

NEWS

# Vital volunteer service continues to support local families

HAVING operated in the Goulburn Valley for more than 36 years, Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service has recently moved and is continuing to provide vital support to members of the community who are most in need during pregnancy and childhood development from their new location in St Andrews Road, Shepparton.

Run entirely by volunteers, the free and confidential service works to support families during pregnancy and early childhood up to six years of age with non-directive information, advocacy, support and referral as well as material aid.

Service Coordinator, Margaret Price said, "We work to support pregnant women and families through difficult times and periods of adjustment. We're not medically based, so it's just basic nurturing and material support for anyone who is in need of some comfort and a friendly face. Some people experience limited help or support from family members, they may not have much in the way of friends in the town and that's where we come in.

"We work in conjunction with other essential services in town and have the resources and knowledge to direct or refer families where needed.

"We are heavily dependent on the assistance of our volunteers to deliver our services, as a not-for-profit organisation we are appreciative of the funding support we receive from the Caroline Chisholm Society and Community Fund Goulburn Valley.

## RELIEF FOR FAMILIES...

Pictured from left, Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service Coordinator, Margaret Price, Advisory Committee Member and Volunteer, Pat Moran and Volunteer, Wendy Hunt.  
*Photo: Madeleine Caccianiga.*



"We are always looking for new volunteers to welcome to our service so that we can offer more hours to members of the community.

"There are many volunteer roles available to community members, we offer full training and we encourage anyone who may be interested to come along and join our dedicated team.

"In terms of material aid, we have a support network of donated goods such as prams, strollers, bassinets, baths, high chairs, rockers and clean clothes as well as formula and nappies (for eligible families) to assist in times of need or crisis. We are

always grateful for clean donated items in good condition from members of the public to go towards our emergency relief bundles.

"Most importantly, we want to let people know that we're here and that they are welcome to come along and speak to us any time they feel in need."

Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm.

For more information about the available services or roles at Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service, call into 15A St Andrews Road, Shepparton or phone 5821 0826.