



Chisholm Pals Playgroup MELTON

A supported playgroup for young mums aged 16–25 yrs at Melton West Community Centre, 2 West Melton Drive, Melton West on Wednesdays from Oct 29 to Dec 3.

For information, please contact Erin or Daya on 9361 7000.

Happy Days Playgroup TARNEIT

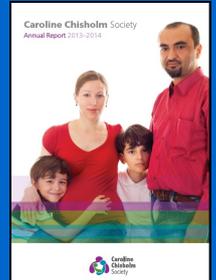
A playgroup supporting mums with their wellbeing in Wyndham at Tarneit Community Learning Centre, 150 Sunset Views Blvd, Tarneit on Mondays from 13 Oct to 15 Dec.

For information, please contact Lisa or Audrey on 9361 7000.

ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The Caroline Chisholm Society
Annual Report 2013–2014
is now available.

Download it from our website,
email us or call for copy to be posted.



From the CEO

It being the newsletter following our AGM, I must remark on the last year—we made some great progress with how we work with pregnant women and their families!

We established a new program, Home Handy Helpers.

With the support of the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund and the Moonee Valley City Council, volunteers are now helping clients maintain their homes. Why? So they and their children can keep safe, to reduce tension with landlords and to have good male role models for our families.

Our volunteer coordinator, Glenda Rumble, worked with our pregnancy and family services practitioners and together they achieved a great program. Please do consider volunteering for this program. You

don’t need to be a tradesman, just someone who passes the clearances and is prepared to do work around the home of clients.

We overhauled our evaluation systems.

We now use an “outcome star” to help our clients set goals and check how they are going against those objectives. The goal might be reducing social isolation, so we put them in touch with a playgroup.

We also use a referral register so that we know that those who come to an appointment are getting in touch with ongoing support so as to avoid reliance on our ad-hoc service that can only alleviate immediate needs.

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Victorian State Election

SOME THOUGHTS WHEN VOTING...

— ON INFRASTRUCTURE —

It’s over 10 years since the last review of funding for child and family services. Vulnerable Victorians have more complex issues, our staff have received a well overdue increase to their wages, the funding hasn’t kept up with CPI and our buildings are no longer suited to our work.

Will they fund community-owned infrastructure?

— ON COMMUNITY SECTOR REFORM —

Women seeking help during and after pregnancy are facing homelessness, family violence & mental health issues. Demand for ‘helping’ services like that prevent engagement with ‘fixing’ services like Child Protection. Sadly, more and more children are being placed into state care and that’s the most costly, most invasive, and least effective way of dealing with their issues.

Will they provide the needed leadership to prevent the removal of children from their mothers? Will they continue to lead reform through ‘Services Connect’?

— ON PREGNANCY —

Women choose to continue their pregnancies in some of life’s most challenging circumstances. Mothers need help to keep their unborn children in safe and nurturing environments, and to avoid stress.

Will they extend the Cradle to Kinder Program across the state?

News from Shepparton:

New premises pleases

Shepparton News, 21 October 2014

By Estelle Griepink

The Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service has officially opened its new premises on St Andrews Road, Shepparton.

The not-for-profit organization has provided a range of services to pregnant women and their families for 37 years.

It offers telephone and face-to-face support, family counselling, referrals and material aid of clothing, cots, prams, toys and other items.

Caroline Chisholm Society chief executive Helen Cooney said she was impressed with the new premises, which has been in use since June last year.

"It's very comfortable and it's a warm and welcoming environment for the



clients, the mums and bubs, which is important," Ms Cooney said.

"We've got lots of plans of how we'd like the service to be in the future and we're very much looking forward to expanding services here in the Shepparton community."

Ms Cooney said the service had recently received funding from the Ian Potter Foundation and the Helen MacPherson Smith Trust to employ a new staff member.

The new staff member will allow the service to achieve its goal of being open for three hours each weekday by June next year, and from 9.30 am to 3 pm by the end of the year.

Service coordinator Margaret Price said there was a clear need for pregnancy and family support in Shepparton.

"Even in the last month, we've seen a high demand particularly for formula and nappies," Ms Price said.

"We offer referrals, support and emergency relief."

Chairwoman Pat Moran said the service wished to thank Radcom, The Community Fund, the Soroptimist International Club of Shepparton and Love to Sew for their ongoing support.

A new job in Shepparton!

A part-time job will soon be advertised. The role is to support Margaret Price with volunteer recruitment and placement. Keep your eyes peeled for the exciting opportunity!

From the CEO

(Continued from page 1)

For our new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods, we use an efficiency measure to demonstrate it costs us very little to make a big contribution to the lives of pregnant women and those with new babies.

Our manager of pregnancy and family services, Gabriella Hendricks, worked with our practitioners on the reform of our measurement systems and we will soon be able to demonstrate the difference we make to our clients' lives. It's worth knowing, for example, that early reads of the data suggest our families improve in setting boundaries with our help, which is a critical skill to prepare for kindergarten and school.

We continued to seek to be three strong locally embedded offices.

In Shepparton, we will soon have a volunteer coordinator to help Margaret Price (our GV Coordinator). Together, they will get us open more often so we can continue to help the local community we've served for 37 years. If you look at our unemployment and teen pregnancy rates, please also look at our immunisation and pre-school stress levels. We have a great community here in central Victoria!

At Caroline Springs, we will soon be joined by a team helping community services across Brimbank and Melton to reduce duplication and measure outcomes as part of the State Government's "Services Connect" initiative.

And in Moonee Valley, we have raised over \$300,000 for our new building. We have support from a wide-range of community organizations, local businesses, and philanthropic organisations. But, we still need a substantial grant. And the only entity that can reasonably offer that is the State Government of Victoria. Which brings me to the issue of the election.

Please check out page 1 before you vote.

In the spirit of Caroline Chisholm,

Helen Cooney

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Our volunteer programs include: Processing of new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods, maintenance (handy helping), administration, governance, fundraising, and mentoring.

For details, please contact
Glenda Rumble on 03 9361 7000
or at
grumble@caroline.org.au

New and pre-loved
baby and maternity goods

We are critically low in clothes
for boys size 3 to 5!

Please donate
on Fridays at
12 Shuter Street,
Moonee Ponds.

Contact us ...

1 Darebin Place
Caroline Springs 3023
T: 03 9361 7000
F: 03 9361 7099

12 Shuter Street
Moonee Ponds 3039
T: 03 9361 7000
F: 03 9326 1045

15A St Andrews Road
Shepparton 3630
T: 5821 0826
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E: secretary@caroline.org.au
W: www.caroline.org.au