

Thriving Kids update, have your say about work experience and support for the early years.

No images? [Click here](#)



February 2026

Hi ,

As many of you will have seen, the Australian Government has released its first overview of Thriving Kids. This is an important step in shaping future support for children with disability and developmental delay.

Right now, nothing changes for families. Children aged 0 to 8 can continue to access the NDIS under the current rules, and there are no changes for children aged 9 and over who are already participants. Thriving Kids will begin in October 2026 and will be fully rolled out by January 2028, with state and federal governments working together to deliver early identification, parenting supports and targeted therapies.

We know families have questions, and we are committed to keeping you informed as more details become available.

Please click the link to read our full summary [on the website.](#)

Warm regards,

Karen Dimmock, CEO

Free online workshops

Early Years Series

ACD Advocating for children with disability



This March, we're running two free 90-minute online workshops with practical support and peace of mind for families raising children with developmental delay and disability in their early years. Each workshop is led by our experienced facilitators who are all parents of children with disability themselves.

Getting Ready for Child Care and Kindergarten

Transitioning to early childhood education is a big milestone! We'll show you how your child can be fully supported and included, and share simple, effective ways to build a strong partnership with your child's educators.

- Tuesday, 3 March, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm
- Wednesday, 4 March, 10.00 am - 11.30 am

First Steps to Support

This workshop is all about the help available for you and your family. We'll cover financial assistance, how to get a much-needed break, and ways to support siblings.

- Monday, 16 March, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm
- Tuesday, 17 March, 10.00 am - 11.30 am

Spaces fill up quickly, so grab your spot today to ensure you don't miss out on these parent-led insights.

[**Book now**](#)

Free professional learning to help every child

Teachers and educators can access practical, trustworthy advice and training on how to better support children with disability, and thanks to great feedback from families, we've provided two fact sheets to make this easier than ever.

There is a great range of free online training covering reasonable adjustments, guides to supporting specific disabilities and learning support needs and practical strategies for inclusive classrooms.

Perfect to share with your child's teachers and educators. This is a simple step that can make a real difference in classrooms and early learning settings.

[Professional development for teachers - ACD](#)

[Professional development for early childhood educators - ACD](#)



Have your say

Work experience for students with disability

Work experience can open doors, but only when every student can access it.

We're inviting Victorian families to join ACD for a 90-minute online consultation to share what truly helps (and hinders) students with disability when it comes to work experience and VET placements.

Your insights will be shared with the Victorian Government's School to Work review, and participants with a Victorian postal address will receive a **\$50 voucher**.

Register now and help shape better pathways for students with disability.

[Register now](#)

Be prepared for NAPLAN and VCE

If your child has a disability or learning support needs, they may be eligible for NAPLAN adjustments or VCE special provisions.

Adjustments and special provisions are tailored to meet the needs of the student. They can include assistive technology, scribes, extra time and colour contrast changes.

Applications for NAPLAN adjustments and VCE special provisions are due early March.

What families should do now

Speak with your child's school as early as possible. They will help identify which adjustments may help your child and ensure applications are submitted.

NAPLAN adjustments

VCE special provisions



Free telephone advocacy support

Call our Support Line

03 9880 7000
1800 654 013 for regional callers



Need support? We are here to help

Our Support Line has already helped 136 families this year, with most calls relating to education and school advocacy, and many others about navigating the NDIS. Families tell us how valuable it is to speak with someone who understands both the system and what parents are going through.

What families are saying:

“You speak with a person who understands the legislation and puts it in easy-to-understand language.”

“It is very reassuring to speak with actual people who both understand how parents and guardians feel and know how the system works.”

How to reach us

If you need guidance, advocacy tips, or just someone to talk things through with, we are ready to listen.

- **Call:** [03 9880 7000](tel:0398807000) or [1800 654 013](tel:1800654013) (regional)
- **Hours:** Monday to Friday, 9 am–5 pm
- **Language Support:** If you need an interpreter, just let us know! We will happily book one on your behalf.



Simple ways to connect with others on a similar journey

Feeling connected can make a huge difference for families raising a child with disability. Our guide, *Connecting with other families*, brings together practical ways to build a support network and meet people who truly “get it”.

There are many easy ways for families to connect, including:

- Local playgroups
- Strengthening Parent Support Coordinators
- MyTime groups
- Disability specific organisations

These connections can ease isolation, build confidence and create long-lasting support for the whole family.

[Read the guide](#)



Discover helpful resources to support your teen's wellbeing

Looking for practical, trusted information about puberty, emotions, friendships and staying safe? The *A Good Life* Hub on our website brings together clear, family-friendly resources to help you support your child as they grow.

In the **Health and Relationships** section, you can find:

- Guides on puberty and body changes
- Tips for building healthy friendships
- Information about personal safety and protective behaviours
- Resources to help with conversations about consent

These tools are designed to help you and your teen feel confident and supported.

[Explore the Health & Relationships section](#)



Toy Libraries Australia launches Toys Without Barriers pilot to support inclusive play

Toy Libraries Australia has launched Toys Without Barriers, a 6-month pilot program that improves access to switch and adapted toys for children with disability in Melbourne's south east.

Three toy libraries now offer a specialist toy catalogue, making inclusive play easier for families. The program includes:

- No volunteer requirement
- Free courier delivery of specialist toys
- Access to inclusive, sensory-friendly and switch-adapted toys

[Read more about the pilot and find links to the participating toy libraries.](#)


How else can we help

Join our community: Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for daily tips and information.

Stay informed: You'll find a wide range of resources for all ages and stages. Families tell us what's important, and we provide easy-to-read, up-to-date information, available in 5 languages on our [website](#).

Connect and learn: Feeling like you need more practical tools or advice? Our Term 1 [workshops](#) are now open for registration!

We are here to listen: If you are worried about school or feeling overwhelmed, our Support Line is open.

 **Call us:** [03 9880 700](tel:039880700) or [1800 684719](tel:1800684719) (regional)
9.00am - 5.00pm Mon-Fri

Best wishes

The ACD team

Stay connected



03 9880 7000 | 1800 654 013 (regional)
Suite 6, 400 Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127

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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