS FEE WAIVER

First Nations students can apply to waive all their tuition fees. Applies to ACFE funded courses only.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

PRE-ACCREDITED TRAINING FEE CONCESSION

Skills First provides discounted funding for students with eligible concession cards.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF

Provision of non-branded school clothing and footwear free of charge, or subsidised branded uniforms. Also provides free or subsidise materials, learning devices, educational resource and 30-day travel passes.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/State-Schools-Relief-flyer-100225.pdf>

EDUCATION SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Delivered by Dept of Education, the program offers one-on-one tutoring support to children and young people who are not engaged, or are showing signs of not being engaged, in school.

More information can be found at: <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Education-related-financial-supports-for-children-and-young-people-in-care19.pdf>

RURAL SCHOOL TRANSPORT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

You can apply for financial assistance if you take a rural student to and from school

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

Students can get free, nutritious and healthy food in all participating Victorian government schools

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/school-breakfast-clubs-program>



YOUTH ACCESS INITIATIVE

Initiative to reduce training costs and waiving TAFE student tuition fees for eligible young people (Young people on child protection orders, youth justice orders and those residing in Victorian Education First Youth Foyers).

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/youth-access-initiative>

STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES TRANSPORT PROGRAM

You can apply for financial assistance if you transport a student who goes to a specialist school.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

DISCOUNTS ON CENTRE FOR ADULT EDUCATION (CAE) FEES

The CAE offers reduced course fees to eligible cardholders.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

FREE TAFE COURSES

Access over 80 qualifications and short courses from TAFE for free.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

YOUTH FIRST SKILLS INITIATIVE

Young Victorians who have experienced youth care or youth justice may be able to access fee-free education and training.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/youth-access-initiative>

DISCOUNTED TRAINING THROUGH SKILLS FIRST

If you're doing a course to learn skills for a growth industry, you may be eligible for a discount.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/check-your-eligibility-for-skills-first-funding>

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

School Attendance Allowance - Quarterly payment, paid in arrears to eligible carers of children between the ages of 5 and 18 years to contribute to meeting the educational costs.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>



FREE ZOOS VICTORIA VISITS

Children under 16 years old can visit the Healseville Sanctuary, Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoo for free.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

GET ACTIVE VICTORIA SPORTS VOUCHERS

Apply for up to \$200 to cover the cost of getting your kids involved in sport.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Get-Active-Kids-Voucher-program-flyer-270326.pdf>

HALF-PRICE CAMPING

Experience Victoria's great outdoors with half price bookings at Victorian camp sites.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/where-to-stay/booking-information>



RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCE

Eligible concession card holders can get their recreational fishing licence for free.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

DISCOUNTED RECREATION FACILITIES

Eligible cardholders can get discounted entry at the Zoo, NGV, State Gallery, Museum Victoria and more.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

POWER SAVINGS BONUS

Apply for a \$100 Power Savings Bonus. You just need an eligible concession card.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Get one-on-one help accessing savings schemes, finding better deals, accessing hardship programs and more if you're having trouble paying your energy bills.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

EXTRA SAVINGS ON ENERGY

You could receive a 17.5% discount on electricity bills with an eligible concession card.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

EXTRA SAVINGS ON GAS

You could receive a 17.5% discount on gas bills with an eligible concession card.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>



SAVE 50% ON WATER AND SEWERAGE CHARGES

Save 50% on water and sewerage charges a year if you hold an eligible concession card..

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

UTILITY RELIEF

Eligible concession card holders can get a grant to help pay overdue electricity, gas or water bills due to a financial crisis..

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

DEDUCTION ON COUNCIL RATES

Victorian home owners with eligible concession cards can claim a deduction on council rates.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

SAVE ON NON-MAINS ENERGY COSTS

If you source non-mains energy for heating, cooking and hot water, you may qualify for a concession.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>



HOME STRETCH HOME-BASED CARER ALLOWANCE

Direct carer payment: Contributes to the day-to-day costs incurred caring for a young person aged 18 yrs-21 years (i.e. accommodation, utilities, telephone and internet).

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Fact-Sheets-for-Kinship-Carers-Home-Stretch-and-Better-Futures-26.3.24.pdf>

CLIENT EXPENSES/CLIENT SUPPORT FUNDING

Support to purchase: items/services that exceed the day-to-day costs of the care allowance contribution, including costs to facilitate access between children and their families.

More information can be found at:

<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

KINSHIP CARERS WELCOME PACK

Resources and information available to kinship carers, including advice on where to get information about kinship care and the child protection system in Victoria.

CARE SUPPORT HELP DESK

Provides support to foster and statutory kinship carers. Initiates applying for critical documents for children in care (Medicare, Birth Certificate) and provides carers with letters to access Centrelink supports.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Carer-support-helpdesk-flyer-150425.pdf>

VICTORIAN CARER CARD

Provision of concession fares, free weekend travel and free travel during Carers week for carers. Also provides discounts at a range of retailers.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/carer-card-flyer-4.10.24.pdf>

COMPANION CARD

Provision of free entry into participating venues and events for carers who provide care for eligible children with disability.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Companion-Card-flyer-17.9.24.pdf>

CARE ALLOWANCE

Direct carer payment: Contributes to day-to-day costs incurred while providing home-based care. Five care allowance levels available based on assessment of child's needs and ongoing specialist or support costs.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Resource-booklet-Financial-Support-for-Kinship-Carers-030725.pdf>



VICTORIAN MANAGED INSURANCE AUTHORITY

Provision of insurance to the property of volunteer caregivers, in the event it is damaged by people in their care.

More information can be found at: <https://www.vmia.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/CSO-Volunteer-Care-Givers-property-Policy-Wording-2025-2026.pdf>

RESPIRE

Funded time-limited placement where child is placed away from the primary kinship or foster carer.

More information can be found at:
<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

KINSHIP ENGAGEMENT WORKERS

Placement support for kinship placements, including conducting kinship finding activities to identify potential kinship or respite options.

More information can be found at:
<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/kinship-care>

KINSHIP CARE PLACEMENT SUPPORT

Support to purchase: Time-limited or one-off supports required to establish or stabilise kinship care placements.

More information can be found at:
<https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/support-carers>

KINSHIP CARERS VICTORIA (KCV)

KCV advocate for and support kinship carers. They provide a free Support and Help Line, and Carer support groups. KCV also provide online fact sheets and resource booklets for carers on a range of topics as well as information on accessing relevant services and supports.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/>

FIRST SUPPORTS BROKERAGE

Brokerage from First Supports providers to purchase items or services that will assist in maintaining or sustaining the new kinship placement.

More information contact your case manager(s)

FIRST SUPPORTS PROGRAM

Delivered by CSOs and ACCOs to support new kinship placements, expected to last three months or longer.

More information can be found at: <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/First-supports-resource.pdf>

CARER KAFE

Free online and in person learning and development sessions for Victorian statutory kinship, permanent and foster carers.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.carerkafe.org.au/>

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18

From 1 January 2026, kids under 18 will be able to travel on public transport for free with the new youth myki card.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Free-travel-for-young-Victorians-again.pdf>

FREE TRAVEL ON WEEKENDS FOR CARERS

Victorian Carer Card holders will now be able to use public transport for free on weekends. They'll just need a standard carers myki card.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Free-Transport-for-Carers-Flyer-1.pdf>



FREE TRAVEL ON WEEKENDS FOR SENIORS

Seniors will now be able to use public transport for free on weekends. They'll just need a standard seniors myki card

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

FREE TRAVEL VOUCHERS FOR CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

Pensioners, Seniors, Veterans and Carers can sign up to receive free travel vouchers.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

VEHICLE REGISTRATION DISCOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE CARD/ PENSIONER AND CONCESSION CARDS

Get discounts on vehicle registration for eligible Victorians.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

STUDENT DISCOUNTS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Victorian students can get discounts and concessions for public transport, event tickets and healthcare.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>



TRAVEL PASSES FOR VULNERABLE VICTORIANS

Vulnerable Victorians can apply for free travel passes through community organisations and education providers.

More information can be found at: <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

FREE VEHICLE REGISTRATION FOR THOSE TRANSPORTING WHEELCHAIR USERS

Get free registration for vehicles driven by or used to transport people with injuries or disabilities.

More information can be found at: <https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

SENIORS MYKI

Victorian seniors may be eligible for discounted and free public transport.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

MOTORIST PACKAGE AND SAFE DRIVER REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

Transport Victoria is waiving permit, licence and test fees for new Victorian drivers

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>

THE SAFE DRIVER LICENCE DISCOUNT

Drivers with a safe history can be eligible for discounts on their licence renewals.

More information can be found at:

<https://kinshipcarersvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Vic-govt-assistance-to-families-in-times-of-need-231025.pdf>



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