



Strengthening the ability of services to engage and work with families with children with additional needs

Ensuring that all activities are informed by best practice

Children With Additional Needs Working Group

Enhancing communication between services and families with additional needs

A sub-group of the Children's Wellbeing Collective in East Gippsland

Consulting with families who have additional needs about their experiences accessing services in East Gippsland

Making recommendations and advocating to the broader Children's Wellbeing Collective and relevant funding bodies to improve provision of services and supports for families with children who have additional needs in Gippsland

CWANWG acknowledge the traditional owners of the land and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging



About the Service Provider List

This “One Stop Shop” Service Provider list has been brought together to help families find the services they need in East Gippsland. Families have told us overwhelmingly that they would like information in one place to help them find the right services for their child/children. This is the Children with Additional Needs (CWAN) working group response to help families connect with service providers.

Due to the nature of change, this list is one that will be updated every three months by a member of the CWAN working group. The “One Stop Shop” Service Provider list has been developed at **a point in time** and is not an exhaustive list. We have provided a checklist to help you ask the questions of the service providers you intend to use, particularly around the location they work from, costs for their service and their availability.

If you are aware of other services you would like to add (including those that service East Gippsland from other areas including Melbourne), please email Kara Goodwin at Gippsland Lakes Complete Health: karag@glch.org.au so it can be added to the next update.



Children specific services – a range of services provided

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Help with group and 1:1 therapy, tailored activities for children and school holiday program	Engage and Grow Therapeutic Services	0488 012 362 info@engageandgrowservices.com.au	Child (and young person) led support with tailored programs like drumbeat, calming art and lego club as well as 1:1 therapy Play Therapist now available
“Child First” (intake for family case support)	The Orange Door	1800 512 358 oga@orangedoor.vic.gov.au	Provides assistance with support, connecting with services and parenting.
Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Education, Art Therapy, Counselling, the Autism Diagnostic Support Service (ADOS)	Gippsland Lakes Complete Health	03 5155 8300 https://glch.org.au/	Provides a range of evidence based, goal directed therapies in accordance with individual needs
Day and holiday programs, activity programs, education for families, teens and adults with disability, support coordination	Interchange Gippsland	1300 736 765 https://icg.asn.au/ Or facebook- interchange Gippsland	Provides a range of services and activities for children with additional needs with NDIS plans
LINK Early Childhood Early Intervention – any developmental delays or concerns about the development of your child	LINK	1800 546 532 http://linkhc.org.au/ndis-early-childhood-early-intervention/ecei@linkhc.org.au	
Early Childhood Early Intervention including Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and other therapies	Noah’s Ark Gippsland	1800 819 140 www.noahsarkinc.org.au/contact-us hello@noahsarkinc.org.au www.facebook.com/NoahsArkAus	Provide intervention and support in the home and educational settings to provide a co-ordinated service for families and children with additional needs and disability up to age 12 (new referrals aged 8 and under)

Children specific services – a range of services provided

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Strengthening Parent Support Program - links families in Gippsland area to parent groups, training sessions, news & information while promoting self-advocacy	Noahs Ark Gippsland	0476578673 Kylie Lewis Kylie.Lewis@noahsarkinc.org.au	Supports parents and carers who have a child aged 0 – 18 with a disability or developmental delay to meet up with other parents and carers. This program is fully funded and free of charge for family members
Connects families with older children to respite and day programs	Noweyung	03 5153 0111 https://noweyung.org.au	Noweyung is a registered NDIS provider for people living with all abilities
Provides support for children, families and carers with a range of programs to provide families with support, including understanding children’s development, behavioural challenges and play opportunities	Save the Children	03 5153 7500 Lauren Beecroft Lauren.beecroft@savethechildren.org.au	Supported playgroups and Mobile Play2Learn/playbus
Social Skills Program	Uniting Gippsland – Communities for Children Program	03 5152 9600 Don.stewart@vt.uniting.org Ruth.Churchill@vt.uniting.org	FRIENDS Resilience is a school and early learning centre-based 8-10 week program supporting children’s life skills and resilience program. Rhythm to Recovery 8-10-week facilitated program using Djembes to promote healthy social interaction and wellbeing skills.
Playgroup	Uniting Vic.Tas	Kirsten Van Diggele 51529600 Kirsten.vandiggele@vt.uniting.org	Supported Playgroups

Children specific services – Occupational Therapy

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Occupational Therapy	Judy Ireland	03 5152 6588 jireland@aussiebb.com.au	Works with children with additional needs
Occupational Therapy	MyWink Therapy and Support Services	Yvonne Wink Ywink1@outlook.com	Works with children with additional needs (waitlist currently closed)
Occupational Therapy	Anthea Griffiths- Seaside Occupational Therapy	Email: antheagriffithsot@gmail.com Phone: 0403 426 661	Works with children with additional needs in Far East Gippsland
Occupational Therapy	Kirsty Herbert- Far East Gippsland Occupational Therapy	0419543802 Email: fareast.ot@outlook.com	Works with children with additional needs in Far East Gippsland 4 months wait list. (Will travel to you as far as Lakes Entrance)

Children specific services – Speech Therapy

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Speech Pathology	LaLa Speech Pathology	0498 595 725 lalaspeechpathology@gmail.com	Works with children with additional needs
Speech Pathology	Think Play Thrive Speech Pathology	Mel Newcomen 03 3153 1255 mel@thinkplaythrive.com.au	Works with children with additional needs, preschool and/ or children with more severe language difficulties. No wait list.
Speech Pathology	Lucia Smith – Pelican Talk	0416054076 www.pelicantalk.com/contact.php	Works with children with additional needs
Speech Pathology	Communicate Speech Therapy Services	Ph: 0423 088 585 kate@communicatespeechtherapy.com.au	1:1 therapy in Bairnsdale, holiday & group programs in Sale

Children specific services – Mental health & wellbeing

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Family, child, adult psychologist	ThinkPlayThrive	03 5152 1255 Cathy	Support for adults, children and adolescents. No waitlist
Child and Infant Mental Health Specialist	Michael Naughton	0488 047 047	Individual Support, Family Group work. Self-referral wait list 2 weeks
Mental health accredited social worker	Pamela Black	03 4100 0082/ 0490 840 412 reception@thinkactively.com.au	Think Actively provides; Individual Support, Family Therapy, Group Work
Family Mental Health Support Service	Relationships Australia Victoria	1300 369 630 www.thinkactively.com.au	Provides support for children and young people
Psychologist	Susan Patterson	0428 862 546	Individual Support & Family Therapy, referral from GP or self-referral
Psychologist	Wayne Burgoine	0405 479 463	Individual Support specialising in complex dual diagnosis, complex PTSD, Group Work (waiting list currently closed march 22)
Psychologist	Jo Phillips	0407 183 476	A range of modalities used to support individual recovery. Referral from GP or self-referral. Wait list 3 weeks

Children specific services – Animal Therapy

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Equine Therapy	Equine Facilitated Learning Bruthen	0429 015 779 sue.svetlik@gmail.com	EFL offers one to one, family or small group sessions.
Equine Therapy	Mindful Connect Therapy Team	0414 940 670 healthbox@bigpond.com	Equine Healing Psychotherapy (EAGALA accredited equine assisted psychotherapy) combining traditional psychological intervention with equine therapy (Lindenow)
Canine Training	Playful Paws training and Wellness	Megs Hopman 0421 641 138 admin@playfulpays.com	Trains therapy dogs
Equine interaction	Riding for the disabled	Gayle Scott – treasurer rdabairnsdale@gmail.com	Connects people with disability to animals
Canine Therapy	Animal Assisted Activities	aaafollowourlead@gmail.com PH : 0409666121 Contact : Annie	Human canine team working alongside mental health professionals and educators with children and young people who may be withdrawn due to anxiety, trauma or grief or loss.

Children specific services – Animal Therapy

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Equine Therapy	Equine Fusion	0450 816 512 equinefusionlearning@gmail.com Tama Green https://www.facebook.com/EquineFusionHorsePrograms/	Clients participate in activities with horses where the goal is to help the client develop resiliency, coping skills and overcome social barriers.
Equine Therapy	Mindful Horse	Jo Ellison 0407 280 978 infomindfulhorse@gmail.com www.mindfulhorse.com.au	My herd of horses and I offer programs/sessions that support people to reconnect with their deeper nature, true power and wellbeing. Sessions are suitable for children, adolescents and adults and can be specifically tailored for individuals, couples, families or small groups.

Children specific services – Play/Movement based therapy

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Play Therapy	Lauren Short	NB No New referrals taken for next 6 months (as of March 2022) 0458 958 514 Possumonaball@gmail.com	Lauren is a family friendly play therapist who works with children to help them heal
Support for ASD diagnosis for children under 6	Playconnect	Rose McKenna 0427 576 219 www.playconnect.com.au/find-a-playgroup/	The program provides parents and families with a facilitated support network to share experiences and foster a sense of belonging, as well as tailored sensory play opportunities for children with ASD
Play Therapy	Robyn Eaton	0490 066 204 www.crossroadscounselling.com.au	Uses the Child Centered Non-Directive model of Play Therapy as supported by Play Therapy Australia, so your child can tap into their own resources and skills to develop to their maximum potential
Dance therapy	Groov3ment Dance Therapy	https://www.facebook.com/GROOV3MENT	Brings dance therapy opportunities to people with additional needs
Pilates	Ali Oakley – Reformer Pod	Ph: 0488 606 888 www.reformerpod.com	NDIS provider providing outreach pilates service

Bushfire Response

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Intake to Bushfire support program	Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV)	1800 560 760 www.br.vic.gov.au	Ongoing Program of support in the area of Helps navigate services, including wellbeing, financial and referrals to programs in your area.
Bushfire Case Support Program	Gippsland Lakes Complete Health	03 5155 8300	If you have been impacted by bushfires in any way, a case manager can assist to navigate help includes wellbeing, grants and link to supports.

Youth specific services (ages 12 – 25 years)

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Counselling	Headspace Bairnsdale	03 5141 6200 info@headspacebairnsdale.org.au	Provides free, confidential support services for young people to help answer any questions or concerns about mental health, drug and alcohol issues, general and sexual health, and relationships.
Reconnect	Gippsland Lakes Complete Health	03 5155 8300 www.glch.org.au	Reconnect can help improve relationships with family and support to stay at school through family mediation, case management and practical support.
Youth Employment and Education	Uniting Vic.Tas	Sam Smith - 0484 361 690 Samantha.smith@vt.uniting.org	The Program is focused on upskilling and mentoring young people into meaningful and sustainable education, training and employment support. Uniting work with anyone aged 15-25 from across East Gippsland who have been affected by the 2019-20 bushfires, by offering individualised pathways with one-on-one mentoring and guidance throughout the whole process

Children specific services – Advocacy

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Advocacy for children and young people with a disability	Association for Children with a Disability	1800 654 013 www.acd.org.au	Information for parents on a range of topics from the NDIS to Education and Carer Supports. The ACD team member will talk with parents around concerns and provide guidance on next steps and discuss their parent support link for more assistance or further support
Advocacy for children and young people with additional needs	Gippsland Disability Advocacy Incorporated (GDAI)	0436 002 334 Denise Lamble deniselamble@gdai.org.au Michelle Shaw michelleshaw@gdai.org.au	Providing advocacy services for people with disabilities and their families, across the East Gippsland region, particularly in regard to NDIS and DSP applications and issues
Advocacy for individuals with a disability	VALID - Victorian Advocacy League For Individuals With Disability	03 9114 9415 intake@valid.org.au	VALID is funded by the Victorian State Government as the peak state-wide advocacy body for people with intellectual disabilities. Individual advocacy is provided to help solve problems.
Support workers for respite and support to achieve child's goals	Community Participation plus	5152 2155 Cathy	Also runs group social skills workshops for older children and psychologist to work children and adults.

Support for Carers

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Support as a carer	Carers Gateway	1800 422 737 www.carergateway.gov.au	Provides practical advice and support, counselling, peer support and respite
Transport support for specialist medical treatment	Victorian Transport Assistance Scheme	https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/rural-health/vptas-how-to-apply	Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme (VPTAS) covers some of the travel and accommodation costs incurred by rural Victorians when they must travel more than 100 kms one way for specialist medical treatment

Inclusion Support in Childcare, Kinder and School

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Support for my child at childcare	Yooralla – access through childcare	Contact your childcare centre, after school and holiday care service to discuss supports	Childcare centers and programs can access support to improve the inclusion of children with additional needs in their care.
Support for my child at Kinder	Uniting - access through Kindergarten	Contact your child's Kindergarten to discuss supports	All Kindergartens can apply through the Kinder Inclusion Support (KIS) program to access support for children with additional needs to improve inclusion in the kinder setting.
Support for my child at school- student support groups	Association for Children with a Disability	<u>More information at -</u> https://www.acd.org.au/student-support-groups/ or 1800 654 013	The Student Support Group (SSG) brings together everyone involved in your child's education to plan supports and follow their progress.

Family services

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Child protection	Child Protection Crisis Line	13 12 78	Support for children
Family Support Services	GEGAC	03 5150 0700	Support for families
Victims of sexual assault	Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault	03 5134 3922 1800 806 292 (AH)	Support for victims
Legal support for families	Gippsland Community Legal Services	1800 004 402	Support for families
Family support/family violence response	The Orange Door	1800512358 oga@orangedoor.vic.gov.au	Support for families
Parenting program	Headspace	03 5141 6200 info@headspacebairnsdale.org.au	Tuning into teens
Family Support	Quantum Support Services	1800 243 455 / 03 5120 2000	Support for families
Family support	Relationships Australia Victoria	1300 369 630	Provides family support
Family support	Safe Steps 24hr Family Violence Response	1800 015 188	Support for families
Family violence recovery	TRAK Forward Anglicare	03 5135 9555 TRAK.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au	Counselling, Family Counselling, Group work, support for children
Family Violence Support	Yoowinna Wurnalung	03 4110 2100	Support for families

Family services

What support do I need?	Who can help?	Who can I contact if I need more information?	What does this provider do?
Family Support – Volunteer family support	Save the Children	Melissa Ballantine on 5153 7503 (mobile: 0437 839 304)	Support for children aged 0-5 years and their families Volunteer Family Connect – a community based program providing one on one support to parents with children aged 0-5 years in their home for families accessing Save The Children group programs.
Family Support	Save the Children	Contact 03 51537501	Support for families
Parenting support – online parenting programs Free online programs - Triple P Programs Victoria	Triple P	Darron Crocker - Parenting Support Consultant – Victoria (Mon-Thurs) Triple P International Pty Ltd T: +61 7 3236 8514 M: 0477 304 381	Parenting strategies to support anxiety management in kids aged 6-14 years Positive parenting for emotional wellbeing for children aged 0-16 years

Online Resources

Age group	Website	Details
Parenting	<p>Raising Children website: 132 289 Parentline www.raisingchildren.net.au</p> <p>Free online programs - Triple P Support for bushfire-affected regions - Triple P Positive Parenting Victoria (triple-parenting.net.au)</p>	<p>Parentline - Counselling and information for families with children (up to 18 years) from 8am to midnight, 7 days a week.</p> <p>Raisingchildren.net.au provides ad-free parenting videos, articles and apps backed by Australian experts.</p>
Calm Kids Central	<p>www.calmkidcentral.com</p> <p>Free for people who live in Gippsland. Use access code: FIRSTYEAR</p>	<p>Online psychological support for children with big feelings and life challenges</p> <p>Free online advice from child psychologists, resources and videos</p>
2-12 years old	<p>www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/birdiestree/</p>	<p>This website is a companion online resource to the book titled 'Birdie and the Fire'. It has a number of online games and activities for children.</p>
Children and Youth	<p>www.youthdisasterrecovery.com.au/page/information/for-parents/</p>	<p>User friendly Australian website specific about disaster recovery for children</p>
Children, Youth and families	<p>www.psychology.org.au/Australian-bushfires-2020</p>	<p>2- page information sheet about supporting children after experiencing bushfires</p>
Kids Help Line	<p>www.kidshelpline.com.au</p> <p>1800 551 800</p>	<p>Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5–25 years.</p>
Be You (Beyond Blue)	<p>www.beyou.edu.au/bushfires-response</p>	<p>Bushfires resource pack has been developed with educators in mind, and it also includes information suitable for parents, families, children, young people and community members.</p>
Healthy Mothers Healthy Families	<p>www.healthymothers-healthyfamilies.com</p>	<p>Healthy Mothers Healthy Families is a health education and empowerment program for mothers of children with a disability</p>
Very Special Kids	<p>www.vsk.org.au</p>	<p>Very Special Kids cares for children with life-threatening conditions by¹⁶ providing a children's hospice and professional family support services.</p>