

**Media Release  
20 February 2017**

**\*\*\*Local Charity Coming Home to Moonee Valley\*\*\***

5 years after selling its suburban house in Moonee Ponds, local pregnancy and family support service – Caroline Chisholm Society – is re-opening in a new fit for purpose service hub on Mount Alexander Road in Essendon. Locals achieved \$3 million in support to achieve their vision of a space that is warm and welcoming for pregnant and new mums and their babies and toddlers.

The new building was made possible by the Victorian Government, local businesses, local families and other community supporters. Caroline Chisholm Society can now offer from fit for purpose premises:

- appointments for pregnant and new mums to receive new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods and social and emotional support
- playgroups or other group activities including parenting classes and therapeutic support
- home visiting casework support for mums raising their families, facing a variety of challenges include social isolation, perinatal anxiety and depression, family violence and homelessness.

Helen Cooney, CEO of Caroline Chisholm Society, said “It’s been a long journey for us. We just wanted to make sure that we had a safe and welcoming environment for mums and their babies and toddlers, but the project has been an emotional rollercoaster with regard to funding, planning and temporary rentals, so we are elated that we’re now able to welcome families and volunteers in.”

Locals are very excited as the new space also allows them to have a safe place to sort and prepare the goods for families and be trained in mentoring and home maintenance. The Caroline Chisholm Society will celebrate the new building and welcomes all our neighbours and beyond to join us for an open house.

Open House  
Caroline Chisholm Society  
11am, Sat 4 March 2017  
977 Mount Alexander Road, Essendon

Email [secretary@caroline.org.au](mailto:secretary@caroline.org.au) to be invited to the official opening

Donating Goods: The Society will reopen for donations on Fridays from 10 March.

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**Circulation:**

- Moonee Valley Leader – To follow up several stories: Natalie Savino [natalie.savino@news.com.au](mailto:natalie.savino@news.com.au)
- 3RRR, Vital Bits – For “Things to do today” [csa@rrr.org.au](mailto:csa@rrr.org.au)
- Smooth FM, More Music Breakfast Show – For neighbourhood goings on: [mikeandjen@smoothfm.com.au](mailto:mikeandjen@smoothfm.com.au)
- Local MPs – For information: Danny Pearson MP, Ben Carrol MP, Lizzie Blandthorn MP
- Caroline Chisholm Society – For members, volunteers and supporters: <http://www.caroline.org.au> and <https://www.facebook.com/carolinechisholmsociety/>

**Locations**

**Caroline Springs**  
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