

FAMILYCARE - DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

FamilyCare is a dynamic non-government not for profit organisation offering a range of services to families in Shepparton, Seymour and surrounding districts.

Disability Support Services is a program of FamilyCare. We offer disability support services to children from birth to 21 years of age and their families in the form of Respite, Recreation Programs, Camps, Family activities, as well as much more. Our Disability Support Services programs help children and young people reach their fullest potential.

RESPITE & RECREATION PROGRAM

Volunteering is a fantastic way to contribute to your local community's well being and develop meaningful relationships with young people who have a disability and their families. It is also a great way to gain extraordinary life experiences, whilst having fun and meeting like-minded people.

Volunteers play a vital and much valued role in many of the services provided by FamilyCare. Without volunteers, many of our programs would not exist. FamilyCare has a range of volunteering opportunities and is committed to matching volunteers with opportunities that best meet their needs and interests. Volunteers receive thorough training, and ongoing support from FamilyCare staff.

Recreation Volunteers

Rec. Volunteers can participate in camps, school holiday activities, afternoon recreation program or one of our many other programs. There is no cost to volunteers; transport is provided, along with accommodation, catering and activities.

These programs give those involved new opportunities to participate in their community, attend social events, make friends, develop skills, build confidence and self esteem, develop independence, and have fun. No experience working with children with disabilities is necessary.

On our recreation programs, we have paid staff and volunteers who support the young people, enabling them to access our programs and regular community activities.

- Volunteers are a vital part of our program.
- Volunteers allow us to deliver more respite and recreation opportunities.
- Volunteers assist us in providing more individualised attention to our clients
- Volunteers can be of great benefit in assisting us to provide a more inclusive environment for our clients.

Recreation Volunteers: Benefits of volunteering

- Get involved in the community
- Meet new people and make new friends
- Support children and their families
- Gain new skills and knowledge
- Feel rewarded and appreciated
- Develop life skills
- Enhance your resume
- Ongoing training in First Aid, Safe Food Handling and Manual Handling and more
- Experience unique opportunities
- Build a lifetime of special memories, and lastly
- Have some fun!

Recreation Volunteer: Requirements

FamilyCare volunteers range in age from 16 years to retirement age. All volunteers over 18 years will be required to complete a Victorian Police Check and a Working with Children Check before beginning their volunteering role.

Recreation Volunteers: Support & Training

New volunteers are invited to attend the Disability Support Services orientation training sessions. These sessions are a valuable and essential step in the process of becoming an accredited volunteer with our program. FamilyCare Disability Support Services volunteers receive valuable information and ongoing training opportunities to develop new skills through accredited and non accredited courses.

Some volunteers, depending on the program of their interest, will also need to take part in our volunteer assessment process.

INTERCHANGE HOST PROGRAM

Our Interchange Host Program aims to recruit volunteers to provide respite care to families who have a child or young person with a disability. The care is provided on a regular basis within the volunteer's own home, for example one day, an overnight stay or weekend each month. These arrangements are flexible to suit the volunteers and families needs.

Host Volunteers do not require any previous experience in caring for a child who has a disability. Just the desire to share an occasional weekend with a child to give a family a break or care for a child in the safe and secure environment of their own home. Ongoing support and training will be provided.

If you'd like to experience the rewards of volunteering and making a positive difference to the lives of children or young people with a disability and their families, please contact Karen Goodger FamilyCare Disability Support Services on 5823 7000.