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## **FAQs: Volunteering at the Miracle sMiles Retreat**

### **Who can volunteer?**

Volunteers must be over 18 years of age and must undergo a Working with Children Check. We ask that volunteers are able to commit to a regular time and day.

### **Where is the Retreat situated?**

The Retreat is located in East Kilmore, an hour from Melbourne along the Hume Freeway.

### **What training will I receive?**

Volunteers undergo orientation and training at the Retreat.

### **When will I be needed?**

We have three Volunteer Programs: weekday, overnight and weekends. You may volunteer for the Program that suits your availability.

### **What is the application process?**

- Submit your expression of interest or 'phone the volunteer coordinator.
- A Volunteer application pack will be sent to you.
- Attend an Information/Orientation Session at the Retreat.
- If you wish to proceed, submit your signed forms and apply for your Working With Children check.

### **Will I need to provide medical care to the children?**

Nothing other than basic first aid is required. Retreat managers and volunteer health professionals provide the care associated with the child's specific condition or treatment.

### **Do the children speak English?**

Most of the children do not speak English, but they learn very quickly. Communication is not usually a problem.

### **Can my workplace volunteer?**

We welcome enquiries from work place groups wishing to volunteer for a day or short term. These groups are able to participate in working bees such as painting, gardening, window washing and general seasonal tasks tailored to the skills of the participants.

### **Can I bring my children when I volunteer?**

Once you have settled into your role, your senior primary and secondary school age children are welcome on occasions. We ask that volunteers do not bring very young children who will themselves require supervision.

### **Can I complete school community service or Duke of Edinburgh Award requirements with Children First?**

We are happy to consider this where the student's parent is a volunteer and therefore will be accompanied by their parent. Otherwise this is not possible due to the minimum age requirement.