

Chronic Illness Peer Support (ChIPS)

Adolescent Medicine
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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 20 years providing critical psychosocial and peer support for 12–25 year-olds living with a chronic illness.

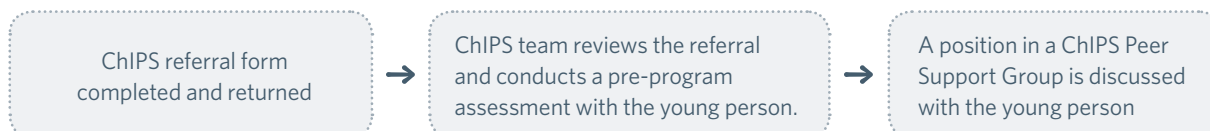
The entry point for the ChIPS program is via the 'Eight Week Group' or the 'ChIPS Intensive' where new participants share experiences of living with chronic illness and learn from each other in a facilitated, semi-formal and safe environment. Once program participants have completed their Eight Week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

