



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
Greater Western Sydney



## Cook & Connect Program Overview

"A meal has the power to  
turn a house into a home  
and a stranger into a friend."



## About us

Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney has provided life-changing support to families with sick and injured children, since 1981.

Our services include a 60-room House next door to The Children's Hospital Westmead, along with a Day Pass Program at our Westmead House, where families with a child who is a patient of the hospital can access our ground floor facilities every weekday, including meals and refreshments.

Additionally, we provide Hospitality Carts operate on the children's wards of Nepean and Campbelltown Hospital and a Learning Program. In total we support over 2,500 families every year.

## What is Cook + Connect?

Often, parents and carers of seriously ill children simply do not have the time, funds, or energy to step into the kitchen the way they normally would. This is especially true after an emotional day at the hospital

Through our group volunteering programs like Cook + Connect, we provide nourishing meals and snacks to families staying at Ronald McDonald House Westmead. Corporate and community groups are invited to step into the kitchen to make a meaningful impact by preparing, cooking, and packaging meals and snacks for families to enjoy. This program helps support lunches, grab-and-go meals, savory snacks, and our Day Pass program.



## How does it work?

Ronald McDonald House in Westmead supports over 2,000 families with sick and injured children every year, while their child receives vital treatment next door at The Children's Hospital Westmead.

Cook + Connect caters for volunteer groups of a minimum of 6 people and maximum of 10 people. If you have a larger group, please contact us to discuss available options.

As a group, you'll be working together with a qualified chef to prepare and/or serve & package meals & snacks. This unforgettable, hands-on experience provides an opportunity for your team to connect while giving back to the community.

### RMHC GWS provides:

- All produce for the day
- Our food Safety HACCP-accredited chef to oversee the morning

### Your group provides:

- A group of enthusiastic volunteers to prepare and bake

**Cost: \$1,650 per group**

## Bookings

To book a Cook + Connect experience, [click here](https://rmhcgws.org.au/cook-connect) or visit [rmhcgws.org.au/cook-connect](https://rmhcgws.org.au/cook-connect)

### Payment

The program is \$1,650, to cover the cost of food for the families. Payment can be made via credit card at the time of booking or on invoice. Where an invoice is issued, payment is due within 14 days. Fees must be paid 28 days prior to your booking.

### Donations

The fee charged only covers the cost of food to participate in the program. To help keep our program running, we'd appreciate you considering a donation to our Chapter, above the participation fee.

### Insurance

As part of participating in any program at the House, it is a requirement to supply us with a copy of your workers compensation and public liability insurance.

### Participant registration

Advance registration is compulsory for every person visiting the House. It's quick, easy and can be completed online at [rmhcgws.org.au/group-volunteering-registration-form](https://rmhcgws.org.au/group-volunteering-registration-form)

Participants who do not register will not be able to participate on the day.

### Cancellation policy

There is a 28-day cancellation policy for all program bookings. Email us to cancel or reschedule. Cancellations or changes within 28 days agree that the full participation fee will be converted to sponsor a meal. We value your support and appreciate your understanding.



# A typical 'Cook + Connect'

8:45am

Arrival and sign in

9:00am

Welcome/briefing, followed by a House tour

9:30am

Introduction to kitchen; food preparation begins

11:30pm

Food packing & serving begins

12:30pm

Pack up/wash up; clean-up commences

1:00pm

Eat lunch together as a team & depart House when finished



\*Please note, for previous participants, welcome/briefing and House tour is optional.

Kitchen clean-up is included as part of Cook + Connect, and it is important that all team members step in to assist with the clean up. This ensures that your group finishes on time.

*"Today was a truly inspiring day as our team came together not only as colleagues but as a community. We spent the day cooking up a storm at Ronald McDonald House, putting our culinary skills to good use for a cause we all deeply believe in."*

*"It was incredible to witness everyone's dedication and teamwork in action, from chopping vegetables to creating delicious dishes with love and care. Moments like these remind us of the power of unity and the impact we can make when we work together towards a common goal."*



**- O&M Halyard ANZ team**

# Attendance etiquette

While visiting the House, we ask that you are mindful and understanding of families and their differing circumstances while staying at the House.

Despite being under tremendous emotional stress, families welcome your support and contribution. It is not appropriate to ask questions about a child's illness or why a family is staying at the House.



## **Important details on infection control: when NOT to attend the House**

The majority of children staying at the House are immune-suppressed due to the hospital treatment they are receiving. Everyday illness can cause devastating outcomes for these children.

Children staying at the House must not be put at risk of contracting any illnesses through contact with visitors to the House.

It is extremely important that all participants are free of infection or illness and practice a high degree of hygiene at all times whilst visiting the House.

Participants must also be free from coughs, colds, or any viral illnesses, and have had NO contact with chicken pox, measles, or gastro illnesses in the last three weeks.

**If any member of your group is unwell or has come in contact with any of the above medical conditions, they must not attend the House – there simply are no exceptions.**

## **Personal hygiene / attire**

As your group will be utilising equipment in our commercial-grade kitchen, all participants must:

- Wear disposable gloves and hair nets (supplied by the House)
- Wear closed in shoes and comfortable clothing
- Remove jewellery
- Wash your hands thoroughly prior to and after preparing any food
- Not cough or sneeze over food or where food is prepared/stored
- Keep personal items clear of food preparation areas
- Keep nails short and not wear nail polish that can chip into food
- Cover cuts and wounds with an approved waterproof strip
- Tie back hair



**Attendees will each be provided with an apron to wear on the day.**



# Photography / social media

We encourage all participants to capture photos of their group in action in the kitchen on the day.

Photos of families staying at the House, however, are not permitted, unless with the direct consent from an individual family. Participants are asked to be mindful of family privacy, and even if a family consents to a photo, not more than one photo request is made to them.

Participants are encouraged to share photos on social media using our hashtag, #KeepingFamiliesClose. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn at @rmhcgws or as **Ronald McDonald House Charities Greater Western Sydney**.

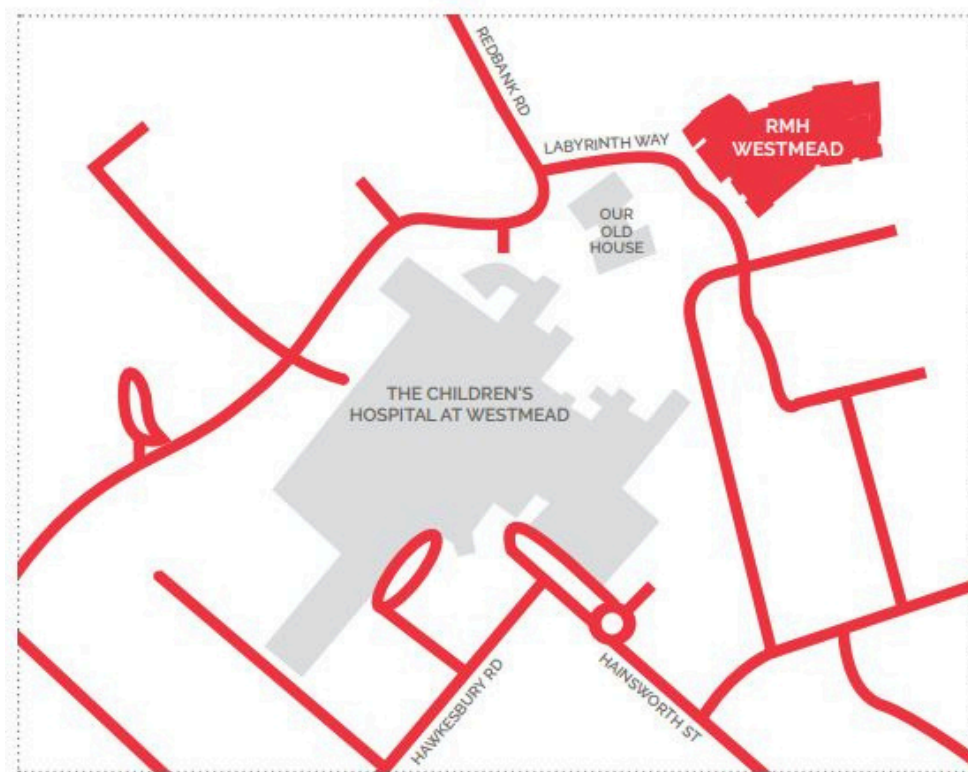
## Getting here

The House street address is 1 Labyrinth Way, Westmead NSW 2145, off Redbank Road.

The best way to access the House is to put Redbank Road, Northmead into your navigation system. From there, you can turn left from Redbank Road into Labyrinth Way.

There is limited free parking available at the House. We encourage volunteers to carpool or catch public transport if possible.

Westmead train station is an easy 15-minute walk to the House.





# Contact our team



02 9806 7111



[programs.gws@rmhc.org.au](mailto:programs.gws@rmhc.org.au)



[www.rmhcgws.org.au](http://www.rmhcgws.org.au)



Street address: 1 Labyrinth Way, Westmead NSW 2145  
Postal address: Locked Bag 4001, Westmead NSW 2145



@rmhcgws



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#KeepingFamiliesClose

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