

MELTON CITY COUNCIL Reconnect Program



SOCIAL STORY

Melton Reconnect Program

Community Care and Active Living
7 McKenzie Street
Melton Vic 3337
Phone: 9747 7200



GUIDELINES

Thank you for choosing to use a Social Story written for the Melton Reconnect Program.

This Social Story is suited for a person who may have autism spectrum disorder, a language disorder, social communication difficulties and/or a cognitive delay/disability.

For your Social Story to be successful, we recommend you follow these guidelines:

- Read Social Story often and preferably two weeks in advance of visit
- Social Story to be read and shared in an environment free of distractions
- Be calm, comfortable and honest when reading a Social Story
- Help the participant comprehend key points and consistently monitor for level of understanding
- Once the visit has taken place, revisit the Social Story to celebrate success.

Melton City Council hereby acknowledges the support and assistance provided by [Access Ability Australia](#) in helping to prepare this Social Story.

We express our sincere appreciation to Access Ability Australia for their pivotal role in assisting Melton City Council to highlight its commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Their expertise and support have played a vital role in ensuring that Melton City Council is welcoming to all individuals in our community.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Melton City Council acknowledges the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land and pays respect to their Elders past and present.



Melton City Council offers the Reconnect Program to young people aged between 12 and 18 years who live, study or work in the City of Melton.



The Reconnect Program can help me if:

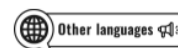
- I am having trouble at home or school
- I am having relationship difficulties with friends or family
- I want to get more involved with my community
- I have recently moved out of home or I am worried about being forced to leave home.

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Reconnect - Young Person



If you, or one of your friends are:

- aged between 12 and 18 years old
- having problems at home or school
- having issues with family or friends and
- worried about getting kicked out of home or have recently left home

WE CAN HELP!

If you are a young person under 16 years of age you will need your parents' permission.

Please check the eligibility criteria BEFORE completing the referral form:

[REFERRAL FORM & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA >](#)

If you need further information, please contact the Reconnect Program:

Community Care & Active Living, during business hours 9747 7200 or via

email: reconnect@melton.vic.gov.au.

I can get more information about the Reconnect Program [online](#).

My parents, teachers, or others might suggest the program for me, but I need to agree to participate.

No-one can make me participate if I don't want to.



I can sign myself up for the Reconnect Program.

If I am between 12 and 15 years old, I need my parent or guardian's permission.

I can sign up by:

- calling 9747 7200 (Monday to Friday, 9 am–5 pm)
- emailing reconnect@melton.vic.gov.au and leave my phone number so someone can call me back
- or filling out the online referral form: [Reconnect Program Form](#).

My trusted person can help me contact the program.



A Reconnect Program Officer will contact me or my parent/guardian.

They will set up a first meeting with me.

I can choose a place where I feel safe and comfortable for the meeting, like my school, home or somewhere in the community.

They will then become my worker and be able to offer support and advice.

I can tell my worker if I require any extra help or support during the meeting like an interpreter or easy read language.



At the first meeting, my worker will:

- explain what the Reconnect Program does
- ask if I want to be part of the program and get consent forms signed
- give me information about my rights and responsibilities while being part of the program.

My Goals

1.

2.

3.



At the second meeting, my worker will help me create a Goal Support Plan.

This plan will list what I want to achieve and how I can reach my goals, with their support.



The Reconnect Program can help me with goals like:

- getting along better with family and friends
- being linked into education, training or employment
- taking care of my physical and mental health
- getting involved in the community, like joining sports clubs or youth programs.

Everyone has different goals, and I get to choose what matters most to me.

My worker will help me find ways to reach my goals. This could include:



- figuring out why I miss school and how to fix it – like setting up healthy sleep and eating habits so I feel ready for school
- meeting with my teachers to find ways to keep me interested and involved in school
- helping me and my family talk through problems and reduce conflict
- teaching me life skills like using public transport and managing money
- connecting me with community activities like school holiday programs, sports or clubs I enjoy
- referring me to services, such as mental health support
- offering practical help, like going to appointments, filling out Centrelink forms or buying things I need for school.



The Reconnect Program provides short-term support for up to 5 months.

At first, I might need a lot of help.

The goal is for my worker to help me build the skills and confidence to achieve my goals and keep working towards them even after the program ends.



Any support or advice I get from the Reconnect Program is free.

Anything I talk about with my worker will be kept private, unless there is a concern that my safety or other peoples' is at risk.

This means Reconnect Program Officers may not tell others what we talk about without my permission, unless safety is at risk.



Sometimes, I might feel
anxious or uncomfortable
talking about my problems.

I can let my worker know if I
need a break.



Sometimes, when I'm out with my worker, places we are visiting might feel loud and busy.

I can wear my headphones or earbuds to help with the noise.

I can ask my worker if we can go somewhere quieter.



The Reconnect Program offers great support to help me feel connected to my family, friends, school and community.