The Victorian Government’s Support for Carers Program has recently been expanded by almost $50 million to better meet the needs of Victorian carers.

The Support for Carers Program provides respite and other services and supports to Victorian carers. Previously restricted to carers of people over the age of 65, the Program has recently expanded its eligibility and is open to all carers.

In September, Parliamentary Secretary for Carers Anthony Carbines visited Carers Victoria to announce an additional $1.25 million for Carers Victoria to deliver the Program in the Western Metropolitan Region. This includes the areas of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Wyndham.

The expansion of the Program is in direct response to the Victorian Carer Strategy.

If you have respite needs but live outside of these areas, please call Carers Victoria to find out how to access your nearest Support for Carers Program provider.

What does this mean for me?

Through the Support for Carers Program, you can access:

- One-off or short-term support for carers, including goods and equipment, which can add to other services or fill service gaps.
- Support to people in a care relationship. If preferred, this can be provided at the same time and place as the person receiving care.
- Wellbeing support to improve your quality of life, physical and mental wellbeing and social connections.

Am I eligible?

The Program is open to all carers of someone who fits at least one of the following:

- Is older with care needs
- Has a mental illness
- Has a chronic illness
- Has a disability
- Has dementia (including younger-onset dementia).

Support for Carers Program

To find out more about the Support for Carers program call Carers Victoria on 1800 514 845 or visit: carersvictoria.org.au/carer-benefits/support-for-carers-program

To read the Support for Carers program guidelines, and find your regional support provider, visit: health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/support-for-carers-program-guidelines

Above // Anthony Carbines visited the Carers Victoria’s Footscray Office in September.