



What is Camcare?

We are a community organisation of professionals and volunteers working together to help people in Boroondara when times are tough.

If life is overwhelming, Camcare is there. We provide wellbeing and support services, information and practical assistance. That might be food relief in a crisis, connecting to other services, or professional counselling for new parents, unsettled teenagers or vulnerable families. We go out to see people who need support in their homes.

And we create a welcoming community space at Camcare for people to meet and participate in activities – a place to belong.

Why do we exist?

Boroondara is an affluent community, yet there are people in distress and struggling on low incomes, facing rising costs of living, housing insecurity, unemployment, relationship conflict and loneliness.

For 40 years, professionals and volunteers from the local community have come together at Camcare to help people manage these issues, and reduce the impact they have on their lives. Times change, but one thing is constant: the need just keeps growing.

What do we do?

We respond flexibly to the needs of those who come to us. Our services continuously change and adapt in response to current research about our community's needs.

We focus on empowering local individuals and families, by offering compassion, encouragement and the tools they need to tackle difficulties. We provide a safe place for those who are struggling, with services that are free or low-cost.

Some examples of our work:

- groups for vulnerable new mothers to share information, build strategies and confidence to become effective parents
- support and connections to services for families with a history or current

- experience of family violence
- emergency relief: donated food, small grants for students and fresh produce from our kitchen garden
- monthly community barbecue to bring people together for a meal and friendship
- wellbeing counselling services for people in the community who are coping with challenging times, from new parents, to school students to those experiencing past or present relationship issues
- practical help to prepare tax returns, learn how to use the internet and other life essentials
- support for older people in the community to build connections

Why are we unique?

In the ebb and flow of community support services, a local organisation like Camcare, staffed by professionals and skilled local volunteers with a passionate commitment to local community, is rare.

We are also based in an affluent community where homelessness, financial distress and family violence, among a myriad of other crises, are often hard to see.

Camcare works to ensure that everyone in Boroondara, and beyond, has a fair go and the opportunity to experience wellbeing.

How can you help?

Camcare is thankful for the support of the City of Boroondara, and other government funding sources. However, as a small organisation working locally, we do not have access to the level of funding we need to survive and thrive. Your donations, bequests and sponsorships are vital.

Our group of volunteers and students is always keen to welcome anyone who would like to help with their time and skills – everyone has something to give.