



Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Children
Minister for Disability

GPO Box 1774
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: 1300 607 665
www.dffh.vic.gov.au

BAC-CO-59660

Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament of Victoria
council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr McDonald

I refer to your letter, notifying me of the petition presented to the Legislative Council by Ms Katherine Copsey, Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region, calling on the Government to keep Parentline open.

Since the inception of Parentline in 1998, other services and resources have become available for Victorian parents and carers. Victorians using Parentline are being supported during the transition and informed about the services available to them.

Some of the alternative free 24/7 telephone counselling and support services include:

- [Maternal and Child Health Line](#) – 13 22 29
- [Beyond Blue](#) – 1300 224 636
- [Safe Steps](#) – 1800 015 188
- [1800 RESPECT](#) – 1800 737 732
- [Lifeline](#) – 13 11 14
- [MensLine Australia](#) – 1300 78 99 78

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people there are also the following free 24/7 telephone lines:

- [13YARN](#) – 13 92 76
- [Yarning SafeNStrong](#) – 1800 959 563
- [Brother to Brother crisis line, Dardi Munwurro](#) – 1800 435 799

In addition to these telephone services, there is free online parenting supports from [The Raising Children Network](#), that includes webinars, podcasts, and articles about child development stages, and various topics.

Other short and long term parenting services can be found on the Victorian Government Services webpage – [Parent Support in Victoria](#) and the [Children in Victoria](#) webpage. Services

such as [The Orange Door](#), Family Services, Relationships Australia, and many others are listed on these websites.

The Victorian Government established a portfolio for Children in October 2023 to improve equity, access and outcomes for Victorian children and families. The portfolio supports every key stage from free primary health services in maternal and child health, high quality early childhood education and services for children and families, to supports for children and young people at risk, and leaving care services.

The Government's priority continues to be keeping children and young people safe, and families and carers strong. The 2025-26 Victorian State Budget reinforces this focus by building a stronger, more resilient child protection system, one that keeps families together and invests in a skilled and supported workforce. This includes earlier interventions through supports from the family services platform.

Through family services investment, over 40,000 families each year can access individualised family and parenting supports that match their needs. These services act to reduce use of statutory services, increase participation in universal services as well as improve family functioning, parental confidence and community connectedness.

I trust this information is of assistance to Ms Copsey and the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Children

Minister for Disability

31/10/25