



Checklist for families

This checklist has been developed jointly by the Genetic Support Network of Victoria and Genetic Health Services Victoria, as a resource for families when you use clinical genetics services for your child. It is intended as a prompt, to help you to think about some services you may wish or need to access. Not everything on this list will be relevant to your family at this time. Remember, you are not alone and we would like to help you access the services you need to care for your child.

Do I need the advice of other professionals?

Physiotherapy – help with movement and breathing	9362-6111
Speech Pathology – help with speech, swallowing and feeding	9345-5540
Occupational Therapy – help with developing independence to do everyday tasks	9345-5402

I need advice or support after hours... who can I call?

Genetics after hours and ask for the geneticist on call to be paged.	9345-5522
LifeLine	13 1114
Crisis Line	9329-0300

I need more information following this appointment... who can I ask?

Ask for another appointment or speak to a genetic counsellor or social worker	8341-6201
Speak to Genetic Support Network of Victoria	8341-6315
Call the Genetics Education Unit	8341-6298
Association for Children with a Disability	9500-1232

English is not my first language... who can help me understand?

Ask for an interpreter for your appointments	
Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health	9427-8766
Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities	9383-5566
Aboriginal Family Support Unit	9345-6111

What community resources can I access?

A social worker at Genetic Health Services Victoria can give you advice	8341-6201
Association for Children with a Disability	9500-1232
Local Council	
<i>Look in your phone book or local newspaper for contact details</i>	
Noah's Ark Family Resource and Toy Library	9509-3711

How can I make my home more liveable?

Independent Living Centre	9362-6111
Occupational Therapy department at the Royal Children's Hospital	9345-5402
Physiotherapy department at the Royal Children's Hospital	9362-6111

Do I need specialised equipment at home? How will I pay for it?

Equipment Distribution Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital	9345-5325
Victorian Aids and Equipment Program (A&EP)	9345-5964
Independent Living Centre	9362-6111

How do I make future plans for education?

A social worker at Genetic Health Services Victoria can give you advice on this	8341-6201
Association for Children with a Disability	9500-1232
Department of Education, Employment and Training Students with Disabilities and Impairments	1800 809 834

I need time out! How do I arrange this?

A social worker at Genetic Health Services Victoria can give you advice on this	8341-6201
Regional Respite Care Centres	1800 059 059
Local Council Home & Community Care (HACC) Services <i>Look in your phone book for contact details</i>	
Interchange	9687-0366
Very Special Kids	9804-6222

Are there any financial benefits available for my child?

Centrelink – speak to their social worker about Carer's Allowance	13 2717
Ask the social worker at the clinic you come to	

I was not satisfied with my appointment... what can I do about it?

Speak to the Genetic Health Services Victoria Quality Officer	8341-6278
Speak to the Genetic Support Network of Victoria	8341-6315

How can I contact other parents in similar situations?

Genetic Support Network of Victoria <i>Can put you in touch with specific support groups</i>	8341-6315
Association for Children with a Disability	9500-1232

For more information about anything you read on this checklist please call:

Genetic Support Network of Victoria	8341-6315
Genetic Health Services Victoria	8341-6201