

Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Victoria

The first step after your child receives an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis is to contact Autism Victoria. Autism Victoria can be contacted via their web site www.autismvictoria.org.au or by phone on (03) 9657 1600.

Autism Victoria are located at 24 Drummond St, Carlton VIC 3053. Autism Victoria will assist you with applying for the Helping Children with Autism (FaHCSIA funding) Further information can be found on the Helping Children with Autism website www.fahcsia.gov.au (click on the Helping Children with Autism link on the right hand side in the red box)

Carer's Allowance

The Carer's Allowance is a fortnightly payment to assist carers looking after a child with developmental delays or disabilities. The application needs to be signed by a GP, Paediatrician, Psychologist or Speech Pathologist and is not assets or means tested. Carer's receiving the Carer's Allowance are also paid a yearly bonus. Contact Centrelink to register for these payments.

Early Childhood Intervention Programs

Early Childhood Intervention Programs provide a variety of services to support your child and your family. Programs vary but may include small group sessions, individual sessions from a range of professionals, kinder/childcare visits and support, home visits, parent education and assistance with funding.

ECIS Central Intake

Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) have a regional central point of entry. This provides families with easy and timely access to ECIS. Central Intake gathers information and determines whether the child meets eligibility criteria for ECIS. In the first instance referrals for ECIS must go to Central Intake who will work with the family to identify concerns, plan next steps and make a referral to an ECIS agency.

The website below provides more comprehensive information. Go to the link below, and click on Early Childhood Intervention Services in the left hand column. Then go to your region, or call one of the numbers below to help direct you www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement

Department's Specialist Children's Services - Southern Metropolitan Region
Phone 1800 783 783 or 1300 720 151 or 1300 720 151 Email: southern.ecis@dhs.vic.gov.au

Early Childhood Intervention Service

Cheltenham: Level 1, 4- 10 Jamieson Street, Cheltenham
Phone: 03 8585 6000 or 03 8585 6000

Dandenong: 122 Thomas Street, Dandenong
Phone: 03 9213 2111 or 03 9213 2111

Referral: ECIS Central Intake
Elwyn Morey Centre - Monash University
Phone: 03 9905 2887
Email: elwynmorey@education.monash.edu.au
Website: www.education.monash.edu.au/centres/elwynmorey/

Local government area: Region wide
DEECD region: Located Eastern Metropolitan Region (Monash) providing services to Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Region
Statewide service: No

Referral: ECIS Central Intake
Early Intervention Eastern Region For access to Early Childhood Intervention Programs in the Eastern Region please contact Central Intake. Ph: 1300 662 655

Supported Playgroups

Supported playgroups are a useful way to meet other parents and children. Whilst your local playgroup may be a great support at the moment, you may want to also consider attending other playgroups for children with similar needs.

My Time

My Time groups provide facilitated peer support for mums, dads, grandparents and anyone caring for children with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition. Socialise and share ideas and information with others who understand the rewards and intensity of caring for a child with special needs. www.mytime.net.au

Play Connect

At Play Connect Playgroups, children from birth to six years of age with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ASD like symptoms have the opportunity to play in a secure, supportive environment with their parents, carers and other family members. Parents and carers can meet other families with children with ASD in their area and access information about how to link with early intervention programs and support services. To access this services go to the website below and click on the play connect on the first page in the middle www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/go/home

Respite

You may like to consider applying for some respite care for your child so you have time to look after yourself, spend some time with your partner or other children. Below is a list of agencies that offer respite. You may be eligible for some funding to cover the cost of respite. You may like to consider applying for a Flexible Support Package if your child is younger than school aged www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/intervention/services/packages

Local Council

Ask your local council of check their website for details on respite care available for children with additional needs.

Apto Respite

www.apto.com.au/contact
Address: Apto Group Pty Ltd, 9 - 11 Cecil Circuit, Croydon, Victoria 3136
Ph: (03) 9725 3219 Fax: (03) 9723 8772
Email: mail@apto.com.au

Autism Plus Website

www.autismplus.com.au

PO Box 2047 Seaford Vic 3198

Ph/fax: (03) 9782 1843 Email: enquires@autismplus.com.au

Calvery Respite Website

www.silvercircle.com.au Ph: 1300 660 022

Interchange Website

www.interchange.org.au

Address: Suite 6 Ashley House, 75 Ashley Street, Braybrook VIC 3019

Ph: 03 9396 1118 Fax: 03 9396 1613 Email: enquiries@interchange.org.au

Other Local Resources

Toy Libraries

For a small yearly fee toy libraries enable you to borrow toys and swap them the next month. Follow this link for your closest toy library www.toylibraries.org.au

Library

Great to borrow books and most branches also offer story time. Follow this link or call to find your nearest library. Eastern Region Libraries: 1300 737 277 www.erl.vic.gov.au

Resources

There's a lot of information on the Internet and not all of it is of good quality and evidence based. A good place to start for information on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is:

- **Autism Victoria** - www.autismvictoria.org.au
- **The Raising Children website** is great for practical tips and advice for all parents www.raisingchildren.net.au
- **The Act-Now Project** at Monash University has a wealth of information and current research about Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Fact Sheets are a great starting point www.med.monash.edu.au/spppm/research/devpsych/actnow/project.html
- **The Gray Centre** is home to Carol Gray who is known for her work with Social Stories and working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders www.thegraycenter.org
- **Tony Atwood** is well known for his work with individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and their families. His website provides a wealth of knowledge on Asperger's Syndrome, upcoming seminars and resources. See also Tony's clinic Minds and Hearts www.mindsandhearts.net; www.tonyatwood.com.au
- **Sue Larkey** is known for her work within the education system and her website provides a wealth of knowledge and resources for parents, teachers, other professionals and integration aids working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders www.suelarkey.com
- **Richard Eisenmajer** has a very useful DVD which can be purchased online www.theasdclinic.com.au/website/dvd.htm