

# **Cancer Services**

A guide to support services for Victorians affected by cancer

For cancer information and support, call 13 11 20 www.cancervic.org.au

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#### Note to reader

All care is taken to ensure that the information in this booklet is accurate at the time of publication. Please note that inclusion of a service in this directory does not imply any endorsement or association of that service by Cancer Council Victoria. This booklet provides services and organisations that may be of assistance to those affected by cancer, and should not be considered exhaustive.

Always obtain independent advice relevant to your specific situation from appropriate professionals. You may wish to discuss any organisations listed in reference to your own situation. Always consult your doctor about matters that affect your health, legal matters with a lawyer or legal advisor and a financial advisor or financial counsellor about matters concerning your finances. Please note that laws, regulations and entitlements that affect people with cancer may change. Cancer Council Victoria excludes all liability for any injury, loss or damage incurred by use of or reliance on the information provided in this booklet.



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The front cover incorporates our commissioned Aboriginal artwork by Dixon Patten Jnr – Yorta Yorta and Gunnai. For the full artist description visit: cancervic.org.au/dixon-patten

## Introduction

Finding the right support when you need it most is important to your overall wellbeing as you manage the news of a diagnosis, treatment and life after cancer.

A wide range of services exist to support you. We have designed this guide as a useful way to find services that suit your personal situation. Your needs are likely to change over time, for this reason we have included services that provide support at various stages of a cancer experience. Importantly, many of these services are also available to friends, family and carers.

This guide lists services in sections based on the type of support offered, whether it be health services and information, practical support or health and wellbeing.

If you can't find what you are looking for or require more information, simply call our experienced and understanding cancer nurses on **13 11 20** or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**. The nurses complement the care provided by your treatment team and are available Monday–Friday 9am–5pm. If you require information and support in your own language, call **13 14 50** and ask to contact Cancer Council Victoria.

Although most services and programs listed can be accessed without a referral, it is important to speak with your treatment team about any concerns you have and they can ensure you are receiving the most appropriate care.

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## Supporting those affected by cancer

Cancer Council Victoria offers a range of services and programs to improve the quality of life of Victorians affected by cancer.

## Information and education

- Information and support from experienced and understanding cancer nurses available over the phone and email.
- A range of over 80 booklets, factsheets, DVDs and CDs exploring topics and issues faced by those affected by cancer.
- The Living with Cancer Education Program empowering people affected by cancer with useful skills and information.
- The Wellness and Life after Cancer Education Program supporting people as they make the transition to life after treatment.
- The Victorian Clinical Trials Link, a searchable database of all cancer clinical trials in Victoria.

## **Practical support**

- Pro bono (no fee) services delivered by volunteer professionals experienced in legal, financial, workplace and small business issues.\*
- Small one-off financial grants to cover everyday costs such as buying groceries or paying phone bills.\*

## Health and wellbeing

- Free confidential counselling.
- Free wigs fitted by a cancer nurse.\*
- Free holiday breaks with loved ones.\*
- Cancer support groups face-to-face, internet and telephone.
- Phone support from people who have been through a similar experience.
- Healthy Living after Cancer telephone coaching.

\*Eligibility criteria apply

Speak with one of our cancer nurses who can connect you with our services and others available in Victoria. The nurses provide reliable information and emotional and practical support at any stage of a cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

## Ways to connect with cancer information and support



To speak with a cancer nurse call **13 11 20**, 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday.



For other languages, call **13 14 50** and ask to speak to Cancer Council Victoria.



Email at www.cancervic.org.au/ask-a-nurse.



Visit cancervic.org.au.



There are many organisations and foundations that work to support those affected by a particular type of cancer. They provide information and support programs and services that can also be accessed by carers and families. Visit their website to find out what each organisation has on offer.

#### **Need more information?**

Call **13 11 20** to speak with an experienced and understanding cancer nurse or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**. To speak with a nurse through an interpreter call **13 14 50**.

#### **Anal cancer**

#### The Bottom Line

thebottomline.org.au Provides information about anal cancer and HPV for gay and other men who have sex with men. Also provides a list of available support services.

## **Blood cancer**

Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group

allg.org.au 8373 9702

Leukaemia Foundation leukaemia.org.au 1800 620 420

#### Lymphoma Australia lymphoma.org.au 0431 483 204

#### **Myeloma Foundation of Australia** myeloma.org.au 9428 7444

#### **Bowel cancer**

Bowel Cancer Australia bowelcanceraustralia.org 1800 555 494

#### **Brain cancer**

**Brain Tumour Alliance Australia** btaa.org.au 1800 857 221 Neuroblastoma Australia neuroblastoma.org.au 0406 991 606

Brainchild Foundation brainchild.org.au

Peace of Mind Foundation peaceofmindfoundation.org.au 0411 382 457

BrainLink brainlink.org.au 1800 677 579

#### **Breast cancer**

#### **Breast Cancer Network Australia**

bcna.org.au 1800 500 258

Counterpart counterpart.org.au 1300 781 500

#### McGrath Foundation

mcgrathfoundation.com.au 02 8962 6100

#### National Breast Cancer Foundation

nbcf.org,au 02 8098 4800

Think Pink Foundation

thinkpink.org.au 9820 2888 Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation accf.org.au 1800 017 676

Australian Gynaecological Cancer Foundation agcf.org.au 02 9235 0121

Counterpart counterpart.org.au 1300 781 500

**Ovarian Cancer Australia** ovariancancer.net.au 1300 660 334

## Head and neck cancer

Beyond Five beyondfive.org.au 02 8514 0109

### **Kidney cancer**

Kidney Health Australia kidney.org.au 1800 454 363

#### Liver cancer

Hepatitis Australia hepatitisaustralia.com 1800 437 222

## Lung cancer

#### Lung Cancer Network Australia

lungcancernetwork.com.au 1800 654 301

#### Melanoma

Melanoma Institute Australia melanoma.org.au 02 9911 7200

#### Melanoma Patients Australia

melanomapatients.org.au 1300 88 44 50

#### **Mesothelioma**

Asbestos Council of Victoria – GARDS gards.org 03 5127 7744 **Bernie Banton Foundation** 

berniebanton.com.au 1800 031 731

#### Asbestoswise

asbestoswise.com.au 9654 9555

#### Neuroblastoma

Neuroblastoma Australia neuroblastoma.org.au 0406 991 606

#### **Neuroendocrine tumours**

Unicorn Foundation unicornfoundation.org.au 1300 287 363

#### Can't find what you're looking for?

Call **13 11 20** to speak with an experienced cancer nurse or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**. To speak with a nurse through an interpreter, call **13 14 50**.

## Pancreatic, liver, stomach, oesophageal and biliary cancer

#### **Pancare Foundation**

pancare.org.au 1300 881 698

#### **Prostate cancer**

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia prostate.org.au 1800 220 099 **PROSTMATE** prostmate.org.au

#### **Rare cancers**

#### **Rare Cancers Australia**

rarecancers.org.au

#### Sarcoma

#### Australasian Sarcoma Study Group

australiansarcomagroup.org 1800 177 657

#### Skin cancer

#### Skin and Cancer Foundation

skincancer.asn.au

#### **Thyroid cancer**

## Australian Thyroid Foundation

thyroidfoundation.org.au 02 9890 6962



Caring for someone with cancer can be a rewarding yet challenging experience. There are a range of services available to support you emotionally, physically and financially, to ensure your health and wellbeing.

Please note that many of the services listed throughout this guide are also available to family and friends; it can be worth making an enquiry to find out.

#### **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria offers booklets and factsheets you may find useful:

- Carer's Kit
- Caring for Someone with Cancer.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

**Carers Victoria** is the peak agency for unpaid, mostly family carers. They offer information and support. The website **carersvic.org.au** provides advice for all carers to support their needs and the people they care for.

To find the support in your local area, go to the Carers Victoria website, click on the button that says '*Find Support Services, Carer Support Groups and more at Everything Carers*'. Use the '*Find Services*' tab in the new screen to search by your location.

#### Cancer Council Victoria Family Connect

cancervic.org.au/how-we-can-help/ phone-support/cancer\_connect 13 11 20

#### **Carer Card**

carercard.vic.gov.au/home 1800 901 958

#### **Carer Gateway**

carergateway.gov.au 1800 422 737

#### **Carers Victoria**

carersvictoria.org.au 1800 242 636

## Respite

## Cancer Council Victoria Holiday Break

cancervic.org.au/how-we-can-help/ holiday-break-program 13 11 20

#### My Aged Care

myagedcare.gov.au 1800 200 422 Online and phone service that provides information about available respite services.

#### Department of Social Services Emergency Care Plan

www.health.gov.au Search for '*Emergency care plan*' 1300 653 227

## Working Carers Gateway

workingcarers.org.au

#### Young Carers youngcarers.net.au 1800 242 636

#### OTIS Foundation Breast Cancer Retreats otisfoundation.org.au 03 5444 1184

#### Respite Victoria respitevictoria.org.au

#### **Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres**

Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres (CRCCs) support caring relationships through access to information, respite care and other support appropriate to carers' needs and circumstances, and the needs of the people they care for.

CRCCs provide free and confidential information on local carer support, disability and community services. Centres are located across Victoria.

To find your local CRCC call 1800 052 222 and you will be directed to your closest centre. For emergency respite call 1800 059 059 (outside of standard business hours). If you are looking for a centre out of your local area, a list of CRCC centres are provided below.

#### Metropolitan

Alfred Health Care Services Southern carersouth.org.au 9076 6111 Merri Health Northern merrihealth.org.au/services/carersupport 9495 2500

## Carers Victoria

Western carersvictoria.org.au/respite 9396 9550

#### Regional

#### **Ballarat Health Services**

Grampians bhs.org.au/node/188 03 5333 7104

#### **Barwon Health**

Barwon – South Western barwonhealth.org.au/carer-support/ item/carer-support 03 4215 0000

#### Bendigo Health

Loddon Mallee bendigohealth.org.au 03 5454 6000

#### FamilyCare

Hume familycare.net.au Shepparton Office 03 5823 7000 Seymour Office 03 5735 4600

#### Latrobe Community Health Service

Gippsland lchs.com.au 1800 242 696

#### Villa Maria Catholic Homes

Hume vmch.com.au 1800 036 377



It can be difficult when a child is diagnosed with cancer, or a child is coping with a family member or friend going through cancer. There are many services available to support children and families facing emotional, practical, financial and educational challenges.

#### **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria has a range of booklets and factsheets you may find useful:

- Cancer in the School Community
- Talking to Kids About Cancer.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

Camp Quality campquality.org.au 9329 8600

Camp Quality Kids Guide to Cancer App campquality.org.au/kidsguidetocancer

#### Cancer Australia Children's Cancer

childrenscancer.canceraustralia.gov. au/

#### Cancer Council Victoria – Childhood Cancers

cancervic.org.au/about-cancer/ cancer-and-children 13 11 20 CanTeen canteen.org.au 1800 226 833

Challenge Supporting Kids with Cancer challenge.org.au 9329 8474

Children's Cancer Foundation childrenscancerfoundation.com.au 7001 1450

Kids Helpline kidshelpline.com.au 1800 551 800



## Talking to young people about cancer

Feeling anxious or overwhelmed about talking to a young person about cancer? Wondering if they need professional support? Talk with your treatment team or call **13 11 20** to speak with an experienced and understanding cancer nurse. You might also find our publication *Talking to Kids About Cancer* useful. It provides age appropriate information on how to talk to children at each stage of a cancer experience from diagnosis to life after treatment. Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

#### Make A Wish Foundation Australia

makeawish.org.au 1800 032 260

Monkey in my Chair monkeyinmychair.org

Missing School missingschool.org.au 0411 162 597

Mummy's Wish mummyswish.org.au 07 3162 8265

ONTrac at Peter Mac Victorian Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Service ontrac.petermac.org

8559 6880

Parentline Victoria education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/ Pages/parentline.aspx 13 22 89 Redkite

redkite.org.au 1800 733 548

#### Ronald McDonald Learning Program

learningprogram.rmhc.org.au 1300 307 642

Starlight Children's Foundation Australia starlight.org.au 1300 727 827

## Very Special Kids

vsk.org.au 1800 888 875

#### Victorian Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service

pics.org.au 9345 4433

Wombat's Wish wombatswish.org.au 0499 966 228



After a cancer diagnosis, many people worry about how they will manage the impact on their job and finances. It can be difficult to know where to turn for information, advice and assistance. The services listed may be able to assist, or call **13 11 20** to speak with an experienced cancer nurse to find available services.

## **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria has a range of booklets and factsheets you may find useful:

- Cancer and Your Finances
- Cancer Care and Your Rights
- Cancer, Work & You
- Dealing with Debts
- Employment and Cancer
- Getting your Affairs in Order
- Help with Bills
- Immigration and Cancer
- Living with Advanced Cancer
- New Insurance Policies
- Superannuation and Cancer
- Travel Insurance and Cancer
- What Happens to Debts After Death
- Your Role as an Executor.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.



## Legal, financial or work issue?

Cancer Council Victoria offers four pro bono (no fee) programs for people experiencing financial hardship as the result of their cancer diagnosis.

The programs are delivered by professionals in the community who volunteer their time to assist clients who cannot afford to pay for advice\*. The team at Cancer Council matches clients to appropriate service providers.

- Legal referral service focuses on providing advice for end of life planning, financial, employment and tenancy issues.
- Financial planning referral service focuses on providing assistance to help manage financial challenges because of cancer.
- Workplace advisory service supports people with workplace issues during and after treatment including returning to work.
- Small business advice service links accountants with people affected by cancer, including carers, to provide assistance in managing their small business.

Call **13 11 20** for more information or visit **cancervic.org.au/ how-we-can-help/legal-financial-assistance** 

\*These services are free for people who qualify via a means test. If you don't qualify for free help, paid assistance is available.

## Employment

#### Fair Work Commission

fwc.gov.au 1300 799 675

Australia's national workplace relations tribunal resolves a range of workplace disputes through conciliation, mediation and in some cases tribunal hearings.

#### Fair Work Ombudsman

fairwork.gov.au 13 13 94 Provides an information gateway to information and advice about Australia's workplace rights and rules.

#### JobAccess

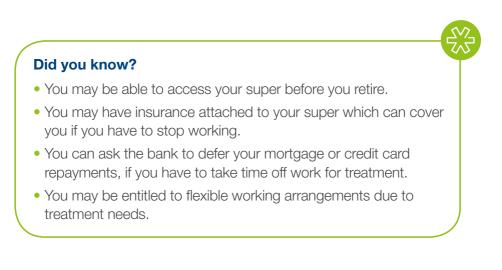
jobaccess.gov.au 1800 464 800 Provides information about services, financial assistance and workplace solutions for people affected by disability.

#### Work after Cancer

workaftercancer.com.au A resource to support work during and after cancer treatment. Provides advice to people diagnosed with cancer, their carers, clinicians and employers about their options, rights and responsibilities.

#### WorkSafe

worksafe.vic.gov.au 1800 136 089 Support and information about returning to work for people with work-related injuries or illness.



## Financial

## Australian Financial Security Authority

afsa.gov.au 1300 364 785 Provides information about bankruptcy and personal insolvency agreements.

#### Australian Taxation Office – Superannuation

ato.gov.au/super 13 10 20 Provides information regarding all aspects of superannuation.

#### Cancer Council Victoria Financial Assistance Program

cancervic.org.au/how-we-can-help/ legal-financial-assistance 13 11 20 Small, one-off grant to people experiencing financial hardship following a cancer diagnosis, to cover everyday costs such as buying groceries or paying phone bills. Eligibility criteria applies.

#### **Consumer Affairs Victoria**

consumer.vic.gov.au/ 1300 55 81 81 Victoria's consumer affairs regulator, providing information about credit, debt, tenancies and who to contact for advice.

## Need financial help?

If you are finding it difficult to make ends meet, community organisations may be able to help. Search the internet using *crisis assistance* and *emergency relief* as search terms.

You can also find details of community organisations using an Australian government search tool; use the internet search term 'DSS Service Directory' to find the search tool.

#### Credit and Investments Ombudsman

cio.org.au 1800 138 422 Offers consumers an independent external dispute resolution service.

#### Department of Human Services Victoria – Concessions

dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions An online search engine to view a full list of concessions, benefits and assistance available to Victorians.

### Department of Human Services Home renovation loan for owners

housing.vic.gov.au/home-renovation-loan-owners

1800 134 872

A loan for home renovations needed for health and safety reasons. Eligibility criteria apply.

#### Department of Social Services – Financial Information Service

dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/ seniors/programs-services/financialinformation-service 13 23 00

An education and information service to support the making of informed financial decisions.



## Government payments, allowances and pensions

To find out if you are eligible for government financial support, use the '*Payment Finder*' tool on the Department of Human Services website. By completing a set of simple questions, the tool will identify payments, allowances and pensions you may be eligible for such as:

- Bereavement allowance
- Carer allowance
- Carer payment
- Disability support pension
- Newstart allowance
- Sickness allowance.

Visit humanservices.gov.au and search on 'Payment finder'.

#### Financial Counselling Australia

financialcounsellingaustralia.org.au 1800 007 007 Provides an online '*Find a financial counsellor*' search tool.

#### **Financial Ombudsman Service**

fos.org.au 1800 367 287 Offers dispute resolution for consumers who are unable to resolve complaints with financial services providers.

#### Good Shepherd Microfinance No Interest Loan Schemes

nils.com.au/find 13 64 57 An online search tool to find a provider of a no interest loan.

## John Logan Cancer Treatment Foundation

johnloganfoundation.com.au 0426 227 855 Provides financial assistance to people with gastrointestinal cancers to help pay for prescribed treatments not covered by the PBS.

#### Kids with Cancer Foundation

kidswithcancer.org.au 1800 255 522 Provides funding for children affected by cancer, their families and other organisations that assist children with cancer.

#### Medicare External Breast Prostheses Reimbursement Program

humanservices.gov.au/ breastprostheses

13 20 11

A reimbursement of up to \$400 for external breast prosthesis. Payment reduced if you are reimbursed by other sources e.g. health insurance.

#### Medicare Safety Net

humanservices.gov.au Search for '*Medicare Safety Net*' 13 20 11 Financial assistance for out-ofhospital medical expenses that attract Medicare benefits once a threshold is reached.

#### Household bill assistance

If you are finding it difficult to cover the cost of household bills, financial assistance may be available from your service provider. Contact them to ask about their hardship programs.

#### Money Smart

moneysmart.gov.au 1300 300 630 Provides financial tips and safety checks from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

#### Money Smart Budget Planner

moneysmart.gov.au Search for '*Budget Planner*' A simple online budgeting tool that allows for the tracking of income and expenses. Available in other languages.

#### Money Smart TrackMySpend app

An app which allows you to track finances through your smart phone or device.

#### Mortgage Relief Scheme

housing.vic.gov.au/mortgage-reliefscheme 1300 650 172 Assists those having trouble with mortgage repayments after an unavoidable change in their lives.

#### National Debt Helpline

ndh.org.au 1800 007 007

Tips and resources to assist people to find solutions to debt problems. Free telephone counselling service available.

#### Pancare

pancare.org.au 1300 881 698

Provides financial assistance to people with a gastrointestinal cancer, to assist with the cost of accessing specialist medical services located more than 50km from home.

#### **PBS Safety Net card**

humanservices.gov.au Search for '*PBS Safety Net*' 1800 020 613 Assistance with expenses related to PBS medications, after reaching a threshold. Threshold amount varies dependent on personal circumstances.

#### Redkite

redkite.org.au 1800 733 548 Supporting those with cancer from 0–24 years. Assistance with essential items such as bills, groceries and vehicle related costs.

## Ronald McDonald House Charities – Charlie Bell Scholarship

rmhc.org.au/our-programs/charliebell-scholarship

Provides financial assistance to young people who have experienced a serious illness.

#### Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme

health.vic.gov.au Search for '*VPTAS*' 1300 737 073 Provides rural patients and their escorts partial reimbursement to assist with travel and accommodation costs, when travelling long distances or staying away from home to receive specialist medical treatment.

#### Your Energy Savings

yourenergysavings.gov.au Provides information about saving energy, saving money, available government assistance and rebates.

Legal

#### Advance Care Planning Australia

advancecareplanning.org.au 1300 208 582

National advisory service providing advance care planning information and support to health professionals, aged and community care workers, and the general public.

#### **Consumer Action Law Centre**

consumeraction.org.au 1800 007 007 Provides free and independent legal assistance and financial counselling.

#### Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria

communitylaw.org.au 9652 1500

The peak body for community legal centres in Victoria providing free legal help to clients facing economic and social disadvantage. Use the '*Find a community legal centre*' online tool to find one in your area.

#### Health Complaints Commissioner

hcc.vic.gov.au 1300 582 113 Receives and resolves your complaints and concerns about health service providers.

#### Law Institute of Victoria

liv.asn.au 9607 9311 Offers a '*Find a Lawyer Referral Service*' search tool.

## Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

oaic.gov.au 1300 363 992

Investigates privacy infringements and provides advice and guidance for the resolution of disputes.



## Can't find what you're looking for?

Call **13 11 20** to speak with an experienced cancer nurse or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**. To speak with a nurse through an interpreter, call **13 14 50**.

#### Office of the Public Advocate – Powers of Attorney

publicadvocate.vic.gov.au/power-ofattorney

1300 309 337

Provides a range of information, advice and support in relation to powers of attorney, guardianship and administration and medical treatment decision-making, with a particular focus on when people are unable or need additional support to make their own decisions.

#### Private Health Insurance Ombudsman

privatehealth.gov.au 1300 737 299 Provides information and advice about private health insurance rights and obligations.

#### Social Security Rights Victoria Inc

ssrv.org.au 9481 0355 Provides legal information and assistance in relation to social security law, principally issues with Centrelink.

#### State Trustees

statetrustees.com.au 1300 138 672 Provides a range of trustee, executor and personal financial administration services.

#### Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission

humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au 1300 292 153

Provides a free telephone enquiry line, dispute resolution service and information about discrimination and equal opportunity laws.

#### Victorian Law Foundation Everyday-Law

everyday-law.org.au 9604 8100

Provides reliable, easy-to-understand legal information. Includes a search tool to find free or low cost legal help in your area.

#### Victorian Legal Aid

legalaid.vic.gov.au 1300 792 387 Provides basic legal information through its multilingual telephone information service.



Travelling to treatment can be a challenge, even more so if your treatment centre is not close to home. Some people may also need short-term accommodation. A range of travel and accommodation services exist in both metropolitan and regional areas.

#### **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria has a range of booklets and factsheets you may find useful:

• Patient Transport.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

## Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme

The Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) subsidises the travel and accommodation costs incurred by rural Victorians and approved escort(s). It helps cover costs when there is no option but to travel more than 100kms one way, or an average of 500kms a week for one or more weeks, to receive approved medical specialist services or specialist dental treatment.

Visit **health.vic.gov.au** and search on '*VPTAS*' for more information. It is also available in a range of languages.

## Accommodation

## Metropolitan

#### **BMDI Rotary House**

Melbourne fightcancer.org.au/what-we-do/ accomodation-melbourne 9320 7400

#### Leukaemia Foundation Accommodation Service

East Melbourne Flemington North Melbourne Preston South Yarra leukaemia.org.au/our-services/ accommodation/victoria/vicmelbourne 1800 620 420

#### Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Melbourne

petermac.org/location/melbourne/ accommodation-around-peter-mac/ patient-accommodation 8559 7454

#### **Ronald McDonald House Charities**

Clayton Parkville rmhc.org.au 02 9875 6666

#### Ryder-Cheshire Ivanhoe Home

Ivanhoe rydercheshirehomes.org.au 9254 2400

#### Think Pink Foundation

Melbourne thinkpink.org.au/the-living-centre/ourprograms/emergency 9820 2888

## Regional

Anam Cara House Colac anamcarahousecolac.org.au 03 5233 8203

#### Anam Cara House Geelong

anamcarahousegeelong.org.au 03 5222 5831 Barwon Health Andrew Love Cancer Centre Geelong barwonhealth.org.au/cancer-services/ support-services/accommodation 03 4215 2700

#### Bendigo Health Accommodation

bendigohealth.org.au 03 5454 6000

#### Gippsland Rotary Centenary House

Traralgon centenaryhouse.org.au 03 5171 1600

#### Hilltop Albury/Wodonga Patient and Carer Accommodation Centre

Albury fightcancer.org.au/what-we-do/ accommodation-albury-wodonga 02 6023 2645

#### **Pleasant Apartments**

Ballarat bricc.bhs.org.au/accommodation.php 03 5320 2958

## South West Health Care Rotary House

Warrnambool southwesthealthcare.com.au/swh/ content/rotary-house-warrnambool 03 5563 1666

#### St John of God Hospital Ballarat – Rotary House

Ballarat bricc.bhs.org.au/accommodation.php 03 5320 2958

#### Wimmera Health – Rotary House Horsham wimmerahealth.com Search for '*Rotary House*' 03 5381 9111

## Transport

## Statewide

#### Leukaemia Foundation Transport Program

leukaemia.org.au/our-services/ transport/transport-program 1800 620 420

#### Mobility Allowance

humanservices.gov.au/customer/ services/centrelink/mobility-allowance

#### Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme

health.vic.gov.au Search for '*VPTAS*' 1300 737 073

## Metropolitan

**Travellers Aid** 

travellersaid.org.au 03 9654 2600

#### Car parking: things to consider

There are many things you can do to reduce the costs and stress of parking. Prior to your visit:

- ask the hospital about different parking options before your first visit. There may be onsite parking, street parking and private carparks near the hospital.
- ask about parking rates prior to your visit and if any concessions are available.
   If you have a government concession card or are attending frequent appointments you may be eligible for discounted car parking. Each hospital will have different concessions.
   Talk to your treatment team about how to access them.
- allow enough time to find a car park and walk to your appointment.

- ask how far the walk is from the car parks to the hospital or use an online mapping tool like Google Maps.
- for those visiting Melbourne hospitals, download the 'Melbourne Street Parking' app for iPhone and Android smart phones. Using your location, the app helps you find carparking by detailing time restrictions and providing cost information.
- investigate public transport options available around the hospital. Speak with the hospital or call Public Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007 or visit www.ptv.vic.gov.au



You will often be at home while you recover from treatment. Services such as home medical care, meal delivery, cleaning and child care are available to assist during this time.

#### **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria has a range of booklets and factsheets you may find useful:

- Caring for Someone with Cancer
- Patient Transport.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

#### Gather My Crew

gathermycrew.org

An online rostering tool linking friends and family with practical tasks needed such as transport.

#### Lovlist

#### lovlist.org

An online tool that simplifies the process of organising friends and families to volunteer for tasks such as shopping, gardening and cooking.

#### Meals on Wheels

mealsvictoria.org.au 0459 466 433 Provides meals to people who are unable to prepare food for themselves.

#### My Aged Care

myagedcare.gov.au 1800 200 422 Online and phone service that provides information about available aged care services including when a health problem occurs.

#### Nurse-On-Call

health.vic.gov.au Search for '*Nurse on Call*' 1300 60 60 24 A Victorian Government health initiative, providing immediate health advice and information from a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

## Finding support

Our experienced cancer nurses can assist to find the right support at home. Call **13 11 20** or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**.

Hospital counsellors, social workers and nurses such as cancer support nurses and breast care nurses can assist.

Your local council may also be able to connect you with community services to help you manage living at home during treatment such as Meals on Wheels, home cleaning and maintenance, respite and day care. Contact your local council for information. Visit **knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au** to find your local council.

An internet search using the following terms is another useful way to find services:

*'Home visiting doctor services'* – If your GP does not provide home visits, or you need a GP out of hours in your home, a home doctor service can be of assistance.

*'Home nursing'* – Home nursing services allow you to recover from treatment in your own home. Speak with your GP or a member of your treatment team if you require access to home nursing services. There are both public and private services available.

'*Home care*' and '*home help*' – These services provide a range of home care and assistance options to help people live well at home. Services include domestic help, companionship, medical services, respite and transport.



The symptoms and treatment for cancer can sometimes result in needing regular medication, a prosthesis or personal care aids such as compression garments or stoma supplies. The following schemes and services provide information and support, including financial and compensation schemes.

## **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria offers a range of booklets and factsheets you may find useful. These resources provide information on relevant prostheses and personal care aids that may be required during and after treatment:

- Breast Prostheses and Reconstruction
- Understanding Anal Cancer
- Understanding Bladder Cancer
- Understanding Bowel Cancer
- Understanding Breast Cancer
- Understanding Prostate Cancer
- Understanding Vulva and Vaginal Cancer.

## Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses stomaltherapy.com

Australian Council of Stoma Associations australianstoma.com.au Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS) bladderbowel.gov.au/CAPS/ 13 20 11

Continence Foundation of Australia continence.org.au 9347 2522 Geelong Ostomy Association geelongostomy.com.au 03 5243 3664

Ileostomy Association Victoria

ileostomyvic.org.au 9650 9040

#### Lymphoedema Compression Garment Program

mercyhealth.com.au 8458 4444

#### Medicare External Breast Prostheses Reimbursement Program

humanservices.gov.au/ breastprostheses 13 20 11

My Health Record myhealthrecord.gov.au National Continence Helpline bladderbowel.gov.au 1800 330 066

National Public Toilet Map toiletmap.gov.au

Ostomy Association Melbourne oam.org.au 9888 8523

Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) health.gov.au 1800 020 103

Victorian Continence Resource Centre continencevictoria.org.au 1300 220 871

State-wide Equipment Program swep.bhs.org.au 1300 747 937

#### NPS Medicine Wise nps.org.au

NPS MedicineWise provides practical tools to improve the way health technologies, medicines and medical tests are prescribed and used.

These services will be of assistance in managing medication and pain.

Service	Web address	Phone
NPS Medicine Wise – Medicine List	nps.org.au/topics/how-to-be- medicinewise/managing-your- medicines/medicines-list	1300 633 424
NPS Medicine Wise – Pain Diary	nps.org.au/health- professionals/for-your-patients/ treatment-plans/pain-diary	
NPS Medicine Wise Adverse Medicine Events Line	nps.org.au/contact-us/ adverse-medicines-events	1300 134 237



Services that can support health and practical needs during and post treatment may exist in your local area. Speak with a Cancer Council nurse who can assist in finding appropriate services; call **13 11 20** or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**. Your local council can also be a good place to start, as are local community health services.

Each metropolitan and regional area in Victoria is covered by an Integrated Cancer Service (ICS). Some ICS provide a searchable directory of support services in the region as well as education programs and information about cancer. Visit their websites to find out what is available in the local area.

## **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria has a range of booklets and factsheets that may be useful:

- Caring for Someone with Cancer
- Carers Kit
- Patient Transport.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

## **National and Statewide**

#### Know your Council

knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au Search for your local council website to find out what support services are available.

#### National Health Services Directory

nhsd.com.au 1800 022 222 An online search tool to find health services in your local area.

#### **Community health services**

There are many community-based services across metropolitan and regional Victoria. Services available will depend on the needs of the local community. They may be called a Community Health Centre, District Health Service or a Bush Nursing Centre.

They can provide access to services for health care card holders as well as privately funded services. They can help with:

transport

• respite

- support at home
- nursing care
- rehabilitation
- wellbeing programs

- roopito
- health services
- personal care and aids
- disability services
- dental care.

#### Metropolitan

#### North Eastern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Services

nemics.org.au 9496 3322 The '*NEMICS Supportive Care Directory*' provides a range of supportive care services available for people who live in Melbourne's northern and eastern suburbs.

#### Paediatric Integrated Cancer Services pics.org.au 9345 4433

#### Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Services

smics.org.au 9928 8541

### Western and Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Services

wcmics.org 9656 2789

#### Regional

#### Albury Wodonga Cancer Foundation

canceralburywodonga.com.au 0438 431 362 Provides information about cancer and also services and support organisations in Albury Wodonga and surrounding communities.

## Barwon South Western Regional Integrated Cancer Services

bswrics.org.au 03 4215 0459 The '*BSWRICS Regional Services Directory*' is a search tool providing a wide range of supportive care services in the Barwon South Western region.

## Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services

gha.net.au/grics 03 5128 0138 The '*GRICS Service Directory*' provides services by local government area.

## Grampians Regional Integrated Cancer Services

gics.com.au 03 5320 4782

# Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Services

humerics.org.au 03 5832 8301 The '*Hume RICS Cancer Care Services Link*' is a search tool providing a wide range of supportive care services available in the Hume region.

# Loddon Mallee Integrated Cancer Services

Imics.org.au 03 5454 8380

#### Sunraysia Cancer Resouces

sunraysiacancerresources.com.au 03 5025 8866 Located in Mildura and provides information and support for people living with cancer.

#### Can't find what you're looking for?

Call **13 11 20** to speak with an experienced cancer nurse or email **askanurse@cancervic.org.au**. To speak with a nurse through an interpreter, call **13 14 50**.



Sometimes treatment for cancer stops working and a cure or remission is no longer possible. It is not easy to think about the reality of what is involved at the end of life. Dealing with the emotional, physical, practical, legal and financial impact can be difficult. These services are here to assist you and your family and friends.

#### **Need more information?**

Cancer Council Victoria has a range of booklets and factsheets you may find useful:

- Living with Advanced Cancer
- Understanding Palliative Care
- Facing End of Life
- Getting your Affairs in Order
- Understanding Grief
- What Happens to Debts After Death
- You Role as an Executor.

Call **13 11 20** or visit **cancervic.org.au/resources** to order or download a free copy.

#### Advance Care Planning Australia

advancecareplanning.org.au 1300 208 582 National advisory service providing advance care planning information and support to health professionals, aged and community care workers, and the general public.

#### Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement grief.org.au

1800 642 066

#### Australian Funeral Directors Association

afda.org.au 1300 888 188



#### The importance of a will

A will is a legal document that records who you would like to receive your assets (estate) after you die. A will may also record your wishes regarding guardianship of your children.

Many people want to make a will or update the one they have as their circumstances change. Making a will is not difficult but it needs to be prepared and written in the right way to be legally valid. It is best to ask a lawyer to help you or contact State Trustees at **statetrustees.com.au** or phone **1300 138 672**.

When you die without a valid will, you are said to die 'intestate'. This can make matters complicated, lengthy and expensive. A court appoints an administrator to arrange your funeral and then distribute your assets to family members according to a formula. If there are no eligible relatives, your assets go to the state.

#### **Bereavement Care Centre**

bereavementcare.com.au 1300 654 556 Provides bereavement counselling, educational courses, information resources for bereaved adults and children.

#### The Compassionate Friends Victoria

compassionatefriendsvictoria.org.au 1800 641 091 A bereavement service for parents and siblings.

#### Death over Dinner

deathoverdinner.org.au

An interactive website that encourages conversations about death and dying with family and friends over the dinner table.

#### Dying to talk

dyingtotalk.org.au A Palliative Care Australia website encouraging Australians to talk about dying.

#### End of Life Law in Australia

end-of-life.qut.edu.au Provides information to assist people navigate legal issues around end of life decision making.

# Funeral Celebrants Association of Australia

funeralcelebrants.org.au

#### **Gathered Here**

gatheredhere.com.au Online search tool for comparing funeral directors, prices and reviews.

#### GriefLine

griefline.org.au 1300 845 745 Phone support for people experiencing loss and grief at any stage of life.

#### Good Grief

goodgrief.org.au 02 8912 2700 Provides programs for children, young people and adults challenged by loss and grief aiming to build resilience and foster wellbeing.

#### The GroundSwell Project

thegroundswellproject.com Community organisation using creativity to promote wellbeing throughout all phases of life.

#### Your Life Assist

yourlifeassist.com.au An online advisory service and directory to assist with end of life decision making and bereavement.

#### Your Life Talks

yourlifetalks.com 1300 966 110 Information on how to have conversations to record a life journey and end of life wishes.

#### Managing your digital legacy

If you use social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, you will need to think about what happens to your accounts after your death.

Each social media platform has different rules for deactivating accounts, while some allow your account to be turned into a memorial page. It is a good idea to leave a list of all your accounts, passwords and instructions with someone you trust, so they can manage your ongoing digital presence according to your wishes.

Palliative Care Australia has produced a Guide to a Social Media Afterlife. You can find it at **palliativecare.org.au/resources**.

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