



From the CEO

Friends,

The Caroline Chisholm Society supports **pregnant women and families with young children** in Brimbank, the Melton Shire, the Goulburn Valley, Maribyrnong and our heartland, the Moonee Valley area.

Operational News

The **delivery of services continues at 41 Park Street, Moonee Ponds**. The services on site include our counselling, appointments for new and pre-loved goods, housing support and volunteer coordination as well as housing some of our family support case workers, early childhood project team and administration. Thank you to those of you who continue to offer our clients your pre-loved goods for young families.

Want to Volunteer?

Contact Glenda Rumble on 03 9361 7000, or go to our website. Details over page.

We have **increased our Family Support operations** with an injection of funds from the Department of Human Services and our Caroline Springs site is a home for many of our family support case workers and we are building a group of volunteers and donors of material aid. Over time, we will better engage with the community in the area.

The Goulburn Valley operations provide families with information about local networks, **resource materials on child development** and material aid and emergency relief.

Most importantly, we offer a listening ear.

Property News

Moonee Valley residents will soon notice **41 Park Street** on the market. For some years, the site has not been suitable for our personal style of work in a more heavily regulated environment. The Board undertook some analysis and an upgrade to Park Street that might achieve our objectives is not financially viable. The Society plans to **retain a physical presence in the Moonee Valley area**. The location of such a presence will depend on the market and our objective which is to offer pregnancy and family support that includes onsite counselling and appointments for material aid and emergency relief.

Staffing News

Since our last newsletter, Esther Thomas has resigned as CEO and John Kennedy aptly stepped in as the **Interim CEO**. John, an education consultant with extensive people management experience, supported our staff while the Board recruited a new CEO. **Denise and Alfina**, our two managers have also moved on. Not long after Denise finished, I received a letter and the writer was sure that

"Without Denise's continuing **support and sound words** our family wouldn't be where it is today". I wish them both the best as I recruit a new manager for our case workers.

Janet, Carolyn, Erin, and Aziza joined the team earlier this year. Our new family support workers bring spirit and **recent educational experience** to help keep us at our best in our practice. Niki ably filled in for Glenda, our volunteer co-ordinator, while she was on leave. Our staff continues to be well supported by volunteers.

In the spirit of Caroline Chisholm,



Helen Cooney
Chief Executive
Officer

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- **An interview with Board Member, Frank Smit.**
- **Spotlight on Case Worker, Karan Grieve.**

An interview with Board Member, Frank Smit

When did you join the Caroline Chisholm Society?

About 1970. Pauline [Frank's wife] was on the phones the first day we had the telephone counseling line running. She'd had training prior to that. When the society was Incorporated in 1974, I was the first President. Mary Hoban, who we'd asked to be the President, was overseas and hadn't yet become a member of the incorporated society.

What's your role at the Society?

I've held every job on the committee with the exception of Assistant Secretary. At the moment, I'm Secretary. That involves being the Company Secretary and requires me to be accountable to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) on

behalf of the Society.

What is the most rewarding thing about that role?

Being able keep the running of the Society on track from financial, legal and day to day running perspectives.

What moment is your favourite memory of the organisation?

Helping to shift people from one end of town to the other and losing quarter of the load of the trailer in the middle of Malvern Road and High Street at 9pm in the rain. **Did you laugh or cry, Frank?** I just got out and put it back on the trailer.

Who were you helping?

A client who'd been evicted from a house in the east and needed

to move to a flat in Flemington. I'd arranged two volunteers to load and a different two to arrive at the other end.

So you were on your own in that big intersection, with trams and cars going everywhere, with a lost load on your own?

Yeah. Apart from that, in the early days on a number of occasions we had pregnant women stay at our place for various lengths of time, and we had some members of the Society stay too. One could say, in the early days, it was absolutely hands on for all members.

Thanks Frank.

Interviewed by Helen Cooney

Spotlight on ...

Karan Grieve started at the Caroline Chisholm Society in 1987 as a volunteer and became a Family Support Worker on January 11, 1988. Karan began her work in the Western Suburbs and later was located to the Sunbury area where she spent around 16 years working with the families in this area. Caroline Chisholm Society finished working with Sunbury clients in 2010 and Karan was then relocated to work within the Melton area.

Karan has spent most of her time as an outreach worker and is enjoying her time at the new Caroline Springs Office. She has recently taken up full-time hours and is currently the Acting Team Leader while Audrey Ciappara is on Annual Leave. Karan stated that she has enjoyed her many years at CCS, and respects the values of the Society and its commitment to the mandate of working with our most vulnerable children 0–6 years.



Karan Grieve

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