



**extended
families** australia

supporting families
of children with a disability

Live Your Community

Dear Banyule Community Member,

The **Live Your Community Project** is an exciting new pilot program currently being launched in the City of Banyule by Extended Families Australia, with funding from a City of Banyule 2009 Community Development Grant.

Extended Families Australia is an incorporated, not for profit association that has been providing volunteer based social and respite support to Victorian children living with disabilities and their families for over 30 years.

The Live Your Community Project offers volunteer based support for children with disabilities living in Banyule to participate in local community group and sporting activities, assisting them and their families to overcome barriers to inclusion, to broaden their social networks and to strengthen the ties they have with their local communities.

Coordinators from the LYCP will meet with families and children aged between 5 and 17 years of age who are referred to the program, to learn about the child's activity interests, to gain insight into the barriers to participation they may have experienced and to understand their abilities, aspirations and specific support needs.

The coordinator will work with the family and local community groups and clubs to find activity & social interaction opportunities that meet the child's interests, preferences, personal and family situation. A volunteer who lives locally will be recruited to assist the child and family to access and participate in their chosen activity.

Volunteers will provide 2 to 4 hours weekly, fortnightly or monthly for up to six months supporting the child to participate in activities, learn new skills and develop friendships within the environment they are accessing.

Participating volunteers will complete an assessment process (including reference, police and 'working with children' checks) and receive training by experienced Extended Families coordinators before being carefully matched to a child and their family.

The LYCP aims to provide practical support to the **child**, the **family**, and the **activity group** or **sporting club** the child is accessing so that, where possible, ongoing LYCP volunteer support may be phased out as the child develops relevant skills and supportive connections within the group enabling independent participation over a period of time.

Families, volunteers, activity groups and sporting clubs in Banyule wishing to learn more about the LYCP pilot and plans for future expansion of the program, please contact

Julia Klieber

Project Development Officer, Extended Families Australia

T: 9275 6911 or Email project@extendedfamilies.org.au

Extended Families Website: www.extendedfamilies.org.au

***The LYCP is supported by a Banyule City Council Community
Development Grant***