



**Caroline
Chisholm
Society**

Newsletter

Autumn Edition - May 2013



**Want to have your say on the works at
977 Mount Alexander Road?**

Email your ideas to
secretary@carolinechisholmsociety.com.au

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

When: Saturday, 15th June
Where: St Theresa's Performing Arts Centre, Cnr Florence & Edward Sts, Essendon
Time: 7.30 p.m.
Tickets: \$15

BYO Drinks (including glasses) and nibbles. Tea and coffee provided.

For bookings email
secretary@carolinechisholmsociety.com.au

Tables of 6 or 8 available.
There will be silent auctions, raffles and games on the night as well.

From the CEO

Thank you for your feedback on Caroline Chisholm Society's strategy. Our new document will focus on pregnancy support through a free service, supported by volunteers which is housed in appropriate accommodation. It will also cover diversifying and increasing our income sources. An updated brochure will soon be available to show all our friends and supporters who we are and asking for help in getting there. So, please do keep an eye out for it.

A big thank you to those who have already contributed or are organizing fundraisers towards our Project 977 Mount Alexander Road. Once we have enough donations in the bank, we will launch a campaign to help us work on the site. Details of a consultation session before we start full planning are included in this newsletter.

Consistent with our approach to pregnancy and family support, we indicated to the Shergold review that any new funding system should reward agencies for holistic support that reduces isolation and should support agencies under \$2.5m to grow and sustain those under \$5m. In particular, we said that episodes of support (homelessness) and funded hours (Integrated Family Support) are

adequate but less than ideal measures of our service provision. For example, we believe the measure of our service as a

success is that a woman is empowered to raise her child, not whether our staff have attended her home or hospital. Further, measuring our work by client satisfaction in a sector dominated by the threat of statutory intervention by DHS would be ineffective. Should you wish to receive a copy of our submission, please do get in touch with the office.

In the spirit of Caroline Chisholm,



Helen Cooney
Chief Executive Officer

Want to Volunteer?

**We need helpers for
our street stalls.
Thursdays
10am-1.30pm,
fortnightly,
Niddrie and Puckle Sts.**

**Contact Glenda Rumble on
03 9361 7000 or secretary@carolinechisholmsociety.com.au**

PLEASE DONATE

**Our clients currently
need boys and girls
winter clothes
sized 0 to 4.**

An interview with Board Member, Claudia Mollidor



When and how did you first hear about the Caroline Chisholm Society? It must have been about two years ago.

I knew Rosy de Castella, who was on the Board, through friends, or it may have been from Helen Cooney when we met at the Standard Hotel in Fitzroy.

What's your role at the Society? I joined the Board in December of last year. Since then I worked with Paul Webster and Helen Cooney on policy issues and grant applications. I also worked on the Caroline Chisholm response to the Services Sector Reform paper by Peter Shergold, and I am looking forward to becoming

more involved in homelessness issues.

Have you met homeless people? Yes, I met about 100 tonight at the Missionary Sisters of Charity soup kitchen in Fitzroy. **Do you go there often?** I try to go each week.

Is homelessness the reason you volunteer for Caroline Chisholm? With Caroline Chisholm, I am particularly drawn to the work around women in crisis pregnancies, which has been the focus of my life for the past five years.

What have you been doing? I have just finished my PhD in social psychology on teenage motherhood, on policy and service delivery.

How does your PhD inform your role on the Board? I looked into the connections of how policy and professional support impact on service

delivery and ultimately the outcomes for mothers. That is, how institutionalised structures and decisions at the top are translated to what happens at the grassroots. It is important to know about the impact of policy so that Caroline Chisholm can provide services consistent with the needs of the community.

You seem to come from a perspective of academia and practice, which suggests that you could make a significant contribution to organisational change. What do you notice about CCS that you think we should build on? I think Caroline Chisholm is excellent in the way that crisis support is delivered and offering longer-term support for people. It would be good to explore links between first client contact and longer-term engagement in projects such as group support.

Interviewed by Helen Cooney

Spotlight on... Audrey, Team Leader, Pregnancy and Family Services

Audrey, who has a Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Psychology, is both a case worker and program manager.

She works directly with five clients at the moment. Over the course of a year, she usually helps families who are raising over 30 children. When she first meets those clients, Audrey finds out about them through a 'screening' process and helps them to set goals for their family in a 'family action plan'.

Once they're settled into the routine of her visits, Audrey's support tends to be focused on navigating services and government systems. For example, she helps clients with CentreLink payments, Child Care Benefit and goes to court with them. Sometimes she needs information about residential tenancy and accesses our homelessness support worker for information. For her clients, Audrey often accesses the material aid program. Just last week, her boot was filled with food, toys and clothing that she delivered to clients.

Apart from her work with clients, Audrey supports three case workers through clinical supervision and manages the material aid and emergency relief program. That means it's her job to identify the needs of our clients, help us source new goods and support a material aid team (staff and volunteers) to clean, repair and sort goods such as prams, bassinets, maternity and children clothes and other goods.

Audrey loves good stationery, and was delighted to be able to buy things from kikki.K in Moonee Ponds on the night they were donating some of their profits to Caroline Chisholm. She was also delighted to hear that another local business, Poynton's Nursery in Essendon, is donating its gift wrapping service for Mother's Day to Caroline Chisholm.



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