

# SUPPORTING HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES IN NEED

Nicholise Garner September 20, 2017

GOULBURN Valley Pregnancy and Family Support (GVPFS) – Caroline Chisholm Society – have provided help and support to local mums and families for more than 40 years now. From the time parents first learn of their pregnancy until their youngest child is school age, GVPFS do what they can to support families in need.

Caroline Chisholm Society CEO, Helen Cooney said, "We accept donations of pre-loved baby/children's goods and we are grateful to have had a lot of support from mothers on social media sites – such as Facebook. We have good supplies of clothes these days, however we are always in need of boy's clothes (sizes 3-8).

"Mums and families (including Dads) come to us for new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods as well as social and emotional wellbeing support, often they need more than goods, they are looking for a warm and welcoming environment where they will find a listening ear.

"We see about 500 appointments per year with the main issues our families are facing being poverty, social isolation, migration issues, family violence and risk of homelessness."

GVPFS also run a Nappy Collective Drive in May and October every year and their Baby Box Project has been another way of providing support to families in need. Helen said, "Our baby box project gave us data to show that the families want support, which demonstrates we are still needed."

GVPFS are a drop off point for the Nappy Collective Drive in Shepparton and they and one other organisation in Shepparton are beneficiaries. The nappies collected/donated are distributed to families in need.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD... Goulburn Valley Pregnancy & Family Support have been providing much needed support to local families for more than 40 years. From left, Caroline Chisholm Society, Goulburn Valley Pregnancy & Family Support Service lead practitioner, Maree Chin and volunteer, Dawn Tricarico. Photo: Alicia Niglia.