

NEWSLETTER

WINTER | July 2019



From the Interim CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We have a lot of territory to cover with this Winter edition of our newsletter! First and foremost, I would like to share with you the wonderful plans we have underway for our 50th year celebrations.

We are very fortunate to have news to share of an event to be hosted by the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau, at Government House in early 2020. We are working to firm up a date and will keep you posted.

But it doesn't stop there! In fact, we are planning to kick off a year of celebrations with our 50th AGM on the 24th of September (who thought an AGM could be an event of celebration, you might ask ... but of course, and why not?!) Schedule the date!

Next is a terrific event hosted by the Society on 5 October to launch our history book – "Our Story So Far". We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, Melinda Tankard Reist to launch our official kick start to celebrations.

Many of you will know Melinda's work and especially her tireless efforts as a writer, speaker and media commentator, in advocating for women and girls. Melinda is the founding member of the Women's Forum Australia, and in more recent times the Founder for Collective Shout, advocating and educating for a world free of sexual exploitation. Her extraordinary work on behalf of women extends over 25 years and among her many achievements is her work in establishing Karinya House for mothers and babies.

Founded in 1993, Karinya House is now its 20th year of operation and as of 2017 has provided over 5,500 residential and outreach support periods to thousands of pregnant and parenting women, their babies and their families.

Save the date as this is one you won't to miss!

As we work on coordinating, finalising and setting dates and venues, please give some thought as to how you might like to contribute to our celebrations as we look to the community for their support to host local fundraising events.

Please consider joining our Fundraising Working Group and recommending us to a corporate partnership you might know, as a great way to invest in our efforts to deliver more responsive services to the mothers and children we serve in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Best wishes

Jennifer Weber
Interim CEO

Please join us for this significant milestone

50th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th September 2019 at 7pm
(Refreshments served from 6pm)

977 Mt Alexander Rd, Essendon, Victoria

RSVP email: secretary@caroline.org.au
or phone (03) 9361 7000



It was a sell out!

Thank you to everyone who generously supported us by buying tickets or donating to our Movie Night on 3 July.

Plans are underway for our next event.

If you would like to get involved and join our Fundraising Working Group, please contact Jennifer Weber on (03) 9361 7000

Thank you to the **Shepparton Foundation** for a major grant to support our security upgrades at our Shepparton service. With the works now complete our volunteers, staff and clients have a much safer community space.



Extracts from Caroline Chisholm Society Parliamentary Submission into Mental Health

Many of you have kept informed of the Victorian Royal Commission since it commenced in January this year. The first of its kind in Australia, the Victorian government embarked on this as an opportunity “to accelerate improvements in access to mental health services, service navigation and models of care”.

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health/priorities-and-transformation/royal-commission>

In addition to undertaking public hearings running during July, the process also involved seeking input from individuals and organisations through various means of communication, including: community consultations and forums, sessions for people living with mental illness, including their families or carers; roundtables on local issues, as well as written or audio recordings, videos, contributions through online forums.

At the time of the launch we had hoped to see the Terms of Reference include a reference to the 2017 Parliamentary Inquiry into Perinatal Services as we are still yet to hear of any further efforts to support this primary area of focus for those working in the early parenting stages including at-risk women during pregnancy and post birth.

While the Terms of Reference were broad enough, CCS was able to take advantage of this as an opportunity to respond with a submission to remind the Victorian government of its previous commitments to address the concerns raised for perinatal services here in Victoria, including accepting all 10 detailed recommendations coming out of the inquiry aimed at making a significant impact on perinatal mental health.

We know if we can get perinatal mental health right we will improve the wellbeing of every Victorian child during the critical first 1000 days of life, and thereby significantly prevent many problems leading to poor mental health through life.

We continue to advocate for the mothers and their children in accessing the most responsive and appropriate interventions and services designed to make a difference in their capacity to achieve the goals and hopes all mothers aspire to when providing and caring for their babies and young children.



What a pleasure to be part of the Wellness Day 2019 hosted by **Hyatt Place Melbourne, Essendon Fields**. A great day of learning and celebrating all things wellness at this free community event held on 13 June.

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