

A free social connection program for our aged and ageing community members

Introducing Cultura's Community Visitors Scheme (CVS)

What is the program about?

Cultura is funded by the Department of Health to provide the Community Visitors Scheme (CVS) program to people living in the Barwon South West Region; with a focus on Geelong, Surf Coast and The Bellarine areas. The aim of the CVS program is to provide company and social activities to people who are at risk of, or suffering from isolation or loneliness. A trained and accredited CVS volunteer is paired with the recipient for weekly or fortnightly visits.

For more information, visit: www.health.gov.au/cvs

Who is eligible?

This program is FREE to eligible members of our community. To be eligible the recipient must be living at home and hold a Home Care Package (HCP) or be waitlisted for a Home Care Package - meaning the participant can still be receiving Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) funded services, however they must be in receipt of a Government Home Care Package Approval Letter.

What are the benefits of this program?

The benefits of engagement for both the recipient and volunteer visitor are plentiful. The social connections and wellbeing benefits are palpable; bringing confidence and happiness to recipients. The CVS Coordinator will ensure pairings are well-considered so that meaningful conversation and common interests are shared.



Community Visitors Scheme (CVS)
Funded by the Australian Government

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What a CVS visit looks like:

The CVS Program involves the volunteer visiting their paired friend for a minimum of 1 hour at least once per fortnight, building a meaningful connection and providing companionship. The visits take place at or from the recipient's home and may include activities such as going for a walk, shopping or visiting to a café, watching a movie or listening to music together, playing cards or board games, gardening, reminiscing or just lovely conversation over a cup of tea.

Please note – Virtual visits such as phone calls, letter/ email, video calls can replace face-to-face visits in some circumstances.

Who are the community visitors?

Visitors are volunteers who join their local service provider. All visitors receive basic training and must have regular police checks. Visitors are matched to a person based on their shared interests.

Will I receive support?

Both the visitor and the person being visited can engage into the program knowing that they have supervision and support from their CVS Coordinator to help facilitate visits, guide and foster organic ongoing friendships.

Your CVS Coordinator, Amanda, will provide information and resources to the paired Community Visitor friend to assist in keeping visits COVID-safe.

In Australia there are Community Visitor groups in all states and territories, including groups that support:

- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people
- People who live in rural or remote areas who are financially or socially disadvantaged
- People who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Veterans
- Care leavers
- Parents separated from their children by forced adoption or removal

Register to receive a visitor

Regular visits from a community visitor can help to improve your quality of life and help you feel less socially isolated.

Volunteer as a visitor

Volunteering as a community visitor can be a rewarding experience. By becoming friends with an older person, you can make a positive difference to their lives as well as your own.



Call or email Amanda Natai for more information.

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