



HIGHMOUNT NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

TERM DATES

Term 3

Mon 12th July - Fri 17th September

School Holidays

Sat 18th September – Sun 3rd

October

Term 4

Mon 4th October – Fri 17th

December

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Professional Development – QA1

Educational Program and Practice

Thursday 2nd September

Monday 8th November

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

24th Sept Friday AFL GF (TBC)

2nd Nov Melbourne Cup

25th Dec Christmas Day

EVENT DATES

Book Week 2021

21st – 27th August

Bec's Baby Shower

Thursday, 9th September

Tuesday, 14th September

Bunnings Fundraiser BBQ

Saturday, 18th September

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we navigate our way through another tumultuous year, I thank all of our families for their continued support and adherence to our Covid Safe guidelines. I understand the procedures take longer, and I thank everyone for their patience, and respectfulness to our teachers and families as we all do our best to keep our community safe.

Early Childhood Education and Care Services remain open

As previously communicated, we will continue to operate during any lockdowns, unless otherwise directed by the State Government. Families may choose for their children not to attend kindergarten during this time, and we are respectful of that choice. We do however ask that you call or email the kinder to advise if your child will not be attending.

Incursions and Special Events

We have some exciting events planned for this term, which we hope will be able to go ahead. With current restrictions preventing non-essential visitors to the kindergarten, we may need to postpone our planned incursions. We are very much looking forward to welcoming families back into the kinder as soon as we can too!

New Three Year-Old Teacher

We are currently interviewing candidates for our permanent three year-old teacher position, and hope to introduce you to our new team member soon! With Hilda beginning her Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Teaching, we are grateful to have Narelle looking after our three year-old group in the interim. Along with Hilda and Jenny, Narelle has continued to provide a fantastic program, which the children are thoroughly enjoying.

Best wishes to Bec!

In preparation for the arrival of her baby girl, Bec's last week at kinder will be the first week of term four. During this week, our new four year-old teacher will work along-side Bec to get to know the children and families, and experience a comfortable transition into the role. We look forward to introducing you to Bec's temporary replacement soon, and wish Bec, Craig and Phoebe all the best as they welcome their beautiful new addition to their gorgeous family!

President

Email: highmount.president@gmail.com

3 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Parents and families,

Our 3-year-old group are enjoying another busy term at kinder!

The children have been enjoying the following experiences:

- Drawing self-portraits
- Tap tap boards
- Threading
- Collage work and box construction including using scissors, glue and sticky tape
- Imaginative and dramatic play
- Letter recognition activities, using puzzles, stamping and writing
- Climbing, swinging, running activities outdoors.

The children are beginning to develop their focus and concentration on self chosen tasks, spending longer times at activities, beginning to play in small groups, problem solving and practicing sharing with their friends. They are developing dispositions including resilience, listening, taking turns, sharing, caring and packing up kinder toys, and self-help skills. We are encouraging the children to use their words, such as “Can I have a turn?” and “Can I play with you?” through modelling language during the program, as well as through stories.

We have also begun focusing on emotions in the program, reading the When I’m Feeling stories, focusing on anger, sadness and kindness. This is to help the children to begin to understand their emotions/feelings and the feelings of their friends. Learning to understand their emotions and learning to self regulate appropriately assists the children socially as well as they begin to use language to communicate their feelings and solve minor conflicts.

The children absolutely love the group musical experiences and we have learnt some wonderful new songs this term, including a song taught to the group by one of our talented 3yo children - “Barramundi” and “All aboard the Melbourne train”. The children love moving to music and performing actions to the songs.

Music and movement experiences support the children to continue to learn to listen and follow instructions, develop coordination of gross motor muscles and support the children in developing their language as they begin to sing the lyrics to the songs.

We have recently introduced a packing up song to the program as well to assist the children in packing up and to help them take responsibility for the equipment in the program and the areas they’ve played. They have responded well to this and are responding with increased independence when the song comes on.

Looking forward to seeing all the dads and grandfathers at our Father’s Day morning tea on Tuesday 31st August (subject to Covid -19 guidelines and restrictions) and celebrating Book Week on Tuesday 24th August.

Kind regards,

Narelle Loftus, Jenny Galanos and Hilda Cousins

4 YEAR OLD REPORT

Dear Highmount Community,

The children have made an enthusiastic and energetic start to Term 3 and have been going from strength to strength as they have continued to learn through play over the last 4 weeks. We have been excited to observe higher levels of engagement and behaviours that demonstrate that the children are maturing as knowledgeable, skilled, and confident learners and are developing the tools, dispositions, and skills necessary for a positive transition to school.

The children are currently continuing to develop their emergent literacy skills and knowledge through our 'letter of the week' learning focus, intentional teaching experiences in circle time, and play experiences that support and facilitate this area of learning and development. Each week the children continue to show us their ever-growing knowledge and skills as effective literacy users. Their ability to work with key literacy concepts such as phonics, phonological awareness, concepts of print, creating and exploring texts, and making meaning continues to grow and progress at an impressive rate.

The children have been supported to follow an ongoing line of inquiry, 'the possibilities of a box'. This line of inquiry has supported the children to engage their imaginations, creativity, problem solving skills, motor skills, and reflexivity as learners. Furthermore, as our box construction experiences have been set up in ways that reflect a social constructivist approach to learning, the children have been supported and challenged to develop their social and emotional learning and development. They have been engaging in turn taking, sharing resources, sharing ideas, listening to others, negotiating roles, and cooperating and collaborating with one another.

I have also linked this line of inquiry with the children's long-term interest in marbles and the marble run. We have offered resources and questions/prompts that have challenged the children to construct their own marble run from repurposed materials including boxes, cylinders, paper bowls, etc. We are now planning to build a freestanding marble run using carpentry materials and tools. This will be a great opportunity for the children to develop their creativity, cognitive processes and skills, and motor skills as they engage in a woodworking project.

The children have displayed creativity and imagination as they follow their strong ongoing interest in jewellery making, 3D sculptures, and repurposed materials/resources art. They have been busy making crowns, bracelets, keyrings, robots, flags, umbrellas, pop-up pictures, cars, necklaces, and designing and decorating wooden bead art, as well as hanging artworks. We will be supporting the children to explore this interest further and develop key dispositions and skills for learning by engaging them in making their own clay beads, threading experiences with natural materials, and using real tools for jewellery making, 3D sculptures and construction projects (vice, hand drill, sculpture tools).

We have also undertaken a new line of inquiry about backyard biodiversity as we move to embedding more nature pedagogy in our program. This involves learning about the importance of mini beasts, attracting native birds to the yard, and planting a native garden (including bush tucker plants to be used for cooking). We are striving to connect this line of inquiry with our commitment to Reconciliation as we learn about and contribute to 'healing Country'. So far, our exploration and investigations have directed us to engage in an ongoing project to attract native birds and bees to the yard through native planting experiences, erecting bird feeders, and learning about the behaviours and life cycles of native birds.

4 YEAR OLD REPORT - Continued

Looking ahead this Term, we have Ben's Bees coming in to do incursions for our 4YO group, an experience that the children and teachers could not be more excited about. This will support us to embed nature pedagogy at the Preschool and support the children to learn more about nature, science and the environment as well as foster a sense of wonder in the natural world.

We are also very much looking forward to our Father's Day BBQs! To celebrate Father's Day this year we have invited families to join us for two BBQ sessions at the Preschool. This will of course cater for vegetarian families as we believe it is extremely important that we are respectful of different beliefs and attitudes around food. Please note that this event and our planned incursion is subject to the Department of Education and Trainings directives regarding non-essential visitors to the service. Currently, non-essential visitors are not permitted at service, and we not permitted to hold social gatherings at the Preschool. We are very much hoping this will change over the next few weeks and we will endeavour to keep the community up to date regarding the viability of these events.

Book Week 2021 is also an important feature on our Term 3 Kindergarten calendar! Book Week 2021 runs from 21-27 August and this year asks children to embrace the theme "Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds". This exciting invitation opens a world full of possibilities when it comes to children's book week theme ideas. This is an opportunity to escape into another world where the children can be anything they want to be!

As you can see, it is already an action-packed Term for the 4YO Kindergarten children!

Kind regards,

Rebecca Tyson - 4-year-old Teacher

FOOD ALLERGIES & ANAPHYLAXIS

We have children at the kindergarten who are at risk of Anaphylaxis – a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

The following food items and ingredients MUST NOT be brought into the kindergarten at any time.

- ✗ Eggs
- ✗ Nuts
- ✗ Nut products (eg: Nutella, Peanut Butter)
- ✗ Yoghurt
- ✗ Milk
- ✗ Lentils
- ✗ Kiwifruit
- ✗ Pineapple
- ✗ Fave beans/ broad beans
- ✗ Raw wheat
- ✗ Sesame Seeds
- ✗ Sesame Oil

Child safety is paramount at Highmount Preschool and we are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for the children in our community.

EVENTS



Starting Out Safely

As part of Victoria's **Starting Out Safely** Road Safety Education Program, the Early Learning Association of Australia are delivering training sessions on the safe transportation of children.

The free 90-minute sessions provide services, educators and families with information to make the best and safest decision regarding transporting children and the use of child car seats.

Families are invited to participate by registering for the webinars here:



https://elaa.org.au/latest_news/safe-transportation-of-children-2/

Saturday 18th September

Bunnings Warehouse
232 Ferntree Gully Rd
Notting Hill

Sign up to volunteer via
Story Park

BUNNINGS
warehouse

SAUSAGE SIZZLE
FUNDRAISER

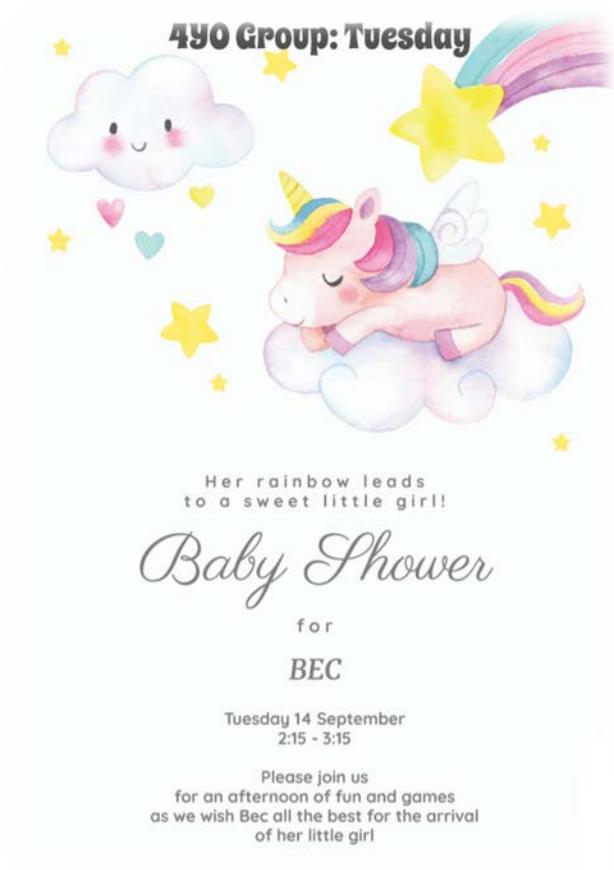


The 4YO group will be hosting a Baby shower for Bec!

The Baby Showers will be on Thursday 9 September and Tuesday 14 September.

An afternoon of fun and games will be arranged for the parents and children.

The Baby Showers will go ahead without parents if restrictions remain in place, as it will be a wonderful way for the children to celebrate with Bec.



HIGHMOUNT COMMUNICATION

Please “Like” our page and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to keep up to date with news and events happening at the kinder! We would love as many parents as possible to leave a review on [Google Review](#) too!



[Story Park](#) is a free App available for Apple and Android phones and tablets. The App is designed to keep parents up to date with newsletters, notices, news, and events.

Please download the App, register/Log in and find Highmount Preschool to receive updates and reminders on your chosen device.



Sun Protection

The Cancer Council of Victoria recommends sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher. Average UV levels in Victoria are three or higher from mid-August until the end of April.

From September through to April, children are required to wear a hat outdoors.

Please ensure that a hat is packed in your child's school bag in Term 3 & 4

We also suggest that you apply sunscreen on your child at home before the kindergarten session on high UV level days.

UV levels can be checked on the Highmount Preschool website:

www.highmountpreschool.org.au

Highmount Preschool is committed to:

- promoting sun protection strategies for children, families, staff and visitors to minimise the harmful effects of over exposure to the sun's UV radiation
- ensuring that curriculum planning will minimise over exposure to the sun's UV radiation and promote an awareness of sun protection and sun safe strategies
- providing information to children, staff, volunteers, parents/guardians and others at the service about the harmful effects of exposure to the sun's UV radiation.

REMINDERS



LOADS OF FUN!

LAUNDRY DUTY!

Don't forget to put your name down on our laundry roster located near the sign in book

SICK CHILDREN

Children should only come to kinder if they are well enough to participate in activities. Please keep your child at home if they are not well, even if they want to come to preschool, to avoid spreading illness.

If your child requires paracetamol or ibuprofen, they should not be attending the kinder.

If your child is going to be absent from kindergarten due to illness or has an infectious disease, please notify staff.

If your child has gastro they need to be symptom free for at least 24 hours

DROP OFF & COLLECTION

Highmount's responsibility for a child within the kinder grounds does not start until the session begins, and it reverts to the parents/guardians as soon as the session ends.

Prior to the beginning of sessions, parents and guardians are required to wait with their children until the teacher is ready to receive each child.

Parents/guardians arriving late for collection will be reminded of the kinder's drop-off/collection policy, which can be found in the handbook. Late collection can cause distress for children, and impacts on important non-contact time for staff. If you are running late due to unforeseen circumstances, please call the kinder to let staff know, so this can be communicated to your child.

Please do not allow any other children to exit the gate with you unless they are with a parent or guardian.

INTRODUCING THE KINDER TICK



The Victorian Government is introducing a new logo to help families find funded kindergarten programs that they can count on. The Kinder Tick makes it easier for services, like Highmount Preschool, to show families they offer kinder programs approved to receive Victorian Government funding.

When families see the Kinder Tick, they can be confident:

- ✓ the program will be led by a qualified early childhood teacher
- ✓ children will benefit from play-based learning
- ✓ the kindergarten program is funded and approved by the Victorian Government
- ✓ the program meets government guidelines and complies with the National Quality Framework.

Highmount Preschool is proud to display the Kinder Tick.

Why are kinder programs important?

Research shows kinder programs can set up your child to succeed, and that these benefits can last their whole lives.



What will my child experience at a kinder program?

At kinder your child will:

- learn about the world through play
- use their imagination and practise important skills
- use play to build their language skills and learn about numbers and patterns
- learn how to get along with others, share, listen and manage their emotions.

Teachers and educators help children become curious, creative and confident about learning. They will tailor programs to suit your child's age, needs and interests.

All kindergarten programs work with the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. You can find out more about the Framework here:

<https://education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/learning/Pages/veyldf.aspx>

For more information on Kinder Tick, please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/KinderTick>

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There are a total of 38 policies covering all mandatory and best practice areas related to the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care (NQF). These policies have been developed based upon information provided by the national peak body Early Learning Association of Australia (ELAA) to meet legislative, regulatory and funding requirements.

Highmount Preschool values and encourages family input into decision making and strives to draw upon this input to continuously improve the quality of the preschool.

We are pleased to invite you to view the preschool's policies at <http://highmountpreschool.org.au/policies/> particularly those that are in draft form and provide any feedback via email highmount.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Hard copies of the policies can be made available upon request.

Further information on the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood and Care (NQF) is also available on the Australian Children's education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website via www.acecqa.gov.au

RESOLVING CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

Families are encouraged to direct any feedback, concerns, complaints or grievances to the ***Nominated Supervisor***

Rebecca Tyson on **9802 2812**

Alternatively, you can contact the ***Approved Provider***, Highmount Preschool Association Incorporated:

Name: Lou Skepper

Position: President

Email: highmount.president@gmail.com

Mobile: **0403 327 762**

Or Contact:

Department of Education and Training (DET)

Quality, Assessment & Regulation Division (QARD)

**Eastern Metropolitan Area
North-Eastern Victorian Region**

Level 4, 295 Springvale Road
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150

Ph: 1300 651 940

emr.qar@edumail.vic.gov.au

HIGHMOUNT PRESCHOOL T-SHIRTS

Navy + White

Size 4 or 6 available

Cost: \$15.00

How To Order:

Please deposit the correct money into a blue box in the bathroom, in an envelope marked:

T-Shirt Order

Child's Name

Child's Size

Direct Deposit:

BSB: 033 065.

Account: 471357

Child's name, size & t-shirt order as a reference.



WE SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS



LITTLE MISS A HEADBANDS

Creating beautiful handmade crochet headbands, animals and dolls

Visit our Instagram and Facebook page plus our Etsy store "Little Miss A Headbands"

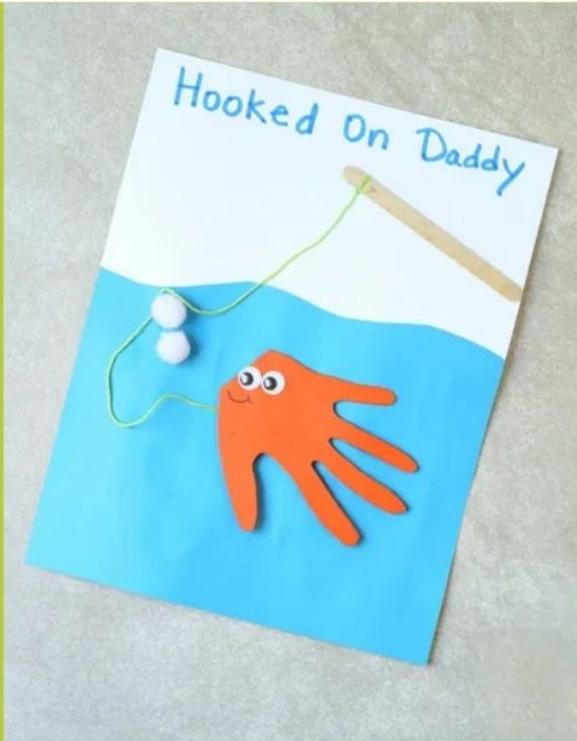
Start your own business from home!

HOW TO BECOME A VIRTUAL ASSISTANT

Online Program

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/STARTUP_COURSE](https://bit.ly/startup_course)

HANDMADE CARDS IDEAS

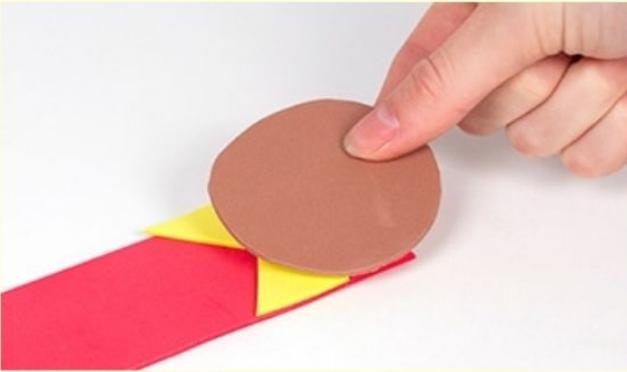


BOOK MARKS



How to Make

1. Take a sheet of red foam and cut out a long rectangle, approximately 15cm x 5cm.
2. Using yellow self-adhesive foam, cut out two small triangles and stick them to the red foam about an inch down from the top.
3. Take a sheet of brown self-adhesive foam and cut out a circle from it that is slightly wider than the red foam rectangle. Stick the circle to the top of the red foam so that the yellow triangles show at the bottom.
4. Cut out a large triangle from yellow foam to create the cape, and stick it to the back of the bookmark using double sided tape.
5. Use yellow self-adhesive foam to cut out the shape of a mask, then stick it to the face and stick two wiggle eyes on top.
6. To create the hair, cut out the hair shape from black self-adhesive foam, then stick it to the top of the face shape.
7. Use a black pen to draw a smile underneath the mask and to write 'Super Dad' onto the front of the bookmark.



Top Tip

Use contrasting colours to make the bookmarks really stand out.

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY CONTACTS



Help is Available

There are a variety of services available in our community to help you and your family manage this challenging time.

www.monash.vic.gov.au/community-information

COUNCIL SERVICES

Monash Customer Service

☎ 9518 3555

✉ mail@monash.vic.gov.au

💻 www.monash.vic.gov.au (webchat)

Waste Transfer Station

🕒 30am-3pm (7 days)

Monash Youth Services (Remote Access)

☎ 9518 3900

✉ YRCR@monash.vic.gov.au

Monash Community Support

☎ 9518 3555

GOVERNMENT UPDATES

Mobile App



Download the "Coronavirus Australia" government app in the **Apple App Store** or **Google Play**

WhatsApp

Join the Federal Government's WhatsApp channel on iOS or Android.

🌐 www.aus.gov.au/whatsapp and then follow the instructions.

FINANCIAL HELP

Australian Taxation Office

☎ 13 28 65 🌐 www.ato.gov.au

Centrelink

🌐 www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

Money Smart ☎ 1300 300 630

🌐 www.moneysmart.gov.au

Eastern Financial Counselling Service (Anglicare)

☎ 9896 6322 ✉ efcp@anglicare.org.au

National Debt Help Line

🌐 www.ndh.org.au

HEALTH SERVICES

Emergency Number ☎ 000 Police. Fire. Ambulance

Coronavirus Hotline ☎ 1800 675 398

Nurse on Call ☎ 1300 606 024 (24 hours)

FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICES

Maternal and Child Health Advisory Line

☎ 13 22 29 (24 hours)

MCH App free from app stores for child health tips and advice on your phone.

1800RESPECT

☎ 1800 737 732

National sexual assault, domestic family violence counselling service.

Kids Helpline

☎ 1800 551 800 (24 hours)

🌐 www.kidshelpline.com.au

Free phone & online counselling for kids, teens, young adults, parents and carers.

DirectLine

☎ 1800 888 236 (24 Hours)

Alcohol and drug counselling and referral.

Lifeline

☎ 13 11 14 (24 hours)

Crisis support and suicide prevention.

Elder Abuse Helpline

☎ 1300 368 821

Parentline

☎ 13 22 89

(8am-midnight) Counselling and support for parents and carers every day of the year, including public holidays.

Beyond Blue Support Service

☎ 1300 22 4636

Mental health support services.

Headspace

☎ 1800 650 890

Youth mental health service for 12-25 year olds.

Suicide Support Line

☎ 1300 651 251

MensLine Australia

☎ 1300 789 978

Telephone & online counselling service for men.

Wavecare Counselling

☎ 9560 6722

Telehealth consultation & counselling available for referred clients.

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND SUPPORT

Victorian Government Emergency Relief

☎ 1800 657 398

🌐 www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victoria-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#emergency-relief-packages

Monash Oakleigh Community Support and Information Service

25 Downing St, Oakleigh

(Mon, Wed & Fridays: 10am-1pm)

☎ 9568 4533

✉ admin@mocsis.org.au

🌐 www.mocsis.org.au

Waverley Community Information and Support Service

☎ 9807 9844 or 9807 5996

✉ wavcis@bigpond.com

🌐 www.monashwaverleycis.org.au

Leave a phone message and one of the volunteers will call back as soon as possible.

CRISIS HOUSING

If you need further advice or assistance, contact Bill Kendall at Monash Council on

☎ 0412 787 850 📧 bill.kendall@monash.vic.gov.au

Crisis After Hours ☎ 1800 825 955

During business hours this number will direct the appropriate housing service (determined by location).

Uniting Harrison (Suburb: Mulgrave)
321 Ferntree Gully Rd, Mount Waverley

☎ 1300 277 478

Community Housing Limited (Suburbs: Glen Waverley, Wheelers Hill & Burwood)

19-23 Prospect St, Box Hill ☎ 1300 245 468

Salvo Care (Remaining Monash Suburbs)
317 High St, Kew ☎ 9853 5680

AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

If you, or someone you know, is at risk of losing their current tenancy, the Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP) has funding which can support at-risk households to sustain affordable and appropriate housing in the private rental market. PRAP funding can be applied for through Salvo Care or Uniting Harrisons.

Salvo Care ☎ 9853 5680 **Uniting Harrisons** ☎ 1300 277 478

USEFUL CONTACTS

Health Services

Monash Health – COVID-19 Screening Clinic

☎ 1800 675 398

🌐 monashhealth.org/patients-visitors/coronavirus#screening-clinics

Check website for further instructions before attending the clinic.

Refugee Health & Wellbeing Clinic

Monash Health - Dandenong

☎ 9792 8100

Health clinic for asylum seeker and refugee patients who require non-urgent medical care.

Carers Victoria

☎ 1800 514 845 🌐 www.carersvictoria.org.au

Provides advice or assistance to carers.

Disability Information Helpline

☎ 1800 643 787

Mon-Fri: 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun: 9am-7pm.

Not available public holidays.

Working for Victoria initiative

🌐 www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria

Links for more information for businesses

Australian Government:

🌐 www.business.vic.gov.au and search for the information you need.

🌐 www.aus.gov.au/whatsapp

and then follow the instructions.

Victorian Government:

🌐 www.business.gov.au and search for the information you need

🌐 www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/business-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19

City of Monash

🌐 www.monash.vic.gov.au/business-resident-support

🌐 www.monash.vic.gov.au/Hardship-Policy