

## Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS)

Adolescent Medicine  
The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne  
50 Flemington Road  
Parkville Victoria 3052 Australia  
Telephone: 03 9345 6616  
Mobile: 0438 155 527  
[www.rch.org.au/chips](http://www.rch.org.au/chips)



# 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 30 years, providing critical psychosocial and peer support for 12-25 year olds living with a chronic illness.

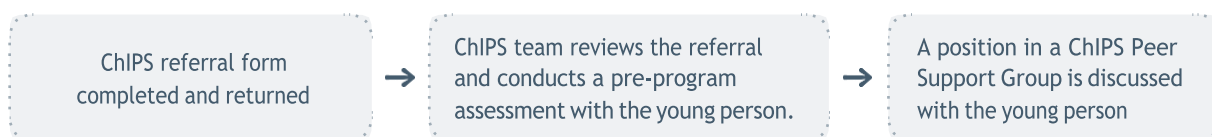
Entry into the ChIPS program begins with participation in an Intake Group, either weekly during school term or over two days in school holidays. Participants share experiences of living with chronic illness and learn from each other in a facilitated, semi-formal and safe environment. Once program participants have completed their Intake Group 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 a six-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 an intake 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 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 professionals, or if the young person would prefer, they can talk with a current ChIPS participant from the ChIPS Reference Committee. Telephone (03) 9345 6616.

# Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS) Referral

This form is to be endorsed by a relevant healthcare professional.  
Post to: ChIPS Program, Reception K, The Royal Children's Hospital, 50 Flemington Road, Parkville Victoria 3052  
Email: chips.program@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:

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

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Hospital/Mental Health Care system/s linked with:

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Other information:

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## 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:
d) Please initial that the young person and their parent/guardian have been informed their electronic medical record will be accessed by program staff as part of referral review process (RCH patients only).	Initials: