

New Services Information for Vietnamese Families Living with Disability in the West and South East

Extended Families Australia and Vietnamese Families with Special Needs are launching two new community inclusion programs that will commence January 2021 and run through to July 2022.

- Vươn lên Peer Group Program
- Tham Gia School Holiday Program

These programs have been funded by the NDIS' Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) scheme and seek to support of Vietnamese children, youth and young adults living with disabilities experiencing difficulties in participating in community activities.

Vươn lên (VL) Peer Group Program

VL will provide peer support to three groups of up to 10 young people with Autism (aged 15 to 18 and 19-24) who are experiencing difficulties engaging and being included in community activities and who have not been able to overcome inclusion barriers through existing services. The program will offer group based opportunities to develop young people's community interests, build pre-vocational skills, and help them to grow in confidence; increase resilience and motivation; experience social connection and take part in community experiences. The program will also provide peer support for the parents of VL participants supporting them in their parenting role and assisting them in finding solutions to overcome inclusion barriers faced by their children.

In home assessment to develop individual participation plans will be undertaken in January and February 2021. Facilitated group meetings for young people will run fortnightly (4 hours each session) commencing February 2021. Parent meetings and workshops will take place every second month commencing March 2021.

Program	Age	Disability Focus	Area	Program	Places	Staff to Participant ratio
Vươn lên Peer Group Program Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing advanced skills that will enhance community and vocational inclusion • Peer support • Social opportunities • Community participation 	Youth 15-18 years	Autism	Western metro region (Based in Brimbank)	Fortnightly 4 hours Tuesdays TBD	Up to 10	2/3 staff to 10 participants
	Young Adults 19-24 years	Autism	Western metro region (Based in Brimbank)	As above Mondays TBD	Existing Group limited space	As above
	Young Adults 17-24 years	Autism	South Eastern metro region (Based in Springvale)	As above Tuesdays TBD	Up to 10	As above

There are no regular costs to take part in VL other than costs associated with entry tickets and eating out when excursions are planned

Tham Gia School Holiday Program

The Tham Gia program will involve Vietnamese children with disabilities in mainstream community activities to reduce isolation and promote community participation and inclusion. The program will operate in the western metro region and will work in partnership with local community activity groups to offer 'Come-Try' events for two groups of primary & secondary school children with disabilities and Community Exploration Days for one smaller group of older children (15 to 19 years). Tham Gia will offer community events for families linked into the program. One event for

each group will be held each school holiday period. Tham Gia seeks to act as a bridge between families living with disability and mainstream activity providers. It is dedicated to building lasting partnerships that will increase community inclusion for isolated children outside of school terms and fostering lasting links between individuals and groups

Program	Age	Disability Focus	Area	Program	Places	Staff to participant ratio
Tham Gia Holiday Program Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to experience local community activities • Developing skills to enhance community participation • Social opportunities • Community participation 	Primary 5-12 years	All types	Western metro region	One x 4 hour event per school holiday period	15	3-4 per 15 participants and their parents
	Secondary 13-18 years	All types	Western metro region	As above	15	3-4 per 15 participants and their parents
	Explorer 15-19 years	All types	Western metro region	As above	8	2 to 8 participants
	Families	All types	Western metro region	As above	Variable	3-5 per family event

There are no regular costs to take part in Tham Gia other than costs associated with entry tickets and eating out when particular excursion events are planned

Eligibility

Places are limited in each program and group selection will take into account the following considerations:

VL Peer Group Programs	Young person's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived experience of Autism • Degree of social isolation and experience of social and community inclusion barriers • Suitability to group profile and learning activities • Individual goals for participation • Level of individual support needs to take part • Ability to attend meetings regularly • Age and area in which they live
Tham Gia School Holiday Programs	Young person's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived experience of disability • Degree of social isolation and experience of social and community inclusion barriers • Individual goals for participation • Ability to attend sessions regularly • Parent support to attend large group events (Not relevant for Explorer) • Profile of the group being matched into • Age and area in which they live

How to take part

As places are limited, we are asking families to register their interest in participating in the programs. If you would like to register your families' interest in either program, please complete our on line Expression of Interest jot-form that can be found at: <https://www.jotform.com/build/203416891439865>

We will then send you an enrolment form to complete. Information contained in enrolment forms will be kept confidential and used to allocate young people into groups.

Enquires to Julia Klieber on E: julia@extendedfamilies.org.au M 0451 665 057 or Nga Do (Vietnamese Speaking) on E: nga@extendedfamilies.org.au M0433 103 401. If you require language support to fill in the Expression of Interest Form or Enrolment Forms, please contact Nga Do.