

Carer's corner

An update from the Victorian Carer Card program

Welcome to the August edition of *Carer's corner*, your regular update from the Victorian Carer Card program. Carer's corner provides more information about the offers, discounts and other experiences available from some of the 400 businesses, local councils and other organisations who kindly support the Victorian Carer Card program and Victorian carers.

You can learn more about the program, view offers, and hear stories from carers and the people they care for by visiting the Carer Card website at www.carercard.vic.gov.au.

Carer tax tips

Check out these tips to help you get started with this year's tax return.

1. The Australian Taxation Office's **Tax Help** program helps people with a disability and others to complete their tax returns. Visit www.ato.gov.au for more information.
2. If you used an accountant to complete your tax return for the last financial year be sure to **claim any accountant fees** you paid this year.
3. Scan in and **keep electronic copies** of receipts and other documents. Having an electronic copy means you'll have a back-up should they get lost. By adding to your electronic record throughout the year, you'll also be well placed to accurately complete your return.
4. **Understand your charity deductions.** Only donations to registered charities are tax deductible.
5. Most people's tax returns are due by 31 October each year. Avoid a penalty for failing to lodge on time penalty by **knowing your tax deadlines.**



A number of accountants and financial planners provide Carer Card holders with discounts. Check the directory at www.carercard.vic.gov.au for more information.

In your community

Carers in Melbourne's east are invited to learn more about respite options available in their local community at the RIDE Disability Expo. With more than 80 stalls, the expo is touted as the biggest source of disability respite information in the eastern region. The expo will be held on Wednesday, 3 September from 10.00am – 2.00pm at the Hungarian Community Centre, 760 Boronia Road Wantirna. Call 1300 886 798 for more information.

For carers across the state

Carers Victoria is holding a range of 'mingle events'. The 'mingles' are an opportunity for carers to connect with one another, share information, relax, unwind and find out more about services and supports available in their local area.

Over the coming months Carers Victoria will be holding 'mingle events' in Melton, Bairnsdale, Mornington, Bendigo, Ballarat, Melbourne, Geelong, Warrnambool, and Wangaratta.

'Mingles' are free to attend; to find out more visit <http://www.carersvictoria.org.au/mingle>.

Know about any events for carers happening in your local community? Let us know via email at carercard@dhs.vic.gov.au and we'll try and include details in the next edition of Carer's corner.

A big thank you to the businesses, local councils and other organisations that help to make the Carer Card program possible.

If you have any questions about the Victorian Carer Card program contact us on 1800 901 958 or email us at carercard@dhs.vic.gov.au.

You can also contact the Carer Card team on the details above if you require this newsletter in an alternative format.

The Carer Card team