

Help for families

LIFE is hard for families of children with disabilities, but Early Childhood Intervention Awareness Week aims to help.

Biala Peninsula manager Maree Grover said she hoped the week, starting Saturday, would increase awareness of the variety of services available for children with disabilities and their families.

Biala's program is at the Mahogany Neighbourhood Centre in Frankston North on Wednesdays during school terms.

Speech pathologists and occupational therapists help groups of up to 10 children each week, with support from a psychologist and physiotherapist.

"The outreach program at Frankston North was started in 1997-98 to help local families access an early childhood intervention service for their child as close to home as possible," she said.

"With a grant from Frankston Council, Biala has developed an innovative music therapy program.

"Music therapy has many benefits for the young child," Ms Grover said.

These included encouraging children to communicate through music and song and creating social opportunities.