

SEACOMBE HEIGHTS

Nevus support at hand

EVENT TO AID SUFFERERS OF CONDITION

Amy Moran

WHEN Michelle Sibbons's daughter, Danielle, was born with a rare skin condition 13 years ago, she started a search for information that has brought hundreds of families together.

She connected with another Adelaide family with a child who had giant melanocytic nevus and by the time Danielle was one, Mrs Sibbons had formed Australia's first Nevus support group.

Nevus Support Australia Inc will host a three-day conference this week, providing information and talks from health experts, as well as fun activities for young people living with the condition.

Giant melanocytic nevus is a mole-like condition that can cover large parts of the body in one mark or in smaller spots.

"It has caused quite a bit of anxiety for Danielle," Mrs Sibbons, of Seacombe Heights, says.

"Her medication affected



Danielle, 13, with her mum Michelle Sibbons.

Picture: STEPHEN LAFFER

her teeth, so not only has she grown up with this condition, but she has had to have a lot of dental work as well."

About 80 people from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom and the US will ar-

rive for the biennial conference at Marion Holiday Park from Friday to Sunday.

Mrs Sibbons hopes to introduce the support group to other Nevus sufferers who may not know it exists.

"We can cast the net as

wide as we think, but we don't know if there are more people out there who may feel isolated," she says.

"Sometimes people can have marks that are easily covered and live very normal lives, but for others they

may have a large mark in the middle of their face."

To join Nevus Support Australia Inc or find out more about the conference, contact Michelle Sibbons at michelle@nevussupport.com.au.