

A life lived with
friendship is a life fully
lived.



**Kết nối Brimbank! Connect
In Brimbank!**

Extended Families

Proudly
Supported by





Extended Families Australia is a non-for-profit organisation that supports children and young people with a disability aged 0-30 in Melbourne to build friendships and connect with their community.

Our Kết nối (Connect) program supports Vietnamese young people and families living with a disability and residing in Brimbank to be more involved in local community activities and to become more socially connected.

Kết nối is made possible through a community grant provided by Brimbank Council. It will offer a series of 4 family Come and Try events in 2023 during school holiday periods to help young people and families connect, try out fun activities and develop the skills and confidence they need to participate in community life.

Extended Families

How does Kết nối work?

Kết nối (which means To Connect in Vietnamese) is modeled on Extended Families' highly successful Tham Gia Western region program! We work in partnership with local community activity providers to host "Come and Try" events for Vietnamese youth and young adults with a disability and their immediate families. All the events are inclusive and are aimed at building friendships, having fun, trying out new experiences and strengthening everyday skills that assist in feeling more connected with each other, our families, and the wider community.

EVENTS: In 2023, four events will be held between January and November during or near to school holiday periods. The program will provide community inclusion activities for a minimum of thirty families with an average of 60-80 people attending each individual event. Events are 3 hours in duration, will take place in Brimbank and will offer sporting, arts and cultural activities that take into consideration the needs of people with a disability.

ELIGIBILITY: **Kết nối** is open to families of Vietnamese cultural background residing in Brimbank and who have a child with a disability aged 25 years and under.

As places are limited, we consider the following points when determining a family's priority of access to the program:

- The family's cultural background and place of residence
- The family has a child(ren) under the age of 25 years who lives with a disability
- The family experiences a degree of social isolation and wants to become more involved in community life
- The ability of attending family members to safely participate in the program of activities planned for individual events

NOTE: At least one parent (or a formal care giver) of the child with a disability must attend the event with them to provide supervision. Siblings are welcome to attend but must be under the age of 19 years and must also be supervised by a parent.

STAFFING: All events are supported by a team of Extended Families' Staff who are experienced in working with children and youth with disabilities. At least two Vietnamese speaking staff participate at each event. All staff have relevant NDIS checks and have completed disability inclusion support training with Extended Families Australia.

COST: Kết nối events require a small donation fee of \$10 per family per event to participate. If you are unable to afford this fee, please speak with our program facilitators.

SAFETY: All event staff are fully trained in disability inclusion support and meet mandatory NDIS screening requirements. External activity presenters we collaborate with, work alongside our staff and have undertaken required safety checks relevant to working with children. Each participant enrolled in Kết nối is asked to complete an Enrolment Application Form that helps us to understand individual abilities and support needs which are considered in program design. Where a child may need extra support to take part in activities, we work with families to access additional staffing supports that may be needed.

All events are compliant with government Covid-19 guidelines. Enrolled participants must RSVP to invitations received and obtain a confirmation of attendance before coming along to planned events.

How to participate in Kết nối events

1.

Families are asked to pre-register to participate in Kết nối by contacting either:

- Thanh Nguyen Program Coordinator (Vietnamese and English speaking)
Email: thanh.nguyen@extendedfamilies.org.au
Phone: 0451665057
- Julia Klieber Program Manager (English Speaking)
Email: Julia@extendedfamilies.org.au
Phone: 0481955551

2.

We will send you an Enrolment Application Form. Once your enrolment in Kết nối is confirmed, you will receive an invitation to attend individually organised events. Invitations are emailed to families before each school holiday event commences. The invitation will detail the time, location, activities, and cost for the event.

3.

You will be required to RSVP to the event. An email or text will be sent to you confirming your attendance the fortnight before the event. All that's left to do is attend the event and have fun!

The Kết nối 2023 program has been made possible with support from Brimbank Council through their 2022/23 Community Grants Scheme

www.extendedfamilies.org.au

Extended Families Australia is a not-for-profit registered disability service provider and a child safe organisation.

