

Children's Hospices in Australia

Children's hospice services help children with life-limiting illnesses who are not expected to reach adulthood. The hospices assist these children and their families deal with the emotional and physical challenges they face and to make the most of life. This care can be provided throughout the course of a child or young person's life and beyond.

Children's hospice services aim to meet the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of babies, children, young people and their families. Care is provided by a multi-disciplinary team of specialist staff, working together to ensure seamless support to the entire family which includes siblings and grandparents.

Children's hospices deliver care in a child and family-friendly purpose built building and offer a wide range of support, which may include:

- › practical help, advice and information
- › specialist short break care
- › transition from hospital to home
- › specialist therapies, including play, art and music therapy
- › psychosocial support
- › end-of-life care
- › care for a child's body after death
- › bereavement support
- › support camps and groups for family members

There are three children's hospices in Australia. To find more information, please visit their websites:

- › Very Special Kids – Melbourne, Victoria
03 9804 6222 • vsk.org.au
- › Bear Cottage – Sydney, NSW
02 9976 8300 • bearcottage.chw.edu.au
- › Hummingbird House – Brisbane, Queensland
07 3621 4364 • hummingbirdhouse.org.au

