



supporting pregnancy, children and families

Media Release

Pregnancy and family support service opens head office in Caroline Springs

The Caroline Chisholm Society opened its new head office in Caroline Springs on 25 October 2011 at 1 Darebin Place, the former home of the Western Jets, near Christ the King Primary School.

The President of the Society, Helen Cooney, said "The people of western Melbourne deserve to have pregnancy and family support available nearby their homes and schools. The Society has moved in and is looking forward to working with locals to offer pregnancy and family support to locals."

After serving Victoria from the Moonee Valley for over 35 years, the Caroline Chisholm Society identified that there is a chronic shortage pregnancy counselling, material aid and emergency relief in the Brimbank and Melton Councils. The recent announcement by the government of a new suburb between Caroline Springs and Melton further highlights the need for services.

Reflecting on the operations of the society, Helen Cooney said, "The Society offers pregnancy and counselling support enabling women to continue their pregnancy, as well as material aid and family support. It's important offer community services this part of Melbourne, especially while we wait for good public transport to arrive and it's tough to get into the inner city."

"Our Services respond to the needs of families and assist them to achieve and maintain a safe and nurturing environment. Last financial year, about 2000 clients accessed our services," she said.

The site was opened by the Mayor of Melton Shire, Cr Justin Mammarella.

Media contacts:

Helen Cooney, 0409 668 721 (President)

Esther Thomas, 0448 078 473 (CEO)

For free and confidential information,
support and referrals ask for the duty
worker on:
(03) 9370 3933 or
1800 134 863 (Country Victoria)



Locations

Caroline Springs

1 Darebin Place
Caroline Springs VIC 3023
Phone 03 9370 5122

Moonee Ponds

41 Park Street
Moonee Ponds VIC 3039
Phone 03 9370 5122

Goulburn Valley

16 Broomfield Street
Shepparton VIC 3630
Phone 03 5821 0826 Fax 03 5831 7755

What does Caroline Chisholm offer?

At the Caroline Chisholm Society, mothers and families will always have someone who listens, has time, a peaceful environment, confidentiality, no pressure and someone who is sensitive to your needs.

We offer

- pregnancy counselling and support
- material aid, and
- family support

All our services are provided by qualified and professional workers.

How do you access our services?

If you are a pregnant woman or a family with a child under school age, please contact us during business hours and ask for the duty worker.

The duty worker provides information, support and referrals including to ChildFIRST intake. If you are eligible for our services, an appointment can be made for you.

How do you provide feedback?

Contact us during business hours and ask for the privacy officer.

What help is available?

The Caroline Chisholm Society supports pregnant woman and families who have a child under school age.

Pregnancy counselling and support

- general counselling and support for families in person or over the telephone,
- pregnancy counselling including pregnancy loss and grief counselling that is respectful, compassionate and empowering,
- referral to maternity services including support with maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, child development and sleep and settling, and
- referral to other services where needed.

Material aid

- goods and services especially quality pre-loved baby equipment, bassinets and high chairs, and
- other emergency relief to help ease pressure on our clients.

Family support

- assessment, planning and action as part of ChildFIRST for families and children at risk of entering or re-entering the child protection system,
- support services for families including case management either in the home or in the office,
- housing support including advocacy with landlords and government and assistance with public housing applications, and
- social support including mentoring support and peer groups that encourage parents to be child centred and family focused as they tackle common challenges such as parenting strategy, challenging behaviours and postnatal depression.

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