



December 2024

Hi ,

Thank you to everyone who has shared their stories and expertise to help inform government policy and programs. We know this is the best way to get better support for children with disability and families. Highlights for this year include:

The Victorian Committee for Families with Children with Disability. This committee is an opportunity for parents and carers of children with disability to give feedback directly to the Victorian Government.

Hundreds of families taking part in consultations and roundtables on topics ranging from support at kindergarten to best practice in early childhood intervention, and reasonable adjustments at school.

Making a submission on foundational supports for children, as part of the Child and Family Disability Alliance. You can read this and all other submissions and snapshots we have made this year [on our website](#).

We will be back in 2025 with more information, workshops and advocacy support.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Karen Dimmock, CEO



Save money this Christmas with the Carer Card

With costs adding up around the festive season, make sure you take advantage of a Carer Card!

Victorian Carer Card holders get discounts on shopping, public transport, and leisure activities. This includes:

- 5% off selected gift cards
- 10% off at Booktopia
- 20% off at Salvos stores
- 4c fuel discounts
- public transport concessions

If you don't already have one, the Carer Card, also called the "we care" card, is simple to apply for. You're eligible if you receive the Carer Payment or the Carer Allowance. Even if you don't get these payments, your GP can fill in the form and confirm that you are a carer.

[More information](#)

Victorian Committee for Families of Children with Disability

A new Victorian Committee for Families of Children with Disability has been announced. The 12 newly appointed committee members reflect the community's diversity and bring many experiences in caring for children with disability.

The committee will play a crucial role in advising the Victorian Government on policies, programs, services, and ways to improve outcomes for children with disability.

ACD is excited to be supporting family engagement in the committee.

[Meet the Committee](#)

Victorian School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus is \$400 to help families cover the costs of uniforms, textbooks, and other school costs. All students at Victorian Government schools are eligible, including those starting Prep in 2025. Students at non-government school who receive the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund are also eligible.

[Find out more](#)



Top tips to navigate Christmas

Christmas can be challenging for many families, with disrupted schedules, busy shopping centres, and constant pressure for things to be perfect and joyful. It's important to remember that each family celebrates in their own unique way and that a bit of planning can make a difference.

We've compiled a list of ideas and tips to help you navigate the festive season.

[Read our blog](#)



Victorian Virtual Emergency Department

Taking your child to a hospital emergency department can be stressful, especially at busy times like evenings and weekends, when there are lots of people and long wait times.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) is a free online public medical service for non-life-threatening emergencies. It's available across Victoria, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And best of all, it includes paediatric emergency specialists.

[Learn more](#)



Imagine Live: ACD discount

Magical and meaningful, Imagine Live is a celebration of creativity, friendship and our precious natural world. With the help of the audience, performers play and sing their way through the iconic pages of Imagine and quickly discover there is WAY more to these pages than first meets the eye.

Head to Arts Centre Melbourne to catch Imagine Live, with these inclusive showings:

Auslan interpreted performance: Thursday 9 January, 1:30pm

Relaxed performance: Saturday 11 January, 1:30pm

Use code GIFT24 to receive 25% off tickets (total after discount: \$28 per person), Companion Card holders go free.

[Get your tickets](#)



Festive fun: DIY gingerbread playdough

Playdough is great for exploring squishy, stretchy textures, and this recipe adds another sense... smell! All you need is:

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup salt
- ½ Tbs ground ginger
- ½ Tbs ground cinnamon
- 1 Tbs vegetable oil
- ½ cup water

Knead until combined, and enjoy rolling, building and playing pretend! Playdough is a great sensory activity that is calming and fun for kids of all ages, and we love this festive twist on a classic.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

The ACD team

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Disability

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ACD acknowledges the traditional owners of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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