



**Caroline
Chisholm
Society**

Newsletter

Autumn Edition – May 2014

SUPPORT GROUPS 2014

Chisholm's Pal Playgroup has commenced and will run to June 4. This is a supported Playgroup for young parents aged 16 – 25 years who have children under 5 years old.

The playgroup is on Wednesday, 10.30am–12.30pm from the Melton West Community Centre, offering young families fun, play and learning experiences.

The Playgroup has been very successful and is now in its 3rd term.

Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Program will be offered for 6 weeks from May 23 in partnership with MacKillop Family Services' Parents Link at the Springside Children's and Community Centre, Caroline Springs, Fridays 10am–12.15pm. The program is free and free child minding is available.

The program uses mindful reflection to support parents of children aged from birth to six years to review and enhance their patterns of communication with their children; promote more respectful interactions; and encourage the development of children's positive self-identity.

Male Volunteers Needed

The Handy Home Helper Program is operating; however, new, enthusiastic male volunteers are always welcome. Jobs may involve moving furniture, delivering large toys, repairing home damage or mowing the lawn.

Interested? Do you have these skills?

Please contact:

Glenda Rumble on 03 9361 7000 or
grumble@caroline.org.au

Our clients currently need baby slings to help fill the gap while they wait for a pram.

PLEASE DONATE

On Fridays at 12 Shuter Street,
Moonee Ponds.

Pregnant? Young Family?

The Caroline Chisholm Society is here for you.

The Caroline Chisholm Society supports pregnant women and families who have children under school age. For free and confidential information, support and referrals ask for an appointment on

(03) 9361 7000, or 1800 134 863

From the CEO

The Victorian budget has just been brought down and it is an election year. Here are some positions you might like to take to your local Members of Parliament and candidates.

We need:

1. support for community infrastructure,
2. caution to be exercised when reforming integrated family services, and
3. support for expectant mothers.

Did you notice the \$24 billion record investment in transport in the State Budget? \$18 million to support small business? \$42m in sports facility upgrades and infrastructure? In addition, community infrastructure investment is needed.

Organisations like Caroline Chisholm are able to garner neighbourly goodwill for social benefit. Those benefits are not just direct service provision but also the social capital benefits of volunteering by women of all ages.

In previous years, the Government sought to build resilient and adaptable communities with improved community infrastructure, facilities and services through the Community Support Grants. Governments should again distribute the Community Support Fund in that way.

Over its 40 years, Caroline Chisholm Society has probably offered over 40,000 appointments and probably given out over \$5 million worth of new and pre-loved goods to mothers in need and we need a building fit for that purpose.

In regard to reform of the sector, our view is that to our 'helping' services in the community rather than the 'fixing' services in government should be used to prevent impacts of poverty, poor parenting (incl. engagement with Child Protection), homelessness, family violence and mental health issues.

The State budget included \$24.1 million allocated to Child FIRST and Child Protection to meet growing demand. We believe this investment should be made in a way that allows Integrated Family Services providers to offer the proposed key workers for the voluntary community services while the Department of Human Services uses its staff in "services connect" to provide workers of this kind for government. This seems logical to us as parenting support, by its very nature, is not appropriate to

be part of a package of support, rather the person providing it should be coordinating the package. The 'key worker' model being implemented in other domains, such as Alcohol and Other Drugs, Disability, and Mental Health.

In this context, we believe there are four quick actions government could take that would be sensible reform. They are:

1. Use Local Area Networks modeled on Child and Family Services Alliances;
2. Use a new key worker intake model to describe those key workers allocated from within 'fixing' community services through the Local Area Network;
3. Continue to use family services with Child First intake as prevention services focused on poverty and have "Services Connect" focus on Child Protection, Disability, Alcohol and other drugs, and mental health;
4. See family services and new key workers as a key linkage capacity for packages of support rather than as services provided within a package of support.

Finally, expectant mothers facing challenging circumstances need support to continue their pregnancies and after birth in raising their children in safe and nurturing environments. Apart from the well-known biomedical risks, maternal stress significantly contributes to pregnancy complications and unfavorable development of the unborn child's brain.

These problems can be reduced by supporting anxious pregnant women. And we do that by having qualified staff available in the local hubs of Moonee Ponds and Shepparton where our team alleviate need with food and goods for mum and baby and offer practical advice about help available. The neurological effects alone mean this critical service must be offered.

We fund support appointments through donations and need reliable government funding to ensure choosing to continue a pregnancy is supported.

In the spirit of Caroline Chisholm,

Helen
Helen Cooney

Caroline Chisholm Society seeks help to stay in Moonee Valley

Following our newsletter, this appeared in the Moonee Valley Weekly!

A leading local charity has launched the “Keep Caroline Chisholm in Moonee Valley” campaign to raise money for a new \$1.6 million headquarters for its pregnancy and family support service.

The Caroline Chisholm Society was in leased premises and needed \$550,000 to reach its goal for a new premises and a permanent Moonee Valley base, according to chief executive Helen Cooney.

“Caroline Chisholm has been supporting mothers during and after pregnancy from an old house in Moonee Valley [which has now been sold] for over 40 years,” she said.

“Given the need for public transport by our clients, we’re really keen to stay but we need help to achieve that.”

She said the charity wanted to renovate the former Precision Mowers

shop at 977 Mount Alexander Road, Essendon, into a two-storey facility with secure and private office space for counsellors and caseworkers to meet clients and a large multi-functional space for social support groups, cooking classes, volunteering and storage, sorting and cleaning of new and pre-loved goods. It would also have a “warm and welcoming” reception with space for volunteer administrators that it would offer to share with other community organisations.

After raising more than \$1 million through the sale of its Park Street, Moonee Ponds, premises, donations and other fund-raising, Caroline Chisholm is seeking help from locals, philanthropists and government to gain the \$550,000 needed to reach its \$1.6 million target.

“Philanthropic supporters are being asked to match significant donations committed by other donors, while the state government is asked to finish its review of community support fund

grants so that the society can apply,” she said.

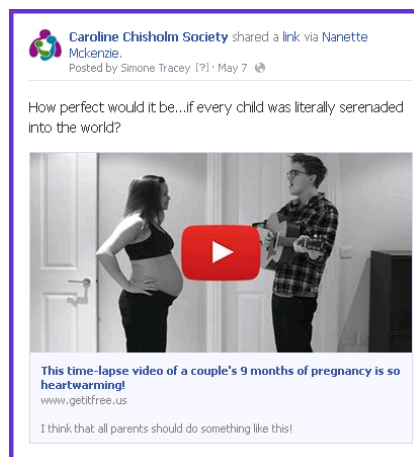
Ms Cooney also called on members of the community to ask their local candidates for the state election if they were planning to offer help to locally embedded organisations with community infrastructure.

“We offer support from the moment a woman learns of her pregnancy to the time her youngest child goes to school,” she said.

She said the society helped up to 2000 women a year offering new and pre-loved baby and maternity goods, counselling and support to empower families, and ongoing casework to support good parenting while mothers were at risk of or facing stress from factors including homelessness, family violence and mental health issues.

Source:
www.theweeklyreviewmooneevalley.com.au/story/1799017/caroline-chisholm-society-seeks-help-to-stay-in-moonee-valley/

Like us in real life? Then please like us on FaceBook too!



We look forward to sharing our special stories with you. Take a peek, share our updates and also invite your friends to like us on FaceBook. Learn about Caroline Chisholm Society's numerous staff, sponsor and volunteer activities that support pregnant women and young families who are “doing it very tough”.

Keep updated on our various fundraising initiatives whether it be a cocktail event, trivia night or craft market. Pick yourself up an exceedingly cute bargain along the way! This is a wonderful community working together to help those less fortunate.



Contact us ...

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