



Volunteer Louise Cameron and Doncare clinical services director Carmel O'Brien have welcomed the reinstatement of the Hands on Parenting program.

Picture: ANDY DREWITT N03DT312

Back to lend a hand

Parents | Anna Prytz

DONCARE is reaching out to local families through the newly reinstated Hands On Parenting program.

The program, which ceased last September when the money dried up, is running again after \$50,000 came through from the State Government and Manningham Council's Visy Community Support Grant Program.

The program sees new parents in tough circumstances visited by a trained volunteer every week for six months.

"It's a very necessary service and the only one like it in the area, so everyone's happy," Doncare co-ordinator Freya Dugan said.

Templestowe volunteer Louise Cameron,

who has been with the program for eight years, said the difference it made was remarkable. "So many new mums lack confidence and just having someone reassure them has an impact," Mrs Cameron said.

Doncare's Chinese family playgroups, which also fell victim to lack of funding last year, will re-start within the next three weeks.

Doncaster state Liberal MP Mary Wooldrige has promised \$60,000 over three years for the program.

"We know that funding's coming so we're going ahead," chief executive Doreen Stoves said. "The sooner, the better."

Interested volunteers and families should call Doncare on 9841 4215.