



Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre / CarerLinks North Older Families Support and Planning Program

The Older Families Support and Planning Program works with parents/ carers aged over 60 caring at home for a person with a life-long disability (ATSI carers - 45 years or over)

The Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre / CarerLinks North is:

- Auspiced by Merri Community Health Services (formerly Moreland Community Health Service)
- Has been operating in the Northern Metropolitan Region since 1997 and is based in Preston
- Covers seven local government areas: Darebin, Banyule, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Yarra, Moreland and Hume

The Older Families Support and Planning Program

Is funded by both State and Federal Governments

The Program aims to:

- Be a central access point for information, support and respite for older families
- Raise awareness in the community of the needs of older carers and the person they care for
- Identify what support older carers need and promote ways of developing these in the community

Services available to Carers

1. Information and Response team

Services offered by the Information and Response team include:

- Information on respite options for carers, including emergency respite
- Telephone assessment based on identified carer need
- Flexible funding to purchase respite and other relevant services
- Emotional support to carers
- Coordination of referrals for relevant services

2. Carer Support Workers

Carer support workers can:

- Assist carers to access respite and recreation services
- Provide one on one emotional support
- Provide 24 hour access to emergency respite
- Link carers to appropriate services
- Work with carers to plan for short term as well as long term needs

Referral Process

Please contact the Information and Response team by phone or email.

Service providers are required to complete a SCTT form including 'Part B' Carer referral form.

How to contact the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre/CarerLinks North

You can contact the service by phone, fax or email :

Phone: 1800 052 222 or (03) 9495 2500

Fax: 9495 2599

After Hours: 1800 052 222

Email: clnintakeworkers@mchs.org.au

Website: www.mchs.org.au

Hours of operation:

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

An after hours response service is also available.