

Official Opening of Caroline Chisholm Society – Moonee Valley

10am, 4 March 2017

CEO Running Sheet and Speaking notes

Elder (Aunty Di and her daughter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smoking Ceremony
CEO (Helen Cooney)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call to order• Thank you for coming.• We're excited and delighted to finally be here.• I acknowledge the traditional owners of the country on which we meet, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations.• I pay my respects to their Elders, both past and present.• Thank you for being here, Aunty Di.• Any other Elders present, and indeed any other Aboriginal people.• It's an honour to know that you are here.• I also acknowledge Caroline Chisholm for inspiring us to work with women and children.• Thank you to her descendant, James Chisholm, for being here.• From someone who couldn't make it, we received an email this week, which said: "To think of when we started to answer the phones for the Society it was on a porch of a doctor's home in Box Hill. Then to Collingwood where my daughter slept in her bassinette next to me and it was there that I was interviewed by Chanel 7. My daughter Caroline is now 45yrs [old]"• Before I introduce Aunty Di,• I'd like to acknowledge that there has been great sadness making national news in our community recently, and that's not just at Essendon Fields.• But to our friends and colleagues at Essendon Fields -<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ administration of the airport,○ working at DFO, Runway Plaza and La Manna, and○ the families effected,our hearts are with you.• Needless to say, in that context, I am pleased that we can gather today to celebrate our shared history and our future in Moonee Valley.• Caroline Chisholm Society has been working towards this for well over 5 years.• I would like to introduce Aunty Di, who I hope will welcome us.
Elder (Aunty Di)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome to county
CEO (Helen Cooney)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank Aunty Di• Introduce Julia Di Cosmo, Student of Chisholm House, Loyola College Watsonia

Student (Julia Di Cosmo)

- Acknowledgement of Caroline Chisholm

CEO (Helen Cooney)

Thank Julia

I have mentioned and am grateful for the attendance of,

- Aunty Di, Elders and all Aboriginal people
- Descendant of Caroline Chisholm, James Chisholm

Here today are,

- The Hon. James Merlino MP, Deputy Premier of Victoria
 - Senator Jacinta Collins – who has served on our committee
 - [Apologies to Rod Gurry, and his wife Jan Chantry, who attended for the Hon. Bill Shorten MP who is our local MP. I failed to mention Rod attending.]
 - Our Local MPs:
 - Danny Pearson – who strongly advocated for this project
 - Lizzie Blandthorn – who also advocated for this project and has served on our committee,
 - Ben Carroll – also an advocate for the project and represents many of our members and volunteers
 - Moonee Valley City Council:
 - Mayor Andrea Surace
 - Richard Lawrence – who was instrumental at the inception of this project,
 - Rebecca Gauci Maurici – who organises donations of goods for us,
 - Jim Cusack
 - We received apologies from Nicole Marshall.
 - [Apologies to Samantha Byrne, who was present and not named. Apologies were also received from Narelle Sharp and Cam Nation.]
 - We also received apologies from the CEO, Bryan Lancaster
 - The funders, donors and supports of this project for a Hub for pregnancy and family support
 - The O'Brien Family, represented by Noel and Brendan
 - The Beck and Fox Families, who are apologies
 - Essendon Fields, represented by Chris Cowan, CEO
 - The Noonan Family, Bev is a life member and Gerald on our Project Control Group
 - Lions Club of Doutta Galla (Quilt - Esprit de Corps Project), and Rose Piper who will speak,
 - Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank,
 - Schiavello Group, who offer apologies
 - Nelson Alexander Charitable Foundation, also apologies
 - Chisholm House - Loyola College Watsonia, with Adan and Sal attending.
 - Essendon Branch of the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.
 - Apologies: Mabelle Creighton, Victorian President and Ayrton Teed, the Community Chair
 - the Rotary Club of Essendon, and
 - Rosie Dymus, Playgroups Victoria.
 - The Project Control Group:
 - Gerald Noonan, Paul Webster, and Mark Anderson.
 - Rohin Adams, our designer.
 - The funders, donors and supports our service delivery
 - Victorian Government, in home family support programs
 - Apologies from Michael Donovan for the SDAEA, who refer families to us in the event that they are dealing with industrial issues while we can support social and emotional wellbeing issues. We're grateful for their support for our helpline.
 - Local service clubs and community volunteers, including
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- the Rotary Clubs of Brimbank Central and Caroline Springs, and
 - the Essendon Lions
 - [Apologies to the following who were not named: Lions Club of the State Parliament of Victoria represented by Helen Campbell, Essendon Quilters, Caroline Springs Stitchers, Knitters Circle,].
- Colleagues,
 - Deb Tsobaris, CEO, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
 - Jocelyn Bignold, CEO at McAuley Community Services for Women
 - Jacquie O'Brien CEO at Tweddle Early Parenting Centre
 - Bernie Cronin, Chair of Catholic Social Services Victoria, we have apologies from their CEO, Denis
 - Tony Fitzgerald, CEO of CentreCare Ballarat
 - [Apologies to Alison Campbell Rate of Open Doors for not being named]
 - Julia Di Cosmo (Student), Rose Piper (Former Client), Sarah Notaro (Pregnant Mother) and Tess Fogarty (Life Member), who will assist the Deputy Premier in opening the office
 - Life Members, Board, Members, Staff (who came out on a Saturday, for which I am grateful) and Volunteers of Caroline Chisholm Society
 - [Apologies were received from my predecessor, Christine Campbell. Mary D'Elia was also present]
 - [Pat Coffey OAM, Life member, was also present]
 - Ladies, gentleman,
 - Toddlers, babies...
- I hope you all feel at home.

Do let us know if we have failed to acknowledge you, anyone with a lanyard will let me know discreetly.

Caroline Chisholm Society supports mothers from the time they learn of their pregnancy until their youngest child is school age.

We do that through:

- New and preloved baby and maternity goods
- In home pregnancy and family support
 - Home visiting caseworkers for families, and we also have a homelessness program,
 - Parenting and play groups,
 - Volunteer programs, including mentoring and home maintenance.
- Additional volunteer opportunities include fundraising, administration and sorting new and pre-loved goods.
- Our new and pre-loved goods supply our appointments programs where we offer:
 - Pregnancy and early parenting counselling, and
 - general welfare support, particularly with knowing what services are available.

We are locals in our three communities

- Moonee Valley
- Caroline Springs, Melbourne's western most suburb, but won't be for long, and
- Shepparton, where we have operated for over 40 years.

We offer support on between 1500 and 2000 occasions each year.

Last year, about 500 of those contacts were appointments in a building that wasn't built for the purpose.
And that's no longer going to be the case.

Introduce Mayor, Andrea Surace to discuss our connection to this community

Mayor (Andrea Surace)

- Mayor re. Moonee Valley links
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CEO (Helen Cooney)

- Thank Mayor
 - Introduce Rose, who will reflect on her experience of Caroline Chisholm Society
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Client (Rose Piper)

- Client Reflection
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CEO (Helen Cooney)

Thank Rose
Introduce Paul Webster, President who will reflect on this project to create a pregnancy and early parenting western community services hub

President (Paul Webster)

- Thanked
- The donors
 - Schultz Building Group
 - Rohin Adams, Two Design,
 - The Project Control group incl:
 - Mark Anderson,
 - Gerald Noonan.
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CEO (Helen Cooney)

Thank Paul
Introduce the Deputy Premier, James Merlino who will open the building.

Deputy Premier (James Merlino)

Described vision for services / hub.
Officially Open

James Merlino with Rose, Sarah and Tess
