

A life lived with friendship
is a life fully lived.



Tham Gia School Holiday
Program - West

Extended Families





Extended Families Australia is a non-for-profit organisation that supports children and young people with a disability aged 0-30 in Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula to build friendships and connect with their community.

Our Tham Gia program is carried out with our collaborative partner Vietnamese Families with Special Needs. The VFSN is a non-profit organisation that supports the needs and isolation felt by Vietnamese community members living with a disability.

Tham Gia supports children and youth living with a disability in Western Melbourne to be more involved in local community activities and to become more socially connected. Tham Gia runs multiple events during the school holiday period which help young people and families connect, try out fun activities and develop the skills and confidence they need to participate in community life.

Extended Families

How does Tham Gia work?

Tham Gia (**means To Participate in Vietnamese!**) operates during school holidays in the western regions of Melbourne and commenced in December 2020 with funding through Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Grant Fund– an arm of the NDIS.

We work in partnership with local community activity providers to host “Come and Try” events for **Vietnamese youth** experiencing disability and their families.

All the Tham Gia events are aimed at building friendships, having fun, trying out new experiences and strengthening everyday skills that assist in feeling more connected with each other, our families, and the wider community. In planning we consider participant’s interests, goals, and support needs.

Our Tham Gia events in the West **are free!** Extended Families in collaboration with Vietnamese Families with Special Needs covers the cost of group activities and provide snack foods and drinks for events through grant funding. On the odd occasion we host a special excursion event, families will need to cover the entrance fee. This will be stated on the invitation.

All events are supported by a team of Extended Families’ Staff who are experienced in working with children and youth with disabilities. One - two Vietnamese speaking staff participate in each event. All staff have relevant NDIS checks and have completed training with Extended Families.



The event was well organised and the staff were very supportive
Parent of participant who attended Primary Event -TG West

“Event was very fun and meaningful. Children got to socialize with other people, nature and explore different animals at the zoo”

Mother of participant who attended Family Day Event -TG West



Tham Gia Groups

Group	Age	Capacity	Parent / carer participation	Event per holiday period	Staff attending
Primary	5-12	25 participants	Yes	1 x 2.5 hr	3-5
Secondary	13-18	25 participants	Yes	1 x 2.5 hr	3-5
Explorer	15-19	12 participants	No	1 x 2.5 hr	2-3
Family Day	All	25-30 families	Yes, including siblings	1 x 2.5 hr	3-5



Who can attend Tham Gia events?

As places are limited in each TG group, we consider the following points when determining a young person's eligibility to participate in the program:

- Age, Vietnamese cultural background & area in which the participant lives
- Lived experience of disability
- Level of social isolation experienced
- Goals of participation
- Ability to attend the program regularly
- Ability to participate in activities safely
- Ability for a parent or carer to attend events (Primary, Secondary and Family Day events)



How participate in Tham Gia events

1.

Families are asked to pre-register in participating in Tham Gia by contacting one our staff:

- Thanh Nguyen TG Program Coordinator (WESTERN Lead -Vietnamese and English speaking)
Email: thanh.nguyen@extendedfamilies.org.au
Phone: 0451665057

2.

Once your enrolment in Tham Gia is confirmed, you will receive an invitation to attend events organised for the group you have been enrolled in. Invitations are emailed to families before each school holiday event commences. The invitation will detail the time, location, and activities for the event.

3.

You will be required to RSVP to the event. An email or text will be sent to you confirming your attendance the fortnight before the event. All that's left to do is attend the event and have fun!



SAFETY

All TG event staff are fully trained in disability inclusion support and meet mandatory NDIS screening requirements. External activity presenters we collaborate with, work alongside our staff and have undertaken required safety checks relevant to working with children. Each participant enrolled in the TG program is provided with an assessment so that everyone's individual abilities and support needs are considered in program design. Where a child may need extra support to take part in activities, we work with families to access additional staffing supports that may be needed

All of our events are compliant with government Covid-19 guidelines and participants attending events are asked to sign in using provided QR codes and indicate vaccination status as relevant to age and individual circumstances.

Contact Us

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www.extendedfamilies.org.au

Extended Families Australia is a not for profit registered disability service provider and a child safe organisation.

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