

ABN 68 004 621 461| [vic.guidedogs.com.au](http://vic.guidedogs.com.au/)

2-6 Chandler Highway, KEW VIC 3101

reception@guidedogsvictoria.com.au | 1800 804 805

# Guide Dogs Connected Together Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What is ‘Connected Together’?

Connected Together is a project which aims to support community and peer support activities for people with low vision or blindness their carers, family members or support networks – whether you connect with your community in person, online or via telelink.

We are doing this through supporting established peer support groups and networks to connect with each other, or we can help to bring to life a new idea for a peer group.

Connected Together is made possible through the Information Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) grant program. The aim of this project is that people with disability, their families and carers are supported to take part in, contribute to, and benefit from the same community activities as everyone else.

### I'm part of a peer group, what can we do through Connected Together?

Connected Together provides opportunities for people with low vision or blindness, their carers, family members or support networks to get together or participate in community life, such as arts, culture, sport and recreation activities and associated costs such as venue hire, catering, transport, facilitators. Examples of activities could include:

* adaptive sports try-outs
* peer meet-ups
* accessible arts and cultural activities
* health and wellbeing classes (including mental health)
* trivia events
* walking groups
* audiobook clubs
* test and trial of new assistive technologies

### Is my group eligible to apply for support?

If you are a person with low vision or blindness and or identify as a carer, family member or are a support network to someone with low vision or blindness and your initiative is based in Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Queensland, South Australia, Northern Territory or online nationally, good news – you are eligible to apply.
How do I register my interest?

Email connections@guidedogsvictoria.com.au or call the Connected Together team on mob: 0437 779 716 for any further information, and to start your application process.

### How will Connected Together select activities to support?

Applications are received through an open, expression of interest (EOI) opportunity, which is made publicly available. Activities will be matched against eligibility criteria.

When you submit your application, there will be an opportunity to send an estimated budget. The Connected Together Project Team will work alongside you to ensure you group is able to fulfill activities in a timely and realistic manner.

The Guide Dogs Connected Together Team can also work with you to complete the application for activities and answer any questions.

Guide Dogs reserves the right to decide not to proceed with a selection and grant of funding at its discretion.

### I am a community/peer leader, how involved will I be?

Connected Together aims to support self-organised peer support group activities. A nominated community or peer leader will take on a role as an appointed “group organiser” and will be the link between the wider peer group and Guide Dogs Connected Together Team.

Connected Together expect peer groups to have all necessary safety checks up to date consistent with running your community group – for example - National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quality and Safeguards Commission Code of Conduct, Working with Childrens Check, Police Check etc

### What happens after our activity is complete?

You will be contacted by a member of the Connected Together team. We will ask for an overview of activities, budget update and other feedback to help us guide future direction of the project until June 2024.

The Connections team will invite you to provide some information or good news stories about the activities that you have run – an opportunity to share ideas and create connections across Australia.

### How do I find out more?

Visit our [website](https://vic.guidedogs.com.au/resources/about-our-services/peer-support/), email connections@guidedogsvictoria.com.au or call the Connected Together team on mob: 0437 779 716 for any further information.