

MEDIA RELEASE

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Grandparents and kinship carers the focus at forum

Over 5,500 Victorian children are looked after by their grandparents or another family member, rather than going into foster or residential care.

The role of close relatives in caring for young children will be the focus of the Grandparents and Kinship Carers Forum which will be held on **Wednesday 22 May, from 9.15am to 3pm at the Botanica Springs Kindergarten and Community Centre.**

Designed to educate and inform carers about current changes and trends in kinship care, as well as the impact family breakdown can have on young children, this free forum is open to all residents.

Speakers from Grandparents Victoria, Centrelink, Headspace, Take Two Berry Street and Life Story Work will discuss the impact of complex trauma on children, and share their knowledge and experience in assisting them to settle into a new environment.

City of Melton Mayor and grandfather of six, Cr Bob Turner said grandparents and carers played a valuable role in providing full-time care to children, on both a short or long term basis.

“Melton City Council is committed to supporting those who look after vulnerable children in our community,” Cr Turner said.

“I encourage grandparents and relatives in our community who have taken on parental responsibility to attend this forum to find out more about the support and resources available to them.”

“Not only will you be able to speak to the experts, but participating in the forum is a great way of forming new friendships and sharing your story with others in a similar situation.”

Morning tea and lunch is provided and bookings are essential.

To register your interest, please contact Council’s Family Worker on 9747 7200.

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Elissa Haley – Communications Coordinator on (03) 9747 7205.