

## **More information**

Our website has the latest information about our services, our events calendar and news. Visit **merrihealth.org.au** 

### **Quick Contacts**

All services 1300 637 744 (MERRI H)

**Carer Gateway** 1800 422 737

Victims Assistance Program 1300 362 739

My Aged Care\* 1800 200 422

Feedback 03 9389 2234 We have many sites across Victoria. Visit our website merrihealth.org.au for all site details and contact numbers.

\*My Aged Care is the first point of contact for aged care services.

## **Contact**

Merri Health Registered Office:

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung

11 Glenlyon Road Brunswick VIC 3056

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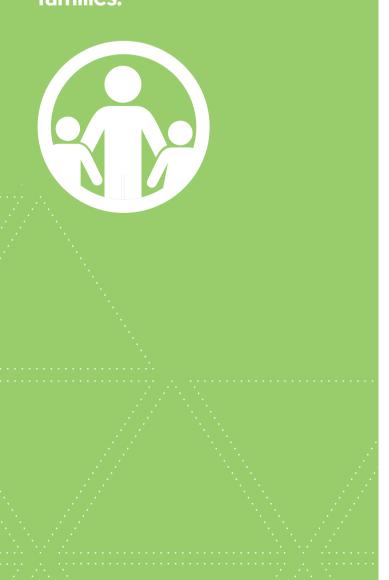




# MerriHealth Child and family Services



By working in partnership, our services promote happy, healthy children and strong families.



## Children's health

## Audiology

Our audiology service provides hearing assessments for infants and young people up to 18 years.

## **Exercise physiology**

Individual exercise assessments for children with a variety of conditions including autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and weight management. Exercise physiologists can help with physical activity advice to help your child lead a healthier lifestyle. We can provide land-based, water-based, group, gym or home-based exercise programs.

## Occupational therapy

Provides support for children having problems with coordinating their arms and legs, who need help with daily living skills such as toileting, dressing, bathing, learning and interacting with others or coping with sensory input.

## Child psychology

This service provides support for children with unusual/challenging behaviours including difficulties with social skills and learning. Our psychologist also offers parenting support and advice.

## Speech pathology

Assessment and therapy for children and infants who are late at starting to speak, are unclear in their speech, have trouble with paying attention, understanding words, are stuttering or have voice difficulties. This service can help children develop social skills and confidence, as well as improve listening and concentration.

# Little feet and legs clinic

Help for children aged 0-8 years that are having foot or leg problems, affecting the way they walk. Children will receive support from a physiotherapist and podiatrist.





Merri Health creates healthy, connected communities through local health services for people at every age and stage of life.

We know that at different times, your health needs change. That's why we support you throughout life with services spanning from children's health to aged care.

## **Carer Gateway**

Carer Gateway is an Australian Government initiative that delivers improved and expanded services to carers across Australia

In Victoria, these services are provided by a group of seven health and social support providers, led by Merri Health.

All carers can access Carer Gateway services

www.carergateway.gov.au



## **Support for families**

## **Family Foundations**

Family Foundations is a 10-week evidence-based intervention designed to strengthen parenting partnerships during pregnancy and the critical first year of a child's life. The program aims to reduce partner conflict, open up communication and promote parent mental health. Your Family Foundations practitioners will work with you and your partner (or whoever you are co-parenting with) in your home or the program can be provided virtually.

## **Integrated Family Services (IFS)**

IFS is an in-home service providing support to families related to parenting, child development, family relationships, connections with local services, advocacy and case management.

# Children with Complex Disability Support Needs (CCDSN)

The CCDSN program aims to support, strengthen and stabilise a family who have a child/children with complex disability support needs. The practitioner will provide advocacy, access, referral and linkages, while supporting the mental and physical health needs and safety of all family members.

## **Educational programs**

## **School Focused Youth Service**

This service works in partnership with schools and community organisations to support students from grade 5 to year 12 who are attending school, but are vulnerable to, or showing signs of, disengagement from school. Together, we help them stay connected to education.

## **School Readiness**

The School Readiness Allied Health Program is a program that provides early childhood centres with access to high quality allied health services. Our allied health professionals work with educators and families to build on existing skills and improve learning and development outcomes for children.

## **Kinder Partnerships**

Kinder Partnerships provides allied health support for early childhood professionals, to enhance children's learning before they start school, in the areas of communication, social and emotional wellbeing and access/inclusion.

## Counselling

## Generalist counselling

We provide short to medium-term counselling and support services to help you through any issues you are experiencing. This may include help with depression, anxiety, relationships, loss and grief. Our service is confidential and respectful of your needs, circumstances and culture. We also provide specialist counselling and peer work support for people who are going through or have gone through family violence.

We run group sessions based on community needs. This service is available from our Brunswick, Coburg, Fawkner and Glenroy sites. We also provide interpreters as needed.

## Family violence counselling

This specialist service provides counselling, support and peer support for women and children who have gone through or are going through family violence. We help you to recover from family violence, support your safety, help you to not feel alone and connect you to your community.

### Drop-in community service

Our drop-in service is known as DUTY and provides one off help to address your needs. It is provided from 93 Bell Street Coburg, from 1pm to 3pm, Monday to Friday. Our workers are professionally trained and it is a confidential service. As this is a drop-in service, an appointment is not needed, however a maximum of four people can be seen per day. We also provide telephone interpreters if needed.

## **Victims Assistance Program**

This program provides help for people who have experienced violence. We can help you cope with the effects of the crime by taking you through 'legal talk', finding support services and helping you feel safe again. We also help family members of victims of a violent act, dependents and partners of people who have died as a result of an act of violence.

## **Health initiatives**

## Ready, Set, Prep - Preparing for school

Ready, Set, Prep aims to create happy, healthy, children who are ready to start primary school. Ready, Set, Prep works with local Fawkner schools, kindergartens, early years and community services to share important messages and programs to help prepare families in Fawkner for their child's first year at school.

## Costs

Our services are either free or require a small fee. To find out whether there is a fee for a service, visit our website www.merrihealth.org.au and search for 'fees' or call 1300 637 744.

Merri Health is an inclusive service provider. We are committed to providing safe and high quality services that respect the needs, wants and aspirations of all people.

