

Additional Useful Contacts

Community Health Centres (CHCs)

Victoria's network of community health services deliver a range of primary health, human services and community based support to meet local community needs. There are currently 31 independently managed registered community health centres and 55 community health services that are a part of rural or metropolitan health services. Many CHC provide targeted services to vulnerable population groups and have links with migrant and refugee communities. To locate your nearest CHC, go to the Community Health Directory: www2.health.vic.gov.au/primary-and-community-health/

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Housing Offices

People with a disability can apply for priority public housing if they have special accommodation requirements such as the need for modifications or specialist care services that cannot be met in the private housing sector. Consider contacting your local DHHS Housing Office to enquire about opportunities to disseminate information to public housing tenants who speak languages other than English, especially in areas with high concentrations of CALD communities. For a list of housing office locations and contact details, go to: <https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/locations-dhhs-offices-victoria>

English Language Schools (ELS)

There are eight English language schools and centres in the Melbourne metropolitan area and three in regional areas. ESLs provide intensive English courses for eligible newly arrived migrant and refugee young people at primary and secondary school levels. Contact details for ESLs can be found at: www.education.vic.gov.au/diversity

Maternal and Child Health Services (MCHS)

MCHS provide information and support relating to children's health and development from birth until school age. The service can help identify issues and concerns in children's development early in life and direct families to appropriate support services and interventions. There are maternal and child health centres in every local government area in Victoria. They are staffed by qualified maternal and child health nurses, with support from a range of health professionals. To contact your nearest service, go to:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/parents/mch/Pages/contactmch.aspx>

Public Libraries

Many public libraries have links with community groups and undertake initiatives targeting CALD communities. Some offer English language conversational classes, story-time in community languages, community gatherings and publications in other languages. Contact your local library for more information.

Royal Children's Hospital – Immigrant Health Service

The service includes an outpatient clinic, which provides multidisciplinary medical and developmental assessment for recently arrived children from refugee backgrounds and education for service providers. The service has close links with primary health providers, refugee health teams and settlement/community organisations working in refugee health.

Webpage: <https://www.rch.org.au/immigranthealth/>

Western Health – African Women’s Wellness Program (AWWP)

Western Health established the AWWP for maternity care at Sunshine Hospital. The aim of the program is to provide culturally responsive clinical care, education and resources and facilitate access to services for women from African communities. For further information, go to:

http://www.westernhealth.org.au/Services/Womens_and_Children/MaternityServices/Pages/African-Womens-Wellness-Program.aspx