

Aboriginal Resource Guide

Western Metropolitan Melbourne



Acknowledgements

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This Resource Guide is also available as a PDF document via the Victoria University Indigenous Partnerships web page - vu.edu.au/indigenous-partnerships



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TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Wominjeka! Welcome to Melbourne. We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of the Kulin Nation, a place now known by its European name of Melbourne. For the Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung, Taungurong, Dja Dja Wurrung and the Wathaurung people who make up the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place and location for social, educational, sporting and cultural events and activities.

See: <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au>

A *Welcome to Country ceremony* is performed by Aboriginal Traditional Owners for people visiting their country. These ceremonies vary from speeches of welcome to traditional dance and smoking ceremonies. It is suggested that a welcoming ceremony be arranged for major public forums and functions. Naturally, if the function has broad impact on, or significance for, Aboriginal people a welcoming ceremony will be appropriate. A Welcome to Country should only be performed by a representative of the Traditional Owner group. Asking an Aboriginal person to perform a Welcome to Country when they do not belong to the Traditional Owner group may cause them embarrassment and may offend the Traditional Owners.

An *Acknowledgement of Country* recognises that Victoria has an ancient and proud Aboriginal history and complex ownership and land stewardship systems stretching back many thousands of years. It pays respect to the Traditional Owners. An Acknowledgement of Country should be given at formal events, forums and functions such as Government and Local Government meetings, conferences, school assemblies, concerts, board meetings, and official openings. The first speaker at an event or function (following the welcome or in the absence of a welcome) should give the Acknowledgment of Country. It is not necessary for subsequent speakers to give an Acknowledgement.

Contact:

Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

GPO 2392

Melbourne, VIC, 3001

T: 1800 762 003

E: Aboriginalaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au

W: <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-affairs-overview>

Protocols for Recognising Aboriginal Owners, OAAV:

W: <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/protocols-for-recognising-traditional-owners>

ART AND CULTURE

Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC) - is a community-engaged, contemporary arts centre working with local, regional and international communities. The centre provides a range of programs and opportunities including an Indigenous cultural program of activities and events.

Contact:

45 Moreland Street

Footscray, VIC, 3011

T: 03 9362 8888

E: info@korieheritagetrust.com

W: <http://footscrayarts.com/>

Koori Heritage Trust - offers a range of programs and services including the only public collection in Victoria dedicated solely to Koori art and culture comprising artifacts, pictures and photographs as well as an Oral History Program and a Reference Library; cross cultural awareness training and tours; exhibitions; a Koori Family History Service; and a retail shop.

Contact:

295 King Street

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

T: 03 8622 2600

E: info@korieheritagetrust.com

W: <http://www.korieheritagetrust.com>

Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP's) – Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage - The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 recognises Aboriginal people as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage. At a local level, Registered Aboriginal parties (RAP's) are the voice of Aboriginal people in the management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria.

RAPs have responsibilities under the Act relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including:

- evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans
- providing advice on applications for Cultural Heritage Permits
- making decisions about Cultural Heritage Agreements
- providing advice or application for interim or ongoing Protection Declarations.
-

There are currently 10 RAP's in Victoria and their contact details can be found at this webpage.

W: <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/registered-aboriginal-parties>

EDUCATION

ABSTUDY - helps with costs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who are studying or undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship.

Contact:

Centrelink (your local office)

T: 13 23 17

T: 1800 639 109 (Toll Free)

E: www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/abstudy

Victoria University (VU) - is well known for preparing students not just for a career, but for life. One of few Australian universities to offer both vocational training (TAFE) and higher education with direct pathways between the two, a range of courses includes apprenticeships, certificates, diplomas, degrees and postgraduate programs are available.

Contact:

PO Box 14428

Melbourne, VIC, 8001

T: 03 9919 6100 or 03 9919 4000

Toll Free: 1300 842 864

W: www.vu.edu.au

Moondani Balluk Indigenous Academic Unit, Victoria University - Moondani Balluk means 'embrace people' in the language of the Wurundjeri people who first lived in the western region of Melbourne. The vision of Moondani Balluk Academic Unit is to create and foster:

- a culturally safe environment that welcomes, nurtures, and recreates community, a community that is embedded in relationship to land, culture, law and Elders
- the sharing of Indigenous knowledge and translating and embedding Indigenous practices into all work, research, and curricula
- respect for all people through mutually engaged relationships
- a commitment to pursuing political and social justice, equity, and access to education for Indigenous people
- accountability to Indigenous cultural values, protocols, and norms.

Contact:

St Albans Campus

McKechnie Street

St Albans, VIC, 3021

T: 03 9919 2891

E: moondani.balluk@vu.edu.au

W: www.vu.edu.au/indigenous

Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) - The VAEAI is the peak Koorie community organisation for education and training in Victoria. We work for our community to build success in education and training. VAEAI's main functions are providing advice on Koorie education issues, monitoring education trends and advocating for the needs of our community. VAEAI is a statewide organisation with a regional structure based on traditional networks. Within each region are a number of Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups. The working arm of VAEAI is its Secretariat, based in Northcote.

Contact:

VAEAI

144 Westbourne Grove

PO Box 113

Northcote VIC 3070

T: 03 9481 0800

W: <http://www.vaeai.org.au/>

Contact page W: <http://www.vaeai.org.au/contacts/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=8>

Koori Education Coordinators (KECs) are responsible for leading the regions implementation of the Wannik Strategy - Learning Together - Journey to Our Future. There are nine KECs across Victoria that co-ordinate and support the Koori Student Support Team and work with the Victorian Education Association Inc (VAEAI) and other stakeholders to implement the strategy. KECs can assist schools, Koorie students and schools with guidance on assistance on a range of programs and initiatives. You can contact your regional KEC through your DEECD Regional Office (listed above) for further information and advice.

Koori Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) are an integral part of Victoria's state education system. KESOs support Koori children and their families with assistance to make the journey through primary and secondary school as seamless as possible. KESOs focus specifically on the engagement of Koori students, families and communities within the government school and early childhood systems, as well as kindergartens and other areas of early childhood. KESOs connect with other relevant internal (school and regional staff) and external support workers to assist family engagement. KESO contact information can be obtained through each region's KEC.

Footscray

900/1 McNab Avenue

Footscray, VIC, 3070

T: 03 8397 0300

E: swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au

ELDERS

Aboriginal Community Elders Services Inc. (ACES) - is an Aboriginal community controlled organisation that strives to be a leading service provider in aged care, and to enhance the quality of life of current and future Aboriginal Elders. A range of care services are provided for local Elders, including a planned activity group, hostel accommodation, nursing home and a community care program.

Contact:

5 Parkview Avenue

Brunswick East, VIC, 3057

T: 03 9383 4244

E: admin@acesinc.org.au

W: <http://www.aboriginalelders.com.au/>

GENERAL AND FAMILY

3KND - are committed to providing specialist training in radio & media broadcasting to Indigenous community members. Media services available at 3KND Radio are wide ranging including; Radio and On-line Broadcast services, Multimedia Media Training and Studio Recording Hire and Music Production. 3KND radio station provides the community with 24 hours Broadcast service to our listeners in a friendly, informal, educational and positive in Indigenous spirit, whilst maintaining the highest standards of technical and programming excellence. The radio station is proud of its achievements to date in fostering and developing the many talented Indigenous Community Volunteer Broadcasters. The 3KND Broadcasters continue to produce interesting, relevant and deadly radio programs for our listening Audience.

Contact:

48 Mary Street
Preston, VIC, 3072
T: 03 9471 1305
W: www.3knd.org.au

Aboriginal Advancement League (AAL) - is primarily concerned with Aboriginal welfare issues and the preservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage. The organisation offers family support, neighbourhood house, advocacy, counselling and educational programs and drug and alcohol awareness. It is the only fee for service Aboriginal funeral service provider in Melbourne.

Contact:

2 Watt Street
Thornbury, VIC, 3071
T: 03 9480 7777
E: reception@aal.org.au

Care Connect - provides a range of supports including a planned activity group, aged care and services for people with disabilities and people with chronic health issues. Services are provided to promote each person's independence, control and access to necessary resources.

Contact:

Moonee Ponds
Level 1, 641 Mt Alexander Road
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039
T: 03 9362 8000
T: 1800 116 166
W: <http://www.careconnect.org.au>

Child First - is a service that connects children, young people and their families to supports needed to assist with any of the following factors that impact upon a child's safety, stability or development:

- significant parenting problems that may be affecting the child's development
- family conflict, including family breakdown
- families under pressure due to a family member's physical or mental illness, substance abuse, disability or bereavement
- young, isolated and/or unsupported families
- social or economic disadvantage that may adversely impact on a child's care or development

Contact:

T: 1300 138 180 (Brimbank, Melton)

T: 1300 765 160 (Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay and Wyndham)

Lakidjeka Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service - Lakidjeka is a Yorta Yorta word meaning 'the child' or 'children'. The Lakidjeka Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service (ACSASS) program provides culturally appropriate advice and consultation on decisions that determine the future of at-risk Aboriginal children; such as whether there is a strong need for Aboriginal children to be removed from their families, and relocated to a place of safety. Lakidjeka staff ensure decisions are made with the advice and knowledge of Aboriginal people. Other states and territories look to the program for best practice in including Aboriginal people in joint decision-making processes.

Contact:

139 Nicholson Street

East Brunswick, VIC, 3057

T: 03 8388 1855

E: vacca@vacca.org

W: www.vacca.org/services/lakidjeka-aboriginal-child-specialist-advice-and-support-service

Lifeworks - helps Kooris in Melbourne and the west to have happy, safe and healthy relationships. Lifeworks provide counselling to people, couples and families. They also offer parenting programs for mums and dads, and family dispute resolution services. Lifework is also a VicRoads Safer Driving Program provider. Lifeworks' costs are based on your personal situation.

Contact:

255 Bourke Street

Reception on Level 4

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

T: 1300 543 396

E: lifeworks@lifeworks.com.au

W: www.lifeworks.com.au

Link-Up - assist Indigenous people over the age of eighteen, who were adopted, placed in foster care, institutionalized or forcibly removed, to trace and be reunited with their families. The service is confidential, sensitive and culturally appropriate. It was expanded in 1998 as a response to the Bringing Them Home Report (BTH) recommendation (30A & 30B) to address the specific needs of the large numbers of Indigenous people presenting to Aboriginal services who were the victims of past government policies and practices.

Contact:

34 Wurruk Avenue

Preston, VIC, 3072

T: 03 9470 3666

E: linkup@vacca.org W: www.linkupvictoria.org.au

Mackillop Family Services - provides a variety of support programs including parenting support, supports for people with disabilities and their families, foster care and out of home care.

Contact:

Footscray

118 Commercial Road
Footscray, VIC, 3011
T: 03 9680 9444

Melton

390 - 392 High Street
Melton, VIC, 3337
T: 03 8746 0500

W: <https://www.mackillop.org.au/>

Melbourne Aboriginal Youth, Sport and Recreation Co-operative Ltd (MAYSAR) - originally known as the Fitzroy Stars Aboriginal Youth Club Gymnasium, commenced operations in 1982 as a direct result of the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service's vision to create a space to deliver preventative health programs to the Aboriginal community within Fitzroy and Melbourne. MAYSARs initial program targeted Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth to keep them off the streets and out of the eyes of the law and provide them with programs such as boxing, karate, football and other sports and recreation activity. It was also a space to gather together as a community to discuss future programs that were about healthy life styles and how to make change for the better. Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport & Recreation Co-Op Ltd Intent is to provide services to promote healthier lifestyles for indigenous community.

Contact:

184 -186 Gertrude Street
Fitzroy, VIC, 3065

T: 03 9486 9123

E: healthylifestyles@maysar.org

North & West Homelessness Network (NWHN) - this service provides access to support for people experiencing homelessness or those who are worried they may become homeless. SASHS Western and Yarra Community Housing are the access points within western metropolitan Melbourne.

Contact:

Footscray

Yarra Community Housing
112-122 Victoria Street
Footscray, VIC, 3011
T: 03 9689 2777

Sunshine

6/147 Harvester Road
Sunshine, VIC, 3020
T: 03 9312 5424

Werribee

19 Duncans Road
Werribee, VIC, 3030
T: 03 9742 6452

Melton

232 High Street
Melton, VIC, 3337
T: 03 9747 7200

Relationships Australia Victoria - provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and individuals to help strengthen family relationships. They offer no or low cost services including:

- relationship support for families and couples
- parenting programs
- family mediation
- support for grief and loss
- support for dealing with family violence
- support groups for women and men including the Aboriginal Dad's and Kids group
- help for problem gamblers

Contact:

1st Floor Harvester Centre

4 Devonshire Road

Sunshine, VIC, 3020

T: 03 9313 0444

T: 1300 364 277

W: <http://www.relationshipsvictoria.com.au/>

Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation - Victoria's peak body for Indigenous music that is based in Melbourne, Victoria. Songlines represents the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music sector and provides opportunities for Victorian based Indigenous musicians and performers to develop skills, showcase their artistic abilities and engage with the arts sector at an industry standard.

Contact:

48 Mary Street

Preston, VIC, 3072

T: 03 9471 2939

E: info@songlines.net.au

W: <http://songlines.net.au>

The Smith Family - provides a range of programs and initiatives to support children and young people reach their potential through education and learning. The Learning for Life initiative provides direct support to families of children across partner schools. In Brimbank these partner schools are St Albans Primary School, St Albans Heights Primary School and St Albans Secondary College. In Wyndham these schools are Wyndham Central, Wyndham Park, Manor Lakes and Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Referrals come directly via the school. Saver Plus is a matched savings program to help families with education expenses. Participants are required to have a Centrelink Health Care or Pension Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, and have some regular income from work including casual, part time, full time or seasonal work attend vocation education or have a child in education. Within Brimbank, The Smith Family leads the Communities for Children (CFC), project that supports a number of children and family activities including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men and Kids Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Engagement Project.

Contact:

Suite 7/2 Devonshire Road

Sunshine, VIC 3020

PO Box 10500

Collingwood, VIC, 3066

T: 03 9419 7666

T: 1300 326 459

W: <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/>

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) - is the lead Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation in Victoria, protecting and promoting the rights of Aboriginal children and young people. We provide programs and services to reinforce Aboriginal culture and encourage best parenting practices, and advise government in relation to child abuse and neglect in the Aboriginal community. A statewide Aboriginal community controlled organisation advocating for the rights of Aboriginal children, young people and families, and providing them with services premised on human rights, self-determination, cultural respect and safety.

Contact:

139 Nicholson Street
East Brunswick, VIC, 3057
T: 03 8388 1855
E: vacca@vacca.org
W: <http://www.vacca.org/>

Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd - The Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL) is a state-wide agency that provides advice to Government on a range of community development issues as well as being a major provider of extensive services to the Aboriginal community in both the metropolitan and some regional communities these services include; Bert Williams Koorie Youth program and residential support; Aboriginal Best Start Project; Gambling Awareness Project; Indigenous Men's Support Programs and more. VACSAL is a community based, community controlled organisation comprising of representatives from Koorie organisations across the state.

Contact:

496 High Street
Northcote, VIC, 3070
T: 03 9416 4266
E: vacsal@vacsal.org.au
W: <http://www.vacsal.org.au>

Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Strategy Regional Action Group - Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups (IFVRAG) have been established across Victoria to explore issues surrounding family violence in local Victorian Aboriginal communities. An Indigenous Family Violence Regional Coordinator is employed through the Department of Human Services (DHS) to support the western metropolitan IFVRAG. This group has a pivotal role in implementing local community led responses that educate, prevent, respond to and reduce family violence in Aboriginal communities.

Contact:

Department of Human Services
16 – 18 Hertford Road
Sunshine, VIC, 3020
T: 03 92294100
W: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/children,-families-and-young-people/family-violence/indigenous-family-violence>

WestCASA - is a community based not-for-profit sexual assault counselling and support service. WestCASA provides a 24 hour crisis care service in conjunction with the Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL). WestCASA aims to both facilitate the recovery and healing of victim/survivors of sexual assault through individual support and groups.

Contact:

53 Ballarat Road
Footscray, VIC, 3011
T: 03 9687 5811 (Counselling)

T: 1800 806 292 (SACL)
E: info@westcasa.org.au
W: <http://westcasa.org.au/>

GOVERNMENT

Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (OAAV) - provides advice to the Victorian Government on Aboriginal policy and planning, and delivers key programs. OAAV works in partnership with Aboriginal communities, and government departments and agencies to promote knowledge, leadership and understanding about Victoria's Aboriginal people. From administering legislation that protects Aboriginal cultural heritage, to generating job opportunities in tourism and land management, OAAV invests in building skills, leadership, and capacity within communities and organisations to improve the lives of Aboriginal Victorians. OAAV plays a lead role in establishing the Aboriginal representative arrangements and structure in Victoria, further strengthening Victoria's Aboriginal communities.

The Victorian Government has developed a strengthened Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2013 - 2018 (VAAF) to bring together Government and Aboriginal community commitments and efforts and create a better future for Victoria's Aboriginal population. The VAAF was released on 22 November 2012.

Contact:

Office of Aboriginal Affairs

GPO 2392

Melbourne, VIC, 3001

T: 1800 762 003

E: Aboriginalaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au

W: www.dpc.vic.gov.au

Aboriginal Affairs Framework W: <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-affairs-policy/victorian-aboriginal-affairs-framework>

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) – The Department of Education & Training offers learning and development support, services and resources for all Victorians, from birth through to adulthood.

Contact:

DEECD

GPO Box 437

Melbourne, VIC, 3001

T: 9637 2000

E: edline@edumail.vic.gov.au

W: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

The Department is working with Aboriginal communities on a range of programs and initiatives aimed at improving Aboriginal children and young people's access to positive learning environments.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/aboriginal/Pages/default.aspx>

Koori Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) are an integral part of Victoria's state education system. KESOs support Koori children and their families with assistance to make the journey through primary and secondary school as seamless as possible. KESOs focus specifically on the engagement of Koori students, families and communities within the government school and early childhood systems, as well as kindergartens and other areas of early childhood. KESOs connect with other relevant internal (school and regional staff) and external support workers to assist family engagement e.g. Wannik Youth Transition Workers. KESO contact information can be obtained through each region's KEC.

Footscray

900/1 McNab Avenue

Footscray, VIC, 3070

T: 03 8397 0300

E: swvr@edumail.vic.gov.au

W: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/aboriginal/Pages/wannikworkforceproflearn.aspx>

Departmental contacts:

Aboriginal Early Years Unit

T: 03 9651 3353

Koorie Unit

T: 03 9651 3793

For information about the Wannik tutorial Program please call 03 9637 3529

E: Wannik@edumail.vic.gov.au

Koori Education Coordinators

W: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/wannikregional.aspx>

Koori Strategy Unit – Strategy Directions and Garrin Garrin

E: garrin.garrin@edumail.vic.gov.au

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – On 1st January the Victorian government established the Department of Health & Human Services, bringing together the former Department of Health, the Department of Human Services and Sport and Recreation Victoria. The department has been established to develop and deliver policies, programs and services that support and enhance the wellbeing of all Victorians.

Contact:

Department of Health & Human Services

50 Lonsdale St

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

T: 1300 650 172

W: <http://dhhs.vic.gov.au/>

Health: provides information about planning, policy development, funding and regulation of health services and activities that promote and protect Victoria's health. This includes delivery of mental health and aged care services in Victoria.

The Department of Health aims to make significant and measurable impact on improving the length and quality of the lives of Aboriginal Victorians in this decade, in partnership with the Aboriginal community and our stakeholders. The government's objectives are to:

- close the gap in life expectancy for Aboriginal people living in Victoria
- reduce the differences in infant mortality rates, morbidity and low birth weights between the general population and Aboriginal people
- improve access to services and outcomes for Aboriginal people

Key Priorities

The six key priorities of Koolin Balit: Strategic Directions for Aboriginal Health 2012-2022 are:

1. a healthy start to life
2. a healthy childhood
3. a healthy transition of adulthood
4. caring for older people
5. addressing risk factors
6. managing illness better with effective health services.

W: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/> Aboriginal Health W: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth/>

Human Services: The human services website provides information about housing and community services in Victoria and the development of policies to improve the lives of vulnerable people including children, young people and those living with a disability.

The department's Human Services Aboriginal Strategic Framework 2013-2015 emphasises the importance of working in partnership with the Aboriginal community, funded organisations and government agencies to improve outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.

The Human Services Aboriginal signatory Organisations and Department of Human Services Protocol 2013-2015 also developed in consultation with the six Aboriginal Community controlled Organisations Signatories and the Department of Human Services aims to guide the partnership and our work toward positive client outcomes. In addition a set of Principles for Good Practice guide the funding, development and implementation of programs and policies for positive outcomes in collaboration with the Aboriginal community.

W: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/home>

Aboriginal programs: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islanders>

And <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/children,-families-and-young-people/improving-human-services-outcomes-for-aboriginal-peoples>

Department of Justice (DoJ) – The department delivers high-quality services to Victorian and supports a safe, just, innovative and thriving Victoria.

Ministerial portfolios within the department include the Attorney-General, Police, Corrections, Emergency Services, Gaming, Liquor and Racing regulation, and Consumer Affairs. Its range of services include Births, Deaths and Marriages; Community Correctional Services; Consumer Affairs; Dispute Settlement and Victims Support Service.

The department directly employs more than 7000 staff. The broader Justice portfolio is supported by more than 27,000 staff and more than 90,000 volunteers in the Country Fire Authority, Victorian State Emergency Service, Office of the Public Advocate and other bodies.

Contact:

Department of Justice
GPO Box 4356
Melbourne VIC 3001
T: 03 8684 0000

W: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/>

Contacts Page W: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/utility/contact+us/>

Koori Justice Unit W: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/utility/contact+us/koori+justice+unit.shtml>

Offices:

Melton
83-85 Unit Street
Melton, VIC, 3338
T: 9747 5555

Sunshine
10 Foundry Road
Sunshine, VIC, 3020
T: 9300 6300
W: www.justice.vic.gov.au

Werribee
87 Synnot Street
Werribee, VIC, 3030
T: 9974 4500

The Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) is a partnership between the Victorian Government and the Koori community, established to achieve improved justice outcomes for Kooris.

W: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/your+rights/aboriginal+justice+agreement/>

Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC) - have been established throughout Victoria, each of which is serviced by a full-time Executive Officer who manages the day-to-day activities and planning requirements for the committee and reports to the regional director. RAJAC Executive Officers are based in the regional Justice offices, supporting the Justice regional model to improve government service delivery and accessibility to meet the needs of Victoria's diverse and growing community. The RAJAC network is based on recommendation two of the final report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991).

Contact:

GPO Box 4356

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

T: 03 8684 0000

T: 1300 365 111 (for regional callers)

W:

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/your+rights/aboriginal+justice+agreement/regional+aboriginal+justice+advisory+committee.shtml>

HEALTH

Bunjilwarra Koori Youth Alcohol and Drug Healing Service - is a culturally appropriate 12 bed residential rehabilitation service located in Hastings A joint partnership between the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) and the YSAS this service assists young people aged between 15 and 25 years with alcohol and other drug use. Participation is voluntary and those who attend are expected to live at the service for between 3 - 6 months.

Contact:

T: 03 5979 2011

T: 1800 014 446 (YSAS line 24 hour toll free)

W: <http://bunjilwarra.org.au>

Cohealth - is a not-for-profit community health organisation that provides a range of health and support services that respond to the needs of people in the western suburbs of Melbourne. The Aboriginal health team supports and helps Aboriginal people by providing free access to doctors; dentists; optometrists; podiatrists; diabetes care; children's clinic; counselling; art groups; activities and excursions; and foodshare.

Contact:

T: 03 9362 8181

T: 03 364 6699 (Aboriginal health team)

W: <http://www.wrhc.com.au/services/healthy-communities/aboriginal-health>

Djerriwarrh Health Services - provide a range quality integrated specialist, allied and community health services and encourage personal responsibility for health care.

Contact:

Cnr Yuille and High Streets
Melton, Vic, 3337
T: 03 5367 2000/ 5367 4599 (Bacchus Marsh)
T: 03 8746 1100 (Melton)
E: info@djhs.org.au
W: <http://djhs.com.au>

Gathering Place Medical Service Association - provides services and programs to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community residing within the catchment areas of Maribyrnong, Hobson's Bay and the Melton, Brimbank, Wyndham and Moonee Valley.

Contact:

W: <http://www.gatheringplace.com.au/>

Maidstone

T: 03 9317 7777

Werribee

T: 03 8742 3144

Headspace - a youth mental health organisation that helps young people, aged 12 – 25, who are going through a tough time. They offer health advice, support and information. Headspace is a place where young people can go to talk to someone.

Contact:

Sunshine

Visy Cares Hub
80b Harvester Road
Sunshine, VIC, 3020
T: 03 9927 6222
W: <http://www.headspace.org.au>

Werribee

Shop 13
5 Duncans Road
Werribee, VIC, 3030
T: 03 8001 2366

ISIS Primary Care - provides a range quality integrated specialist, allied and community health services and is committed to closing the health gap by improving the way services are provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Melbourne's west. ISIS employs an Aboriginal Access Worker to strengthen service delivery for the local community.

Contact:

T: 03 9296 1200 (St Albans- Head Office)
T: 03 296 1308 (Aboriginal Access Worker)
T: 03 9219 7142 (Deer Park)
T: 03 8368 3000 (Hobsons Bay)
T: 03 9313 5000 (Sunshine)
T: 03 9449 6900 (Watergardens)
T: 03 8734 1400 (Wyndham)
T: 03 9216 7777 (Wyndham Vale Super Clinic) W: <http://www.isispc.com.au/>

Mental Health Community Services Victoria - provides information, assessments and referrals for adults aged 16-64 seeking mental health support services for adults over 16 - 64 years who have a severe mental illness. All teams are staffed by qualified mental health professionals and may include doctors, occupational therapists, psychiatric nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers.

Contact:

Neami National
T: 1300 379 462

Mercy Mental Health Saltwater Clinic - is a modern well equipped clinic providing a range of psychiatric services. It is part of the Mercy Mental Health Program, which offers acute care, community care and rehabilitation.

Contact:

94 Nicholson Street Mall
Footscray, VIC, 3011
T: 03 9928 7444
E: information@mercy.com.au
W: www.mercyhealth.com.au

Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative Ltd - is a key service provider offering specialist alcohol and drug rehabilitation and outreach support services to the Aboriginal community in Victoria. Through responsive leadership from management and specialist staff, Ngwala is able to provide a high quality service to the community that is outcome focused and culturally appropriate.

Contact:

93 Wellington Street
PO Box 361
St Kilda, VIC, 3182.
T: 03 9519 3233
E: reception@ngwala.org
W: <http://www.ngwala.org/>

Orygen Youth Health (OYH) - provides is a specialised youth mental health clinical service for young people aged 15-25 years and their families. It provides services for people living in western or north western Melbourne.

Contact:

35 Poplar Road
Locked Bag 10
Parkville, VIC, 3052.
T: 03 9342 2800
T: 1800 888 320 (Intake/Triage – 24 hours per day, 7 days per week)
W: <http://oyh.org.au>

Quit Resource Centre - Quitline has proven to be one of the most successful methods to support people to quit smoking for good, and it is an increasingly popular support method for Aboriginal Victorians to cut down or quit. More and more community members are using Quitline as they hear about the Aboriginal specific service and get to know the Aboriginal Counsellors via meeting at Aboriginal Community events and activities or being personally referred by an Aboriginal Health worker/community member. Quit Victoria has a long-term commitment to Aboriginal Programs and has funded an Aboriginal Programs Coordinator for over 14 years.

Contact:

T: 13 78 48

W: www.quit.org.au/resource-centre/communities/aboriginal-communities

Tweddle Child and Family Health Services - is a not for profit early intervention and prevention health service that provides assistance to families in Victoria's north and west, during pregnancy and with children up to school age that are facing multiple challenges and are in urgent need of therapeutic support.

Contact:

53 Adelaide Street

Footscray, VIC, 3011

T: 03 9689 1577

W: www.tweddle.org.au

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) - provides a comprehensive range of medical, dental and social services. As well as providing a variety of medical services, VAHS is committed to supporting the well-being of the community through contributions to community events and activities. VAHS is also committed to assisting research into the ongoing needs of the community.

Contact:

General Enquiries

186 Nicholson Street

Fitzroy, VIC, 3065

T: 03 9419 3000

E: info@vahs.org.au

W: <http://www.vahs.org.au/>

Family Counselling Services

250 Plenty Road

Preston, VIC, 3072

T: 03 9403 3300

Oral Health Dental Unit

T: 03 9419 3680

Women's Health West - delivers family violence services and health promotion activities across western metropolitan Melbourne. The family violence service provides women and children with the range of services they require while in crisis – such as court support, crisis housing and case management – through to services designed to promote healing and recovery, such as women's and children's counseling.

Contact:

317 - 319 Barkly Street

Footscray, VIC, 3011

T: 03 9689 9588 W: <http://www.whwest.org.au> Domestic Violence T: 1800 015 188

Wulumperi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health Unit - Provides information, advice, testing or treatment for sexual health and is supported by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and that has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO). Services are for the whole Victorian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community, but primarily targets young people through the Indigenous Young People's Sexual & Reproductive Health Project, which is funded through 'Close the Gap.'

Contact:

580 Swanston Street

Carlton, VIC, 3053

T: 1800 458 406

T: 03 9341 6200

E: wulumperi@mshc.org.au

W: www.mshc.org.au/indigenous

HOUSING

Aboriginals Hostels Limited - provides accommodation in more than 50 locations Australia-wide for Indigenous people who need to be away from home. Hostels are safe, comfortable, and affordable and offer three meals each day during a stay. Hostels provide a welcoming home away from home environment for a variety of purposes including visiting friends, cultural business, studying, working or attending community events.

Contact:

169 Queen Street

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

T: 03 6212 2001

W: www.ahl.gov.au

Aboriginal Housing Victoria - secures appropriate, affordable housing as a pathway to better lives and stronger communities. Provides efficient and effective housing services for Aboriginal people, and manages housing stock to ensure quality and affordability.

Contact:

Narrandjeri House

125 -127 Scotchmer Street

North Fitzroy, VIC, 3068

T: 03 9403 2100

E: info@ahvic.org.au

W: <http://www.vahs.org.au/>

Department of Human Services (DHS) - plans, funds and delivers services to support Victorians in need. DHS provides social housing, child protection and disability support services. DHS also works with funded community organisations to provide a range of support programs and services across the state.

Contact:

T: 13 11 72 (Housing Call Centre - Maintenance for public housing)

W: www.dhs.vic.gov.au

Western Melbourne Area (for Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay and Wyndham)

71 Moreland Street

Moreland, VIC, 3058

T: 03 9275 7000

Brimbank Melton Area

16-18 Hertford Road

Sunshine, VIC, 3020

T: 03 9229 4100

National Rent Affordability Scheme (NRAS) - is a partnership between the Australian Government and the States and Territories to invest in affordable rental housing. The Scheme seeks to address the shortage of affordable rental housing by offering financial incentives to persons or entities such as the business sector and community organisations to build and rent dwellings to low and moderate income households at a rate that is at least 20 per cent below the market value rent.

Contact:

Level 7-9 595 Collins Street

GPO Box 9820

Melbourne, VIC, 3000

T: 1300 653 227

T: 13 74 68

E: nras@dhs.vic.gov.au

W: www.dhs.vic.gov.au

LEGAL

Community Legal Services – a number of community legal services offering free legal help operate across western metropolitan Melbourne. The Federation of Community Legal Centres can also assist in locating specialised legal support services.

Contact:

Melbourne

Federation of Community Legal Centres
Level 3, 255 Bourke Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000
T: 03 9652 1500
W: www.communitylaw.org.au

Braybrook

Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House
113 Melon Street
Braybrook, VIC, 3019

Brooklyn

Half Moon Caravan Park
455 Francis Street
Brooklyn, VIC, 3012

Footscray

Level 1, 72 Buckley Street
Footscray, VIC, 3011
T: 03 9689 8444
W: www.footscrayclc.org.au

Laverton

Laverton Community Hub
15 Crown Street
Laverton, VIC, 3028

Melton

Melton Library and Learning Hub
Schebler Meeting Room,
Level 1
31-35 Mckenzie Street

Melton, VIC, 33378

T: 03 9747 5300

Newport

Western Suburbs Legal Service
30 Hall Street
Newport, VIC, 3015
T: 03 9391 2244
W: www.wsls.org.au

St Albans

Suite 3, Level 1
358 Main Road West
St Albans, VIC, 3021
T: 03 8312 2020
W: www.communitywest.org.au

Sunshine

Sunshine Magistrates' Court
10 Foundry Road
Sunshine, VIC, 3020

Family Relationship Centre

1 Clarke Street
Sunshine, VIC, 3020

Werribee

Wyndham Legal Service
Suite 10
2-14 Station Place
Werribee, VIC, 3030
T: 03 9741 0198
W: www.wyndhamls.org.au

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) - was established as a community controlled Co-operative Society in 1973. VALS plays an important role in providing referrals, advice/information, duty work or case work assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the State of Victoria. Solicitors at VALS specialise in Criminal Law, Family Law and Civil Law.

Contact:

273 High Street
Preston, VIC, 3072
T: 03 9418 5999
T: 1800 064 865
W: <http://vals.org.au/about>

LOCAL COUNCILS

Local government delivers a range of services and facilities for the community and manages the area's resources. Local government is also responsible for implementing many diverse programs, policies and regulations set by the Victorian and Australian governments. Council's set their own regulations and by-laws to address local issues.

Services provided by Council's may include maternal and child health, pre-school programs, development and activity programs for young people, family services, neighborhood house programs and services to support people with a disability and seniors. Councils are also responsible for waste and recycling, building, engineering and planning.

Contact:

City of Brimbank
6-18 Alexandra Avenue
PO Box 70
Sunshine, VIC, 3020
T: 03 9249 4000
W: http://www.brimbank.vic.gov.au/Homepage_Links

City of Hobsons Bay
115 Civic Parade
Altona, VIC, 3018
T: 03 99321 1000
W: <http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Home>

City of Maribyrnong
61 Napier Street
PO Box 58
Footscray, VIC, 3011
T: 03 9688 0200
W: <http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/page/HomePage.aspx>

City of Melton
232 High Street
PO Box 21
Melton, VIC, 3337
T: 03 9747 7200
W: <http://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Home>

City of Moonee Valley
9 Kellaway Ave
PO Box 126
Moonee Ponds, VIC, 3039
T: 03 9243 8888
W: <http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/>