

Disability Services Respite, Flexible Support and Planning Services in Inner Gippsland

October 2014

Purpose

This document provides information on respite, flexible support and planning services funded by Department of Human Services (DHS) in the Inner Gippsland Area. It is intended for service providers and disability planners to assist with planning and referral pathways.

Inner Gippsland Area

Inner Gippsland is a geographical area in the Department of Human Services' South Division. It includes the following four Local Government Areas (LGAs): Latrobe City; South Gippsland Shire; Bass Coast Shire; and Baw Baw Shire.

Respite

Respite support aims to provide short-term breaks for carers of people with a disability, while providing a positive experience for the person with a disability either in their own home or away from home. Short-term breaks can be overnight, in-home, with another family or flexible support.

Respite in Inner Gippsland may be referred to differently by different service providers but essentially is made up of:

- Supporting Older Carers (SOC)– direct service
- Flexible respite
- Innovative Respite Support and School Holiday Respite
- Facility based respite

Supporting Older Carers – Direct Service

Supporting Older Carers – direct service is provided across Inner Gippsland with targets attached to local Government areas based on census data and Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability 55+, provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The target group for this funding is people aged 60 years and over who care for a person with a disability. Where appropriate, service providers can exercise some flexibility regarding this age criteria.

All older carers can access this service in accordance with the Disability Services Access Policy although the priority for the allocation of support is older carers who are caring for an individual under the age of 65 who is not currently in receipt of disability funded support. This may include older carers of a person with a disability currently attending a Day Service, with no other funded supports in place. As is the case in all other circumstances, older carers of a person aged over 65 should be referred to Aged Care Services.

The following table lists the services that provide Supporting Older Carers- direct service in Inner Gippsland.

Organisation	Local Government Area
Australian Home Care Services Pty Ltd Phone 1300 303 770	All of Inner Gippsland
Gippsland Southern Health Service Phone 5667 5555	South Gippsland Shire
Headway Gippsland Inc Phone 5127 7166	All of Inner Gippsland
Latrobe Community Health Service Phone 1800 242 696	All of Inner Gippsland
Scope Vic Ltd Phone 5623 1033	Baw Baw Shire and South Gippsland Shire
VISTA Phone 5135 4300	All of Inner Gippsland
Yooralla Phone 5135 3559	All of Inner Gippsland

Flexible Respite

A range of organisations in the Inner Gippsland area deliver flexible respite services to people with a disability and their carers. This may include recreational programs, holiday programs or camps, supported community activities in a group setting or an individual basis. Organisations providing these services are listed below. For specific details of flexible respite available contact the organisations directly.

Organisation	Local Government Area
DHS Disability Accommodation Services (DAS) Phone 1800 783 783	All of Inner Gippsland
Gippsland Southern Health Service Phone 5654 2785	South Gippsland Shire
Headway Phone 5127 7166	All of Inner Gippsland
Interchange Gippsland Phone 1300 736 765	South Gippsland Shire Bass Coast Shire Latrobe City
Latrobe Community Health Service Phone 1800 242 696	All of Inner Gippsland
Scope Vic Phone 5623 1033	Baw Baw Shire and South Gippsland Shire
VISTA Phone 5135 4300	All of Inner Gippsland
Yooralla Phone 5135 3559	All of Inner Gippsland

Innovative Respite Support and School Holiday Respite

In the 2011-12 Victorian State Budget the Government allocated funding to provide innovative respite support to individuals with a disability with high and complex needs that also supported their families and carers. These programs are directed to aboriginal families with children aged from 5- 18 and teenagers between 14-18 years.

The Innovative Respite Support and School Holiday Respite funds are distributed across Inner Gippsland Area and managed by Interchange Gippsland. For more specific detail on eligibility and availability contact Interchange directly.

Organisation	Respite Options	Local Government Area	Contact
Interchange Gippsland	Koori Family Camps ROADIES program	Inner Gippsland Area Sth Gippsland and Bass Coast	Phone 1300 736 765

Facility Based Respite

Facility based respite offers individuals with a disability some time away from home in a supported share-house arrangement while also providing families and carers a break from their caring role. This can be short-term stays of one night to multiple nights depending on needs and availability.

People with disabilities who have been assessed as meeting the target group for the Disability Act as well as a priority in accordance with the Disability Act Access Policy can access facility based respite.

There are three providers of facility based respite in the Inner Gippsland area. Although facility based respite houses are located in the Inner Gippsland area, the service is also available to people who live in other geographical areas.

Organisation	House locations & target group	Contact
Disability Accommodation Services (DAS)	Traralgon - adults Warragul - children	DHS Information and Referral Phone 1800 783 783
EW Tipping Foundation	Wonthaggi - adults Warragul - adults	Phone 5135 4300
SCOPE Vic	Morwell – adults and children	Phone 5623 1033

Flexible Support

Flexible support packages provide discretionary funding to enable people with a disability, their families and carers access to timely, responsive supports. This could include the provision of information, planning and low-level, short-term supports as well as assistance to access community and mainstream services.

Flexible support packages play a key role in providing early intervention supports that may minimise the need for more intensive disability supports or complement and improve the capacity of community services. The Flexible Support Packages Guidelines 2013 provide more information and can be accessed online at:

www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies,-guidelines-and-legislation/flexible-support-packages-guidelines

The following organisations provide flexible support packages in Inner Gippsland:

Organisation	Local Government Area
Latrobe Community Health Service Phone 1800 242 696	All of Inner Gippsland
Anglicare Phone 5662 4561	South Gippsland Shire
Baw Baw Shire Phone 5625 0256	Baw Baw Shire
Bass Coast Health Phone 5671 9200	Bass Coast Shire
Latrobe City Phone 1300 367 700	Latrobe City

Planning Services

Assistance with Planning

Assistance with planning is provided primarily to people with a disability and their carers who are seeking support for the first time. People suitable for assistance with planning are generally those who are unsure of their specific needs and require more extensive support to explore their needs and goals and the possible range of support options available to them.

Assistance with planning may include: assistance to enable a person to identify their goals and needs; support to build a person's informal networks; linking people into their community; and building the skill and capacity of people with a disability.

A significant issue of concern to older parents is future planning for their adult son or daughter with a disability who are still living in the family home. Older carers may not seek or need formal supports and services right now, but would like to start planning for the future when they may require more supports. Alternatively, planning may assist those who have already considered some of their needs and goals, and require information and assistance to engage appropriate supports to assist them to achieve their goals.

In the Inner Gippsland Area funding is allocated to provide planning to older people caring for a person with a disability. The service is targeted at carers aged 60 years and over; and 45 years and over for members of the Indigenous community.

Planning with older carers can be an intensive service or a short term limited planning episode depending on the needs of the family.

Where intensive planning is required a referral can be made through DHS Information and Referral on 1800 783 783 for Assistance with Planning. Referrals for short term planning for older carers can be made directly to the organisation.

The following organisations are funded to provide Assistance with Planning Services in Inner Gippsland:

Organisation	Local Government Area serviced
Bass Coast Health Phone 5671 9200	Bass Coast Shire and South Gippsland Shire
Baw Baw Shire Phone 5625 0256	Baw Baw Shire
Latrobe City Phone 1300 367 700	Latrobe City
Latrobe Community Health Service Phone 1800 242 696	All of Inner Gippsland

Individual Support Packages (ISP), administered through the DHS Disability Support Register (DSR), remain the mechanism for the allocation of ongoing funded support. This planning service complements the current direction with a focus on linking people into natural supports in their local community. A function of the planning service includes supporting people with a disability and their carers to make applications to the DSR for ongoing supports where this need is identified.

Respite in Gippsland Website

The Victorian Government introduced the Respite Online initiative in 2009 in order to improve consistency of access to information of respite services across Victoria. In Gippsland, Yooralla is responsible to lead the ongoing development of the website and will update information regarding respite services across Gippsland as it is submitted.

The website is a valuable resource that provides current and useful information about respite services in order to support families, carers and people with a disability, enabling them to choose and access services that match their needs.

For further information go to: www.respitegippsland.org.au.

Further Information

To access any of the services described above contact the service providers listed to enquire about availability of supports. Note that this information sheet focuses on the Inner Gippsland area incorporating local government areas listed above, however some of the service providers listed here provide services beyond these areas across the whole of Gippsland. For more detail on the scope of the geographic area for individual services, contact the service providers directly.

DHS Information and Referral on 1800 783 783 can also provide up to date information on services across Gippsland.