

Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS)

Centre for Adolescent Health
The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
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Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS) Referral information

The Chronic Illness Peer Support program (ChIPS) is a vibrant adolescent peer support program that has operated for over 15 years providing critical psychosocial and peer support for 12-25 year-olds living with a chronic illness.

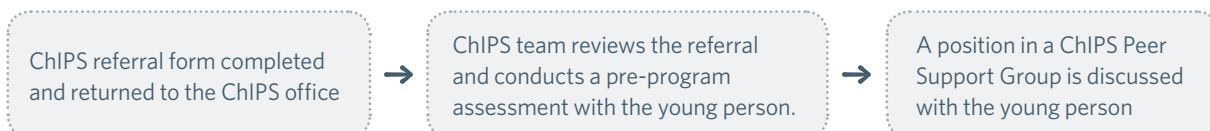
The entry point for the ChIPS program is via the 'Eight Week Group' or the 'ChIPS Intensive' where new participants share experiences of living with chronic illness and learn from each other in a facilitated, semi-formal and safe environment. Once program participants have completed their Eight Week Group or ChIPS Intensive they can take advantage of year-round recreational, social and leadership activities.

Qualifying criteria

ChIPS is available to young people who are:

- 12-25 years of age with a primary diagnosis of chronic illness
- living with a chronic illness or condition that affects their daily life
- able to attend an eight- week peer support group or a two-day intensive group
- ready and able to participate/ function well in a group setting

Referral process



FAQs

Q. Who can refer a young person?

A. ChIPS takes referrals from health professionals including, but not limited to: doctors, nurses, psychologists, school counsellors, social workers, youth workers. Parents/guardians and individuals may fill out the referral form and have it endorsed by their healthcare professional.

Q. When does ChIPS accept referrals?

A. ChIPS is accepting referrals year round on a rolling basis and will do its best to place those who are referred in a peer support group as soon as possible.

Q. Does the young person need to be a patient of The Royal Children's Hospital?

A. No. ChIPS is run at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne but it engages young people from throughout Victoria.

Q. Is there anyone the young person can talk to if they are not sure about ChIPS?

A. Yes. ChIPS staff are available to speak with the young person or referring health professional, or if the young person would prefer, they can talk with a current ChIPS participant from the ChIPS Reference Committee. Telephone (03) 9345 6916.

Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS) Referral

This form is to be endorsed by a relevant healthcare professional.

Mail to: ChIPS program, Centre for Adolescent Health, The Royal Children's Hospital, 50 Flemington Road, Parkville Victoria 3052

Facsimile: (03) 9345 6343 Email: meagan.hunt@rch.org.au Telephone: (03) 9345 6616

Young person's details

Date of referral: / /	RCH UR (if applicable):	
First name:	Surname:	
Age:	Date of birth: / /	
Address:		
Email:		
Home telephone:	Mobile:	
School:	School year level:	
Parent/guardian name:	Telephone:	
Parent/guardian name:	Telephone:	

Nature of illness

Current medical condition/s:

Symptoms and how the young person is affected (incl. phys/psych/socially/family/school):

Hospital/Health Care system linked with:

Other information:

Referring healthcare professional's details

First name:

Surname:

Occupation:

Organisation/ department name:

Organisation/ department address:

Telephone:

Email:

Other healthcare professional (if applicable):

Telephone:

a) Please initial if you give consent to be contacted prior to, during and/or post this young person's involvement in the ChIPS program if the program staff should need your assistance, guidance or support.

Initials:

b) Please initial if the young person and their parent/guardian are aware that you are referring the young person to the ChIPS program.

Initials:

c) Please initial if you believe the young person you are referring wants to be involved in and would benefit from the ChIPS program.

Initials: