

Caroline Chisholm Society



**Pregnancy & Family Support Service
Annual Report 2006 - 2007**



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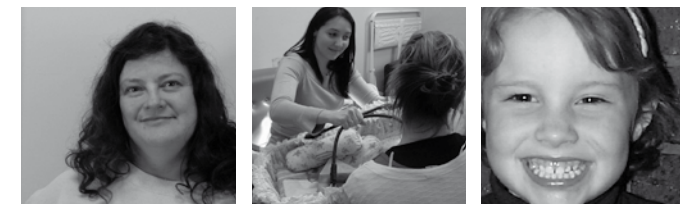
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Caroline Chisholm Society Pregnancy & Family Support Service

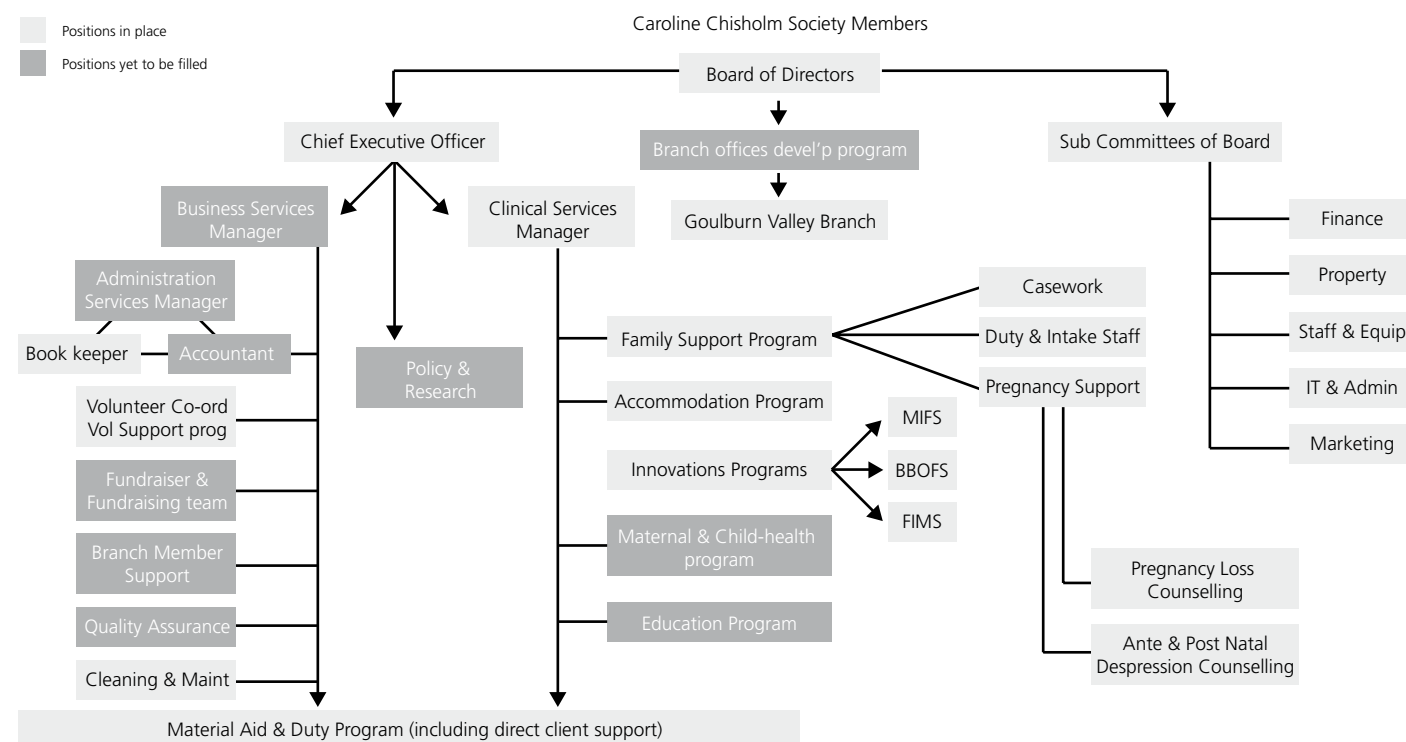
- **Our vision:**
A Society that supports pregnancy, children and families.
- **Our mission:**
To deliver a range of pregnancy and family support services that respond to the needs of families and supports them to achieve and maintain a safe and nurturing environment.
- **Our values:**
We will develop services that are underpinned by the principles of:
 - Respect for Life
 - Compassion and caring,
 - Social justice
 - Empowerment
 - Recognition of diversity
 - Accountable Best Practice
Our Services will use approaches that are characterised by the following:
 - Positive Pregnancy Support
 - Child focused and family centred
 - Connecting families with communities
 - Flexibility and responsiveness
 - Promoting safety
 - Acknowledging the expertise of families

“ (Caroline Chisholm) sought to encourage people to have faith in their own courage, resilience, independence of spirit, and a desire to succeed. ”





Our Organisation



Life members

Mrs C Bourke, Mr B Guinane, Mrs B Noonan, Mr F Smit, Mrs E Brennan, Mrs M Howes, Mrs H Pearson, Mrs P Coffey, Mrs L Joy, Mrs A Ronchi, Mrs L Tainton, Mrs T Fogarty, Mrs W Hunt, Mrs E Semmel, Mrs M Taverner, Mrs L Gibson, Miss M Napolitano, Sr M Sexton, Mrs P Way, Dr P Joshua.

Board of directors

The Society thanks our Board of Directors who have shown great commitment to the shared vision and mission of Caroline Chisholm Society, and have given freely of their time and expertise during 2006/07. The following are Directors as at 30 June 2007:

President: Maria McGarvie

Vice President: Paul Webster

Treasurer: Carmela Puopolo

Secretary: Frank Smit

Directors: Teresa Fogarty, Marco Carlei, Jacinta Collins, James Downing, Wendy Hunt and John Kennedy

Management

Chief Executive Officer: Mary D'Elia

Clinical Services Manager: Denise Lee

Honorary Auditor: John Agostinelli, Level 2, 200 Lygon Street, Carlton 3053.

Honorary Solicitor: Marie Faraone, 14 Annesley Crt, Mt Waverley 3149

Bankers: Westpac, Puckle St, Moonee Ponds 3039
Bendigo Bank, Centre Fair Plaza, Shepparton

Patron: Dr Rhonda Galbally

Registered Office: 41 Park St, Moonee Ponds, Vic, 3039

Established: 1969

Staff

The Society thanks our staff for their care and dedication. There are 22 staff: 8 full time, 14 part-time, across 6 sites (Moonee Ponds, Bacchus Marsh, Laverton, Sunbury, Melton and Shepparton). Staff list as at 30th June 2007:

Management: Mary D'Elia and Denise Lee.

Case Work / Social Work Team: Sharyn Cameron, Kerry Cross, Cath Fisher, Venetta Gough, Karan Grieve, Anne Kitchen, Litsa Kyriakou, Bev Mather, Yvette McCormack, Marisa Multari, Sue Smith, Marie Walker and Tamara White.

Admin / Auxiliary staff team: Marie Panzera, Pamela Haynes, Debra Evans and Gwen Scott.

Shepparton: Margaret Price, Cecelia Edwards, and Peita Mastin-Lundberg.

President's Report

From the front cover to the back page....

...this Annual Report celebrates our new logo – the colours of the logo are woven through this Report. To us the logo represents the importance of family in all of our lives - these are colours of optimism and new life. This logo represents the Society as a strong supporter of mothers and babies, fathers and mothers, and all sorts of families nurturing and supporting children. Of course, the image of Caroline Chisholm will not be lost from our work. As you see the watermark of her image in this Report – her spirit and philosophy of practical support for families will be our guide in the years to come.

Reviewing the past twelve months we can be immensely pleased with the work of the Society. From the reports that follow you will read of the increasing number of families that we have supported and assisted; the wonderful work that we have engaged in with McKesson Asia Pacific in the development of the National Pregnancy Support Telephone Helpline; the redevelopment of our website and the introduction of the opportunity to donate or volunteer with the Society through the web; and the work with our community partners as we develop new models of service delivery.

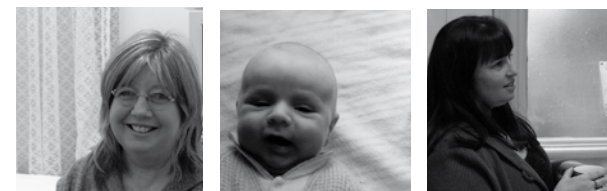
This report has a focus on the program we offer; the places we work; the people we assist and their stories; the staff and volunteers who give so generously to make it all happen and the community groups that support us in our work. What a great privilege it is for us to share the difficulties and successes of some of our clients through their personal stories. I thank them for agreeing to share these with us. I thank our staff and especially, Mary D'Elia and Denise Lee for their leadership and dedication over the past year.

As you read through these pages you will discover that the work in which the Society's staff has been engaged has been extremely demanding. The figures alone do not tell the full story - we have seen a big increase in the number of families assisted with 'short term' casework but slightly fewer were accepted into our longer-term

Family Services Program. The reason for this reduction is that many families are presenting with problems of increasing complexity, and a greater investment of time is needed in each of these families by our staff. The social isolation, alcohol and drug related issues and family violence are serious social issues that affect our families.

This year the Society has provided large amounts of material aid, answered many telephone calls and supported a large number of families in a wide variety of ways. Our staff is to be commended for the continuing dedication to its demanding work. Our Supported Accommodation Program has been under pressure as our staff seek to find adequate housing for those families in straitened circumstances. The issue of family homelessness seems to be a deepening problem in the community. We will be working hard in the coming year to increase our housing program.

Over the past twelve months the Board and the Staff engaged in a series of strategic planning meetings. We revisited and reworked a number of priorities for the Society. We have established a series of Board Sub Committees which have worked separately from general Board meetings and fed information into our Strategic Planning. We will present this Plan at the Annual General Meeting in October. We have critically assessed the current work of the Society and its funding, the properties from which we work and the staffing needs now and into the foreseeable future. We have used this opportunity to review a wide range of our corporate documents and policies – while we have already achieved much, which will be reported to the Annual Meeting, we still have much to do. It is imperative that we employ more staff – in the area of administration and fundraising. Of course more staff means pressure on accommodation and this issue is currently being addressed by the Board.



President's Report (Continued)

The Society has been fortunate this year to have benefited from the talents of a dedicated Board. Whilst it has been a demanding year I believe it has been fruitful for all involved. I thank Frank Smit especially for his tireless work as Secretary. Our Board members Tess Fogarty, Wendy Hunt, Jacinta Collins, Marco Carlei, Paul Webster, James Downing, Carmela Puopolo and John Kennedy who has recently joined us, have all contributed in a wide variety of ways. Also I would especially like to thank those members of the Board that have retired since my last Report - Michael Clemens and Vincent Sully who were active members - Michael a member of the Board for seven years and Vincent for two.

Board members make up some of our dedicated volunteers, but there are many, many others and I take this opportunity to thank them all for their work throughout the year. I make special mention of Lois Spokes, a long time member and volunteer, who died suddenly in January. Her generosity of spirit was much admired by all who met her. Lois was a regular volunteer worker at our Moonee Ponds office.

Volunteers have always contributed much to the Society and this is evidenced by the work of women like Di Pennisi who has co-ordinated a fundraising luncheon for the Society for the past several years. This grassroots support is simply marvellous.

Of course volunteers are the backbone of our Goulburn Valley Branch too and their work which is augmented by the small band of paid staff is very much appreciated – special thanks to all of them and the work they continue to do in the Shepparton area.

In closing my second report as President of the Society I cannot avoid the observation that there is so much care and warmth demonstrated by our staff and volunteers for the often difficult work in which they are engaged. It truly is a privilege to be a part of this team. Members can be satisfied with the work of the Society this past year. There is so much work still to be done and the social context in which we work is challenging and sometimes confusing. But one thing is absolutely clear: the work of the Caroline Chisholm Society supporting women and families in the making of real choices about their pregnancies, and providing practical and compassionate care to them once that choice is made is of critical importance.

CEO Report

Today, more than ever, the need for pregnancy and early parenting support is highlighted throughout the community.

We only need to open the newspaper to find stories of neglect and injury to young children. The TV news tells yet another story of a family unable to pay the bills and meet the heavy demands of parenting... and I wonder if we as a community have become blasé, or if other people (like me) shed a tear as they take in the reality of the sadness and struggle that sits behind the stories we hear on the news each day.

I was most interested in the debate that raged across the airwaves when recently a baby girl was abandoned outside one of our hospitals. "How could she? The poor little baby dumped by her mother" screamed the headline of one paper, and media commentators condemned any mother "who could do such a thing." It took some time for the voice of reason and compassion for the mother to be heard – how difficult this must have been, was she homeless? Perhaps suffering depression, or abandoned by her partner, family and friends. And I reflected then on how important our work and mission is at CCS, to so many mothers and fathers who struggle everyday to provide their children with a safe, loving and nurturing environment.

This year, the Society has continued to strongly advocate for funding for pregnancy support; arguing the critical value of good emotional and practical support throughout pregnancy and early parenting. We hold motherhood and fatherhood as precious roles, to be encouraged and strengthened in our community. We endeavour, through counselling, modeling and education, to not only assist parents to gain the skills and confidence needed to raise their children, but to also feel valued within that role.

Throughout the year, we have contributed to debate regarding quality provision of pregnancy counselling services, through our submission to the Federal Government Senate Inquiry into "Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill", in July last year. In our submission, we argued the need for unbiased, quality, independent pregnancy

counselling to be freely available to women and their partners. We stated that the Society "is interested in women being supported with honest, clear information about pregnancy options, ensuring that women are given the opportunity to explore all options without pressure and time to think through consequences."

With over 35 years of domain expertise in the area of Pregnancy Counselling and Support, we were also pleased to be involved with the development of the National Pregnancy Support Helpline earlier this year. McKesson Asia Pacific, with sub-contracted partners Centacare Sydney and Caroline Chisholm Society, won the Commonwealth Tender for this service. Our role was to work on the development of the Resource Manual for Counsellors, contributing our knowledge and expertise in this area of counselling. It has been a great project, with the end product being a quality, evidence based manual that has been of great value to McKesson counsellors.

The Child Youth and Families Act 2005 has already had far reaching impact into the work we undertake in Family Services. Under the Act, the Society has become a Registered Family Services Agency. Registration brings with it a range of compliance requirements to ensure that we meet the Quality Service Standards for Family Service Providers. The Act provides for a range of changes to case practice in the sector, for example family service workers are now required to utilise an articulated Best Interests Principle, and to assess Cumulative Harm, when making decisions regarding children. This has resulted in an intense process of staff training regarding the new provisions in the Act. The Act also provides for work with families to be prioritised to the most vulnerable of children in our community, and requires that agencies work in partnership with other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for children. Whilst these changes have been time consuming and resource intense within the agency, it is exciting to be involved in the provision of

Family Services at a time of great change in the Sector, which we hope will have a lasting positive impact upon the lives of young people in this State.

As we move toward our 40th birthday in 2009, the Board has spent much of this year re-assessing and re-evaluating the mission and strategic direction of the Caroline Chisholm Society. It has been an intensive process, and I would like to thank the President Maria McGarvie and the Board, for their strong contribution of skills, time and effort across the year. In particular, I would like to thank the Board for spending time listening to staff, valuing their contribution, and supporting staff in the complex work undertaken each day.

I would also like to pay tribute to the wonderful staff we have on board at Caroline Chisholm Society. Our greatest resource is our people, and I thank them for their tireless and dedicated work to support vulnerable children and families in our community.





Programs We Offer

Integrated Family Services

In 2006/2007 the Society provided services to over 1900 families, including material aid, parenting support & casework, counselling, pregnancy support, accommodation assistance, postnatal depression groups and parenting skills groups.

The Society continues to focus its work on pregnancy and early parenting. The basic needs of families coming to us for support have not really changed over the 37 years of service, though the circumstances presenting are more complex. Material aid continues to be a unique service that CCS offers to many families that are struggling with financial constraints. Bassinets, prams and baby clothes continue to be the most requested service to assist new mothers. Many mothers receive emotional support during the time of receiving this material aid and we often find that attending our duty program provides them with knowledge that Caroline Chisholm Society can also assist after the birth of the baby. That initial contact with mothers in the duty program of Caroline Chisholm Society paves the way for Mothers to recontact without fear of judgement and discuss feeding, sleeping patterns of baby and the anxiety of being a new mother. This may lead to attending our parenting and postnatal depression groups, short term casework or longer term casework with families.

The families receiving longer-term casework are visited at home, which can mean several different interventions. This can be assisting with routines with baby and managing the house, modelling parenting roles including the value of nutritional diets for the mother and the baby, working on budgeting issues, linking into groups to overcome isolation and providing a listening ear and counselling. In general the families are presenting with more complex needs, such as highly vulnerable families, and multigenerational poverty and sole parenting which has impacted upon parenting behaviour. For some of these families it may mean assisting with Doctors appointments, organising child care and on occasions be a support to the carer while they attend to family court issues.

The Society has been able to provide support through our revitalised Volunteer Program and it is hopeful that volunteers

can assist with the staff to continue to provide enhanced pregnancy and family support, and support new parents adjusting to the new challenges in rearing their children in today's world.

Duty Work, Short Term Casework, Telephone Counselling

Over 1560 families have been assisted via our duty system, short-term and telephone counseling services. Typically these services for families address a variety of issues including: pregnancy counselling and support, post natal support, parenting strategies, financial management, grief counselling, parent-child relationships, family violence, child protection, and callers seeking information about our service and other services:

- 78 % material aid, financial support & counseling
- 26 % pregnancy related counselling, including options counselling & grief counselling
- 31 % parenting strategies & relationship counselling
- 32 % mental health issues including postnatal depression.
- 26% needed housing assistance & referral

The Society provided families with over \$236,000 worth of material aid this year. All goods are cleaned, repaired and safety checked prior to being given, free of charge. It is not unusual that we see a number of the families returning to the service with material aid to donate to express how valuable they found the support and seeking to assist others in the same situation

Family Services Program

396 families were accepted into our Family Services Program, and provided with ongoing pregnancy and /or parenting support. Of these,

- 59%(47%) of mothers needed assistance with depression & mental health issues
- 56% (36%) required intensive parenting support & assistance with good parenting strategies

- 43% (36%) needed financial support & counselling
- 59 % (23%) of parents were isolated with little or no family relationships to provide support
- 31% (21%) of all referrals needed assistance with family violence and violent relationships
- 24% (17%) received ongoing pregnancy support

As illustrated, and comparing the figures to last year (last year's percentages in brackets above), there has been a significant increase in families presenting with multiple and complex needs. With the figures presented, one cannot overlook the problems occurring as a result of family conflict and breakdown. The need for agencies like Caroline Chisholm Society cannot be underestimated, especially considering the large number of new families that are moving into the outer areas of the North/ West Corridors.

Our new volunteer program can help reduce the isolation reported by these families. Volunteers assist by mentoring and listening, which combats the isolation of these families. Parenting groups reduce the sense of isolation felt by the parents, and can assist with parenting and emotional needs. During the year, over a 100 families were involved in these groups.

Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program (Housing)

Throughout 2006/2007 the requests for Transitional Housing continued to exceed the capacity of the CCS program. The demand for accommodation is now affecting the wider, private rental market. As the demand for housing impacts on the general community, the availability of housing and the soaring costs of rent have created an increase in the number of families accessing homelessness services. It is increasingly common for the Supported Accommodation sector to receive enquiries from families who are about to become homeless due to rent arrears, or rent increases, forcing them out of the private rental market. With a greater number of people vying for rental properties, the opportunities for low-income families to enter the private rental market are diminishing.

This shortage of private rental properties places further pressure on the Office of Housing and the public housing sector. Currently the Office of Housing is refurbishing the high rise flats in the Inner West of Melbourne which when completed, will provide modern, open plan accommodation for many families. While this will provide some relief, a long-term solution is necessary.

Simon

Simon and his children Sam, 1 year, and Kathy, 3 years, were referred to the Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program by his local Maternal and Child Health Nurse.

Following the unexpected death of his wife, Simon found himself parenting alone. He spoke of his struggle to cope with the demands of parenting while feeling lost in his grief. He had resigned from his job to care for the children and had accumulated large debts, which he was unable to pay. Included in these debts was the cost of his wife's funeral. The family was being evicted from their private rental property due to rent arrears. Simon felt he had nowhere to turn. His family and friends lived interstate and he felt that he lacked the skills and knowledge to raise the children alone.

The family moved into Transitional Housing. Simon was referred to a Financial Counsellor and linked to services that could help with the funeral expenses. The children attended Day Care three days a week for socializing and play, while Simon attended appointments and dealt with daily issues.

He attended the Society's parenting classes and grew in confidence, implementing a daily routine for the children and practicing

Positive Parenting techniques for discipline. The family enjoyed recreational outings, as he gained skills in play, education and the growth and developmental

requirements of the children. As Simon's confidence developed the children thrived in a safe and loving environment. Simon gained skills in household management, budgeting and savings, shopping and cooking. He attended grief and loss counselling, and joined a support group.

Simon studied for his driver's license and purchased a small car, removing some of the barriers of social isolation. He completed a computer course and spoke of returning to work once they were permanently settled.

Following several unsuccessful attempts to access the private rental market Simon completed an application for long term housing with the Office of Housing as it was felt that his history of rent arrears in the private rental sector may have been a barrier to re-entering the market.

Twelve months on, the family has moved into an Office of Housing property in a small country town. Recently Simon phoned to say they were doing well; he was working part time and had joined the CFA. They were feeling settled and that he and the children were well and happy.





The People And Their Stories

MOONEE PONDS

Natalie

Natalie, 19 years old and 8 months pregnant, was referred into the CCS duty system by her housing worker. Natalie required a pram, bassinette and clothing for the baby. Natalie had been forced to leave behind the bag of baby items she had carefully purchased and collected from Op shops, after being threatened by the partner of a friend she was staying with. Having been homeless for the last year, Natalie had recently been offered transitional housing. She finally felt able to start preparing for her new baby and making links within the community.

CCS was able to provide a pram, pack of cloth nappies and baby bundle containing clothing, bunny rugs, bibs and other baby essentials.

Natalie was very nervous about the birth and was unsure of what options were available to her for pain relief. Natalie had not attended any antenatal classes, as she believed she could not attend alone. The worker assisted Natalie to get in contact with the hospital Social Worker to explore the possibility of attending antenatal classes. Natalie was also connected into a local young mums group, as she was keen to start making friends with other young mums in the local area.

The CCS worker provided Natalie with written information about services, groups and parenting classes to assist her with the new baby. She continued to contact

CCS to check if a bassinette had become available. Her housing worker came to collect a bassinette the day after Natalie gave birth to a healthy baby girl. Natalie was extremely appreciative of the practical and emotional support that she'd received as she prepared for the arrival of her first child.

Lucy

Lucy was first referred to CCS for family support in 2004 when pregnant with her first child. She was only 16yrs old and had resided in and out of the family home. Lucy's mother was very supportive but Lucy had been involved in some risk taking behaviour and there was concern for her unborn baby.

Lucy's baby Taylor, was born in mid 2004 and was born with an abnormality of her foot, which would require ongoing medical treatment. Lucy left her mother's home very soon after Taylor's birth and resumed her relationship with Taylor's father who was also only 16 and was estranged from his family. DHS Child Protection became involved with Lucy and her baby, and Taylor was removed from their care and placed with extended family, which was very distressing for Lucy.

CCS worked extensively with both young parents on understanding their child's needs and linking them into community services. Lucy's partner was very resistant to help and this made it difficult for Lucy. This young man was later diagnosed with a Mental Illness and appropriate help was

offered. Lucy and her partner were also assisted into Transitional Housing and Taylor was returned to their care with support.

Lucy and her partner once again participated in risk taking behaviour and Taylor was once again removed from their care for a period of time. This gave Lucy the opportunity to evaluate her relationship and behaviour and understand that it was affecting her parenting and she made the choice to end this relationship and work towards having Taylor returned to her care. CCS was able to support Lucy through this difficult time and make sure she was linked into all available community supports.

During this time Lucy's mother died. With CCS and extended family support Taylor was once again returned to Lucy's care. Lucy now has permanent secure housing and has a new partner and new baby, Louise who was born in 2007. Lucy has made so many positive changes to her life and is a caring, loving and nurturing mother to her two young children. CCS has worked with Lucy for over 3 years and it has been a privilege to be part of her journey from young pregnant 16 yr old with very little confidence or self esteem, to a mature, loving and confident 19 yr old mother of two.

Centre for their continuing support, which has made my job as an outreach worker so much easier. The peer support is invaluable.

I also co-facilitate a Post Natal Depression group with the Sunbury Community Health worker each Wednesday morning. This group is well attended each week with between 9-15 participants and has run continuously for over 15 years. It is held in high regard in Sunbury and the surrounding suburbs. It is possibly the longest running PND group in Victoria.

LAVERTON

For many years the Society has had a worker located in Laverton. Now based in the Laverton Community children's centre, which was completely rebuilt in 2006. In January, we moved into our new purpose built facility, which houses Long Day Care, Occasional Care, and Kindergarten provided by Laverton Community Centre, Maternal and Child Health services provided by Hobson's Bay council, the local Toy Library and Family Support Services offered by CCS. It is a great model of service to the local community.

Joanne

Joanne, 5 months pregnant, arrived with her partner at the Laverton office of Caroline Chisholm Society requesting assistance. Joanne and her partner had been diagnosed as having an Intellectual Disability. Joanne was residing in a boarding house and finding it difficult to

purchase baby goods due to the high rental payment. Joanne stated that she had no contact with her family but had support from her partner's mother.

Through our discussions it became apparent that Joanne required assistance in understanding her pregnancy, the birth process, and the tasks of early parenting. Her partner also identified that she required financial assistance, material aid, and assistance in obtaining appropriate accommodation. Joanne gave CCS her permission to contact the Royal Women's Hospital and Disability Client Services to assist with gaining long-term support.

CCS were able to provide the couple with a quantity of goods through the Material Aid Program, including a bassinette, baby clothes and a pram, and continued to advocate for Disability Services involvement and priority housing.

Our worker supported and educated Joanne and her partner prior to the birth by assisting the couple with understanding the progressing pregnancy, the changes that Joanne was experiencing and the importance of attending GP and Hospital appointments. Joanne also practiced very practical tasks such as changing nappies, holding & bathing a doll and changing her clothes.

It was great to observe the positive changes in Joanne as she developed these new skills, and was confident in parenting her daughter. Caroline Chisholm Society supported the family for several months after the birth, assisting Joanne with practical parenting skills until the family was connected into and settled with the Outreach Support Program offered by Disability Client Services.

NINA

Most women have the support of family and friends during pregnancy. However for Nina pregnancy was a lonely time – her extended family lives overseas and her husband physically abused her when she was 4 months pregnant. Nina sought safety in a women's refuge for herself and her 3 other children and was placed in a transitional housing property. Housing Services then referred Nina to Caroline Chisholm Society for pregnancy support. Nina's grasp of the English language was very basic and the Caroline Chisholm Society worker used interpreter services to get to know Nina.

What does pregnancy support mean at Caroline Chisholm Society? For Nina this support had several components. Firstly it meant support in finding a way to reduce Nina's social isolation – Nina was linked with a culturally appropriate women's support group where she could make friends and get to know other women in the community. Nina also needed to attend

ante-natal checkups but found catching buses with 3 young children was a difficult task. The CCS worker provided transport, which ensured Nina received optimal ante-natal care.

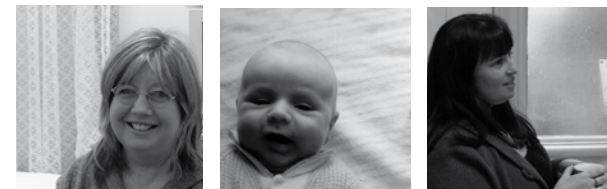
Nina also needed baby goods. When she left her abusive husband it meant leaving most of her belongings also. CCS was able to provide Nina with a pram, bassinette, baby bath, bouncinette and baby clothes.

Who was going to care for her children while Nina went to hospital to have her baby? She had no support network available to do this. The CCS worker liaised with foster care agencies in the area and safe, caring homes were found for the children. The children had the opportunity to visit their foster carers prior to Nina's hospitalization. This reduced their stress when they were separated from their mother and ensured that their stay with the foster care proceeded smoothly.

Nina had no-one to support her through the birth and gladly accepted the CCS worker's offer to be her support person

during labour. The CCS worker provided transport to the hospital and stayed with Nina during labour and after delivery. The worker also took photos of the newborn for Nina to keep. In years to come she will be able to look back on the birth of her son and know that someone cared enough to be there with her during this special time in her life.

Nina and family are doing really well. The baby boy is thriving and enjoying the fuss his brothers and sisters are making of him. Nina is in good health and enjoying motherhood and the eldest child is now attending kindergarten.



News From Melton, Bacchus Marsh And Gouburn Valley

Melton

In Melton CCS workers have provided two Post Natal Depression (PND) groups in the past 12 months, with the last group attracting 18 new referrals from the community. This group continues to grow in membership and in its connection to the community across the whole of Melton Shire, especially in Melton East. (Caroline Spring, Taylors Hill, Burnside and Hillside). Women report that the group provides them with a safe place to explore their struggle with depression, and their experiences of parenting young children.

CCS workers have also co-facilitated two Parenting groups in partnership with MacKillop Family Services. The Parenting group has grown and has provided support, information and skill development. The feedback from parents is overwhelmingly positive, as they learn new skills and strategies to assist them in caring for their children.

"Families in Melton Shire"

The Society, working in partnership with McKillop Family Services and the Melton Shire Council, was successful this year in gaining funding for a new Innovations program, "Families in Melton Shire" This takes the Society's involvement in partnerships for Integrated Family Services projects to four: Brimbank Better Outcomes for Families (BBOFFS); Maribrynong Integrated Family Services (MIFS); Families in Melton Shire (FIMS) and Hume Integrated Family Services (HIFS). Our Melton worker, Litsa, describes below the benefits of working in partnership:

Working in the Families in Melton Shire (FIMS) program has been a challenge that I have welcomed. The Melton Shire project enjoys a unique partnership between agencies, with McKillop Family Services as Lead; and Melton Shire Council, CCS, DHS Community Based Child Protection and Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services as partners. This partnership has been beneficial as together we are achieving better outcomes for the community.

The referral process for Family Services has altered as a result of the project: all referrals for in-home family support are taken to a Central Intake, which is attended by McKillop Family Services, Melton Shire Council and Caroline Chisholm Society. The aim of the centralized intake is to discuss which agency is best suited to service the clients' needs and which agency has capacity for case management and casework. This process has proven to be useful, as it has assisted in reducing the waiting lists across all three agencies.

Another vital part of the FIMS model is drawn from the stated aims of the project, which endeavors to reduce the number of notifications made to Department of Human Services – Child Protection, by supporting clients with chronic welfare needs. My role is to undertake an assessment of the client and their needs, as well as to ensure the safety of the children residing in the family home. When my assessment is complete (also known as the Short Term Assessment Response Team), it is presented to a fortnightly Interagency Allocation Region Meeting (IARM) and this meeting is open to all agencies in the Melton Shire: Melton Police, Mental Health Services, Djerriwarh Community Services, Melton Health, Education, Family Violence Services. At this meeting, the individual client's needs are discussed and as an interagency group, we discuss what supports should be put in place for the family and which agency is best suited to service the clients needs. The IARM is valuable as it allows all the participants to consider the clients needs through their own professional domains and expertise, and make recommendations and assessments.

With the new Child Youth and Families Act taking effect this year, agencies are being asked to consider the "Best Interests" of the children. The legislation is placing greater responsibility and accountability on non-government agencies to ensure children are safe and their needs are being met. Working in Partnership has allowed the opportunity for agencies to prioritize the children's needs and work towards the "best interest" for all children.

Bacchus Marsh

Over the last 12 months the Bacchus Marsh Service has provided assistance to 32 clients with material aid, counselling and in-home support. These clients have accessed the service for short, medium and long-term support. Currently 7 clients are receiving long-term support, with one family requiring intensive support due to significant protective and well-being concerns for the 7 children ranging in age from 19 yrs to 5 months.

Partnerships with other services in the Shire of Moorabool have been utilized effectively for service outcomes, particularly with Maternal and Child Health, Centacare and Ballarat Child & Family Services (CAFS).

Goulburn Valley

The Goulburn Valley Branch began the year with a move into new accommodation in Wyndham Street in Shepparton, and employing two new part-time staff members. The funding to CCS from the Federal Government Department of Health and Aging for the Goulburn Valley branch has assisted it to re-establish its services across the Goulburn Valley region, and to plan for community needs into the future. The year has been a positive one for the service; it has continued to provide much needed practical and emotional support to pregnant women and their families.

The local Goulburn Valley Committee of Management volunteers continue to provide guidance and direction to the service, many of whom have been with the Society for many years. It is pleasing that a number of new volunteers have undergone training and joined the service this year, supporting the work of the branch in a very practical way.

The staff at the branch: Margaret, Cecelia and Peita, with the Committee members, are to be congratulated on their efforts in re-establishing the branch in the local community.

Post Natal Depression Groups

Caroline Chisholm offers Post Natal Depression (PND) groups throughout the year in many locations across the North Western Corridor of Melbourne. Marisa, one of our Moonee Ponds workers, describes the process and value of these supportive groups:

The PND group is offered for women to come together in a supportive environment to gain further knowledge around the challenges of motherhood and the impact of ante- and post- natal depression. The group is open to mothers of all ages residing in the Western Metropolitan Region.

The PND group aims to link women experiencing feelings of isolation by: sharing individual stories about their experiences of parenting; challenging and debunking the myths and expectations of motherhood; sharing strategies, skills and strengths to develop an alternative story of hope, health, well being and recovery.

The group is a structured therapeutic group that runs for 8 weeks. Group sessions explore a range of cognitive, behavioural and practical strategies to assist women experiencing post-natal depression. Although structured, the group allows women space to raise their own topics for discussion.

Women find it valuable to share their experiences of motherhood, both positive and negative.

Feedback from participants tells us that attending a group normalises their experience of post-natal depression. Mothers enjoy sharing common experiences in a social and supportive environment. Mothers gain confidence in dealing with its impact and feel more positive towards their parenting. At completion of the group, participants often continue to meet on a regular basis in a social environment providing each other an ongoing support network.

Jane's Story

Jane, a 22-year-old sole parent of two-month-old daughter Thalia, was referred to CCS family support program by her Maternal Child Health Nurse, who was concerned for Jane's emotional health and the care of her daughter.

Jane had become estranged from her family due to a history of family breakdown due to domestic violence and had recently experienced a period of transience. At the initial time of involvement, Jane was housed in a transitional property through a local housing agency in the Moonee Ponds area.

Jane explained that Thalia was unplanned and she was finding it difficult to cope with looking after Thalia on her own. Jane explained that she wasn't feeling confident with her parenting and expressed her interest in receiving support with this. Being new to the area and having limited support networks, Jane was feeling socially isolated. The CCS worker referred Jane to her GP for a PND assessment. Following diagnosis, the GP prescribed medication for Jane, and recommended a supportive group and counselling be provided.

We linked Jane into our Moonee Ponds PND group, and Jane received regular counselling from our caseworker addressing her depression and past experience of domestic violence. Jane was able to identify the impact the domestic violence has had on her, and did not want her daughter to grow up in a similar environment. Through education and practical support, our CCS caseworkers worked on building Jane's self-esteem and confidence around her parenting. Jane actively participated in the PND support group where she made strong relationships with other mothers in similar situations. Jane's housing worker continues to support her in seeking long term, affordable housing. Being in supported accommodation has helped Jane build skills that allow her to live as independently as she can and maintain the optimal care of her daughter, Thalia. Caroline Chisholm Society has assisted Jane to have Thalia attending childcare 3 days per week as she completes a beauty therapy course that she began a few years ago.



Volunteers

Volunteering is central to the identity and ethos of the Caroline Chisholm Society. Quite literally, without volunteers the Society would not exist!

So it was with great excitement that 2006-2007 saw the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging allocate funds to pregnancy support and specifically to the volunteer program. The funds from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging meant that, for the first time in several years, a volunteer coordinator could be employed to support volunteers and develop the program.

Modern welfare service delivery standards require a high level of structure and accountability. This applies no less to volunteers than to employed staff. Organisational systems and procedures have been reviewed and updated to ensure that the volunteer program complies with current standards and expectations. All volunteers will have the opportunity to review their involvement annually and update their contact. CCS volunteers acknowledge the importance of child safety and have been busy applying for their "Working with Children" certificates.

Pregnancy and family support services are enhanced by the involvement of volunteers who bring a multitude of life experiences and skills with them. A most rewarding development this year has been collaboration with the midwifery school of the Australian Catholic University "Follow Through Journey" program. Student midwives spend time with pregnant women, perhaps accompanying them to obstetric appointments, even providing extra support at the baby's birth. As well as providing valued support to our clients, the added benefit is that as practising midwives these volunteers will have a better understanding of the range of pregnancy experience and the role of the Caroline Chisholm Society.

Volunteers are critical to CCS fundraising. Street stalls; the regular shop and our annual ladies "Christmas in July" lunch have all raised valuable funds and improved the community profile.

This year saw a renewed emphasis on youth involvement in volunteering at the Society through the Duke of Edinburgh

Award program and various schools- based social awareness programs. It is a delight to see secondary students working and learning alongside our senior volunteers. What fantastic role models of community service our existing volunteers provide and what great young people. We have been fortunate to have an international volunteer, several volunteers from non-English speaking backgrounds (reflecting our client base) and interest from 'specific interest' volunteers particularly in the computer technology area.

The development and launch of the new CCS website has been crucial to the recruitment of volunteers. This has coordinated well with re-affiliation with Volunteering Victoria and Volunteering Australia, important umbrella organizations for volunteering and providers of web-based recruitment systems.

Volunteers are once again serving in the Duty program and it is hoped that the further funding of a professional volunteer coordinator will support the continued re-development of this aspect of volunteering at the society. With a great deal of professional staff time devoted to the development of initiatives with the Department of Human Services family support programs it is as important as ever that the volunteer programme contributes to provide quality pregnancy support to help ensure that the objectives of the Society are met.

Community Support

The Caroline Chisholm Society is fortunate to enjoy the support of many volunteers, community organisations, local businesses, philanthropic trust funds and service clubs, who donate goods, services and financial support. Without this valuable support the Society simply could not provide its range of services to the many families who come to us asking for help.

Over \$100,000

Victorian Dept. of Human Services, Community Care

\$10,000 - \$100,000

Federal Department of Health & Ageing
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
Victorian Department of Human Services, SAAP

Under \$10,000

(also in kind donations)

Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court
Catholic Archbishop's Melbourne Diocese Charitable Fund
Child Support Agency (Social Club)
Geoff Woodhead Plumbing
Federal Department of Family and Community Services
Melbourne Lord Mayor's Fund
Melbourne Magistrates' Court
North Essendon Rotary Club
Shop, Distributive & Allied Employee Assoc

Smaller (also 'in kind' donations)

Anglican Parish of Christ Church Essendon
Bakers Delight Niddrie
Beauty on Rose
Bed, Bath & Table
Brotherhood of St Lawrence
Burwood CWA
Church of Christ Nth Essendon
Doutta Galla Ladies Probus Club
Essendon Garden Centre
Essendon Lions Club
Essendon North Rotary Club
Moroney's BP Service Station
My Chemist, Moonee Ponds Centre
Northern Theresians
Pennisi Real Estate
Presence on Puckle
Quota Club of Essendon
Rotary Club of Brimbank Central
Royal Agricultural Show Society
Sunshine Magistrates' Court
St Andrews Ladies Guild

St Mark's Uniting Church East Keilor
St Peter & Pauls Catholic Parish, Doncaster East
St Therese's Catholic Parish Essendon
St Thomas Anglican Church
St Vincent de Paul Ascot Vale
St Vincent de Paul Glenroy
St Vincent de Paul West Heidelberg
Terry White Pharmacy Moonee Ponds
Valient Enterprises
Women of the University Fund
Essendon Rotary Club
European Gold Co
FoodBank Victoria
Harvey Norman
IGA Boundy's of Essendon
IGA Sculli's of Strathmore
Keilor Evening View Club
Keilor Retirement Village Residents
Knitters for Melbourne's Needy
Maternity on Grattan



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Directors’ Report

Your Directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2007.

Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

- Franciscus Theodorus Maria Smit
- Maria Alicia McGarvie
- Teresa Fogarty
- Paul William Webster
- Jacinta Mary Ann Collins
- Wendy Elizabeth Hunt
- Carmela Puopolo
- Marco Salvatore Carlei (Appointed 31/10/2006)
- James Brensley Downing (Appointed 31/10/2006)
- John Ormond Kennedy (Appointed 19/06/2007)
- Vincent Sully (Resigned 17/04/2007)
- Michael Clemens (Resigned 31/10/2006)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Company Secretary

The following person held the position of company secretary at the end of the financial year:

- Franciscus Theodorus Maria Smit – appointed company secretary on 18 April 2006 (Refer to Information on Directors below for further details).

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the company during the financial year was the provision of support for pregnant women and families with young children.

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

Operating Results

The company's financial report has been prepared in accordance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The net deficit of the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2007 amounted to \$11,540 (2006: Surplus of \$10,564).

Dividends Paid or Recommended

No dividends were paid or recommended for payment during the financial year.

Review of Operations

In the director's opinion, the year has been very positive for Caroline Chisholm Society, with our involvement in Senate Hearings regarding Pregnancy Counselling Services, and with the National Pregnancy Helpline, lifting the profile of the agency. Our work in Family Services, Material Aid, and Housing continues to be in high demand. This year the Society has continued to make strong partnerships in the field, and the Board has begun a Strategic Review of the Society.

Financial Position

The net assets of the company have decreased by \$11,540 from 30 June 2006 to \$306,196 in 2007. This decrease has largely resulted from increase in the accrual for employee entitlements as a result of additional staff being entitled to long service leave, along with accrual for on-costs relating to all employee entitlements.

However, the company's working capital, being current assets less current liabilities, has improved from \$63,741 in 2006 to \$69,711 in 2007. This is after taking into account the increase in the accrual for employee entitlements.

Therefore, the directors believe the company is in a stable financial position.

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the company's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

After Balance Date Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

Future Developments, Prospects and Business Strategies

Likely developments in the operations of the company and the expected results of those operations in future financial years are as follows: In the coming year, the directors will complete a Strategic Review and Planning process for the Society, to be presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting. This will set the direction of the organisation for the coming 3 - 5 years, and include recommendations related to programs, organisational structure, and location.

Environmental Issues

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

Information on Directors

Maria Alicia McGarvie

Qualifications:

Experience:

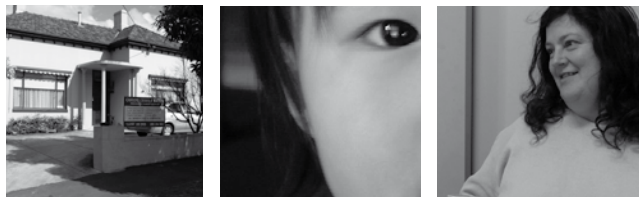
Special Responsibilities:

President

BA (Hons), LLB

Lawyer, Associate of the Institute of Company Directors

Ex-officio member of all sub-committees



Paul William Webster

Qualifications: Vice President
Experience: MA, LLB
Special Responsibilities: Lawyer
Property sub-committee

Carmela Puopolo

Qualifications: Treasurer
Experience: B. Bus Accounting
Special Responsibilities: Over 20 years experience in Finance & Accounting
Finance sub-committee

Franciscus Theodorus Maria Smit

Qualifications: Secretary
Experience: 30 years experience as Managing Director of Small Business
Special Responsibilities: Ex-officio member of all sub-committees

Teresa Fogarty

Qualifications: Director
Experience: Area Representative
Special Responsibilities: Fundraising, Property subcommittee, Marketing Sub Committee

Jacinta Mary Ann Collins

Qualifications: Director
Experience: BA BSW
Special Responsibilities: Property sub-committee, Marketing Sub Committee

Wendy Elizabeth Hunt

Qualifications: Director
Experience: Dip Teaching
Special Responsibilities: 35 years education field; over 20 years in Pregnancy Support
Goulburn Valley Branch

Marco Salvatore Carlei

Qualifications: Director
Experience: B.Bus. C.A, Registered Company Auditor, Registered Tax Agent
Over 20 years experience in the accounting profession;
Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia;
Member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants
Marketing Sub Committee; Property sub-committee

James Brensley Downing

Qualifications: Director
Experience: B.Bus, M.Bus(ACRM), FCPA
Special Responsibilities: 27 years in financial management & financial services
Marketing & IT sub-committees

John Ormond Kennedy

Qualifications: Director
Experience: BA (Syd), BEd (Melb), BTheol (UFT), DipTG (NSW), FACE
Special Responsibilities: Principal, Loyola College since 1980

Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, 13 meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

Name	Number Eligible to Attend	Number Attended
Franciscus Theodorus Maria Smit	13	13
Maria Alicia McGarvie	13	11
Teresa Fogarty	13	13
Paul William Webster	13	12
Jacinta Mary Ann Collins	13	11
Wendy Elizabeth Hunt	13	10
Carmela Puopolo	13	9
Marco Salvatore Carlei	9	8
James Brensley Downing	9	7
John Ormond Kennedy	1	1
Vincent Sully	10	5
Michael Clemens	4	0

Indemnifying Officers or Auditor

During or since the end of the financial year the company has given an indemnity or entered into an agreement to indemnify, or paid or agreed to pay insurance premiums as follows:
The company has paid premiums to insure all of its directors and officers against liabilities for costs and expenses incurred by them in defending any legal proceedings arising out of their conduct while acting in the capacity of director or officer of the company, other than conduct involving a willful breach of duty in relation to the company.

Options

No options over issued shares or interests in the company were granted during or since the end of the financial year and there were no options outstanding at the date of this report.

Proceedings on Behalf of the Company

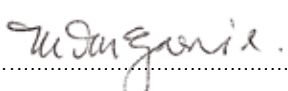
No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings, except for the following:

An employee was injured in September 2001. She has made a claim, and Victorian Workcover Authority has appointed Dibbs Abbott Stillman to work on behalf of Caroline Chisholm Society and its workcover insurer, Cambridge Integrated Services.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on page 17. Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director



Director



Maria Alicia McGarvie, Presiden

Carmela Puopolo, Treasur

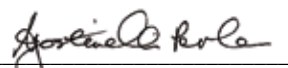
Dated this 18th day of September 2007

Auditor’s Independence Declaration

To The Directors of Caroline Chisholm Society

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 30 June 2007 there have been:

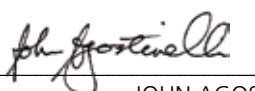
- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



AGOSTINELLI PERLEN

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Dated at Carlton, Victoria. This 21st day of September 2007



JOHN AGOSTINELLI

PARTNER

Independent Audit Report To The Members

Scope

We have audited the financial report of Caroline Chisholm Society for the financial year ended 30 June 2007 as set out on pages 18 to 27. The company's directors are responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the company.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

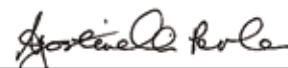
In our opinion, the financial report of Caroline Chisholm Society is in accordance with:

(a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:

(i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2007 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

(ii) complying with Accounting Standards in Australia and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and

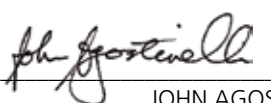
(b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.



AGOSTINELLI PERLEN

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Dated at Carlton, Victoria. This 21st day of September 2007



JOHN AGOSTINELLI

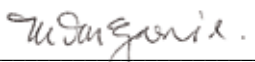
PARTNER

Directors' Declaration

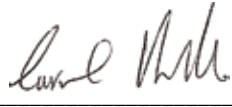
The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 18 to 27, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2007 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director 
 Maria Alicia McGarvie, President

Dated this 18th day of September 2007

Director 
 Carmela Puopolo, Treasurer

Statement Of Changes In Equity For The Year Ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Retained Earnings		
Balance at 1 July 2006	317,736	307,172
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(11,540)	10,564
Balance at 30 June 2007	306,196	317,736
Total Equity		
Balance at 1 July 2006	317,736	307,172
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(11,540)	10,564
Balance at 30 June 2007	306,196	317,736

Income Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
		\$	\$
Revenue	2	937,517	765,160
Employee benefits expenses		(777,323)	(609,883)
Motor vehicle expenses		(14,283)	(10,394)
Program expenses		(37,718)	(32,182)
Occupancy expenses		(15,527)	(8,253)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(20,658)	(22,536)
Other administration expenses		(83,535)	(71,348)
Finance costs		(13)	-
Surplus (deficit) attributable to members of the company	3	(11,540)	10,564

Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	211,811	191,711
Trade and other receivables	5	7,172	-
Other current assets	6	2,044	4,566
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		221,027	196,277
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	236,485	253,995
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		236,485	253,995
TOTAL ASSETS		457,512	450,272
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	103,908	103,215
Short-term provisions	9	47,408	29,321
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		151,316	132,536
TOTAL LIABILITIES		151,316	132,536
NET ASSETS		306,196	317,736
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		306,196	317,736
TOTAL EQUITY		306,196	317,736

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement For The Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
		\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Grants		867,241	705,463
Receipts from Fundraising		17,497	10,981
Receipts from Donations		30,942	50,775
Receipts from Other		43,712	15,955
Interest Received		7,831	102
Payments to suppliers and employees		(943,962)	(682,580)
Finance costs paid		(13)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	14(b)	23,248	100,696
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(3,148)	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(3,148)	-
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		20,100	100,696
Cash at beginning of financial year		191,711	91,015
Cash at end of financial year	14(a)	211,811	191,711

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Note 1: Statement of significant accounting policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, including Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001.

The financial report covers Caroline Chisholm Society as an individual entity. Caroline Chisholm Society is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report of Caroline Chisholm Society complies with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

Income Tax

The company has been endorsed as an income tax exempt charitable entity.

Property, Plant & Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost, less where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

The depreciable amount of all items of property, plant and equipment, including capitalised lease assets, but excluding freehold land and buildings and leasehold improvements, are depreciated on a diminishing value basis over their useful lives to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Freehold land is not depreciated. Buildings are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives. Leasehold improvements are depreciated on a diminishing value basis over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The carrying amount of all items of property, plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows, which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within the company includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

<i>Class of Fixed Asset</i>	<i>Depreciation Rate</i>
Buildings	2.5%
Plant & Equipment	20.0% - 40.0%

Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the assets fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Impairment testing is performed annually for goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Payables

Trade payables and other accounts payable are recognised when the company becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

Leases & Hire Purchases

Leases of fixed assets, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the company, are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period. Leased assets are depreciated on a diminishing value basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the company will obtain ownership of the asset, or over the term of the lease. Hire purchases are accounted for using the same method.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a diminishing value basis over the life of the lease term.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date.

Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Revenue

Revenue from funding bodies is recognised when the right to receive that revenue has been established.

Rental revenue is recognised on an accruals basis or straight-line basis in accordance with leases agreement.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

All other revenue is recognised at the earlier of receipt or invoice date.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and trade discounts.

Finance Costs

Finance costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

All other finance costs are recognised in income in the period in which they are incurred.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Financial Instruments

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management within the requirements of AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designed as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Held-to-Maturity Investments

These investments have fixed maturities, and it is the company's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any **held-to-maturity** investments held by the company are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Available-for-Sale Financial Assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity.

Financial Liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Derivative Instruments

Derivative instruments are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken to the income statement unless they are designated as hedges.

Fair value

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

Critical accounting estimates and judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

Key estimates - Impairment

The company assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the company that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

No impairment has been recognised in respect of the company's assets and liabilities for the year ended 30 June 2007. Should the projected figures be outside the budgeted figures incorporated in value-in-use calculations, an impairment loss would be recognised up to the maximum carrying value of the company's assets and liabilities at 30 June 2007.

Key judgments – Provision for impairment of receivables

The directors assessed the recoverability of all trade and other receivables at year-end as disclosed in the financial statements. The directors believe that the full amount of the receivables is recoverable, and no provision for impairment of those receivables has been made as at 30 June 2007

Note 2: Revenue

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
From operating activities:		
Grants & sponsorships received	837,535	656,126
Fundraising	17,497	10,981
Donations	30,942	50,775
Memberships	2,070	1,420
Rental income	12,586	13,014
Workcover insurance recoveries	28,970	31,221
Interest income	7,831	102
Other income	86	1,521
TOTAL REVENUE	937,517	765,160

Note 3: Surplus (Deficit)

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Surplus (deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Depreciation of non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	20,658	22,536
Finance costs:		
Paid to other external persons	13	-
Rental expense on operating leases:		
Minimum lease payments	7,853	-

Note 4: Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	90,790	183,243
Cash on hand	125	239
Short-term bank deposits	120,896	8,229
	211,811	191,711

The weighted average effective interest rate on cash and cash equivalents was 3.24% (2006: 0.34%)

Note 5: Trade and Other Receivables Current

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Trade debtors	7,172	-
Less: Provision for impairment of receivables	-	-
	7,172	-

Note 6: Other Assets Current

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Prepayments	2,044	4,566
	<u>2,044</u>	<u>4,566</u>

Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Freehold land & buildings at cost	184,897	184,897
	<u>184,897</u>	<u>184,897</u>
Plant & equipment at cost	193,997	190,851
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(142,409)	(121,752)
	<u>51,588</u>	<u>69,098</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>236,485</u>	<u>253,995</u>

The Society obtained opinions from real estate agents during April to June 2007 for the market values of its land and buildings and were advised that the aggregate market value of its land and buildings is expected to be between \$985,000 and \$1,065,000.

Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Freehold land & buildings		
Balance at 1 July 2006	184,897	184,897
Carrying amount at 30 June 2007	<u>184,897</u>	<u>184,897</u>
Plant and equipment		
Balance at 1 July 2006	69,098	91,634
Additions	3,148	-
Depreciation expense	(20,658)	(22,536)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2007	<u>51,588</u>	<u>69,098</u>
Total property, plant and equipment		
Balance at 1 July 2006	253,995	276,531
Additions	3,148	-
Depreciation expense	(20,658)	(22,536)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2007	<u>263,485</u>	<u>253,995</u>

Note 8: Trade and Other Payables

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Current (all unsecured)		
Trade payables	2,881	-
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	42,884	12,637
Employee benefits	41,311	26,281
Income in advance	16,832	64,297
	<u>103,908</u>	<u>103,215</u>

Note 9: Provisions

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Short-term		
Long service leave	47,408	29,321
	<u>47,408</u>	<u>29,321</u>

Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

There were no contingent liabilities, nor any contingent assets as at the balance sheet date, other than the following:

An employee was injured in September 2001. She has made a claim, and Victorian Workcover Authority has appointed Dibbs Abbott Stillman to work on behalf of Caroline Chisholm Society and its workcover insurer, Cambridge Integrated Services. The outcome of this claim and the amount payable are uncertain as at the date of this report.

Note 11: Events After the Balance Sheet Date

There have not been any material events between the balance sheet date and the date of the signing of the directors' report.

Note 12: Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year. No directors received any remuneration or compensation for their services.

Note 13: Segment Reporting

The company operates predominantly in one business and geographical segment being provision of support for pregnant women and families with young children in Victoria, Australia.

Note 14: Cash Flow Information**(a) Reconciliation of cash**

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	90,790	183,243
Cash on hand	125	239
Short-term bank deposits	120,896	8,229
	<u>211,811</u>	<u>191,711</u>

(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with surplus (deficit) from ordinary activities

Surplus (deficit) from ordinary activities	(11,540)	10,564
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Non-cash flows in surplus (deficit)**from ordinary activities:**

- Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	20,658	22,536
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Note 14: Cash Flow Information (Continued)

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (Increase) decrease in trade and other receivables	(7,172)	14,043
- (Increase) decrease in other current assets	2,522	(4,566)
- Increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	693	50,724
- Increase (decrease) in provisions	18,087	7,395
Cash flow from / (to) operations	23,248	100,696

(c) Credit standby arrangement and loan facilities

The company had no credit standby arrangements or loan facilities as at 30 June 2007.

(d) Non-Cash financing and investing activities

There were no non-cash financing and investing activities during the year.

Note 15: Capital And Leasing Commitments

Operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:	2007	2006
	\$	\$
Payable – minimum lease payments		
Not later than 12 months	8,588	-
	8,588	-

The operating leases are for rental of premises with a 12 month term, with rent payable monthly in advance.

Note 16: Financial Instruments

a) Financial risk management

The company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks and accounts receivable and payable.

The main purpose of non-derivative financial instruments is to raise finance for company operations.

The company does not have any derivative instruments at 30 June 2007.

(i) Treasury risk management

Key management personnel of the company meet on a regular basis to analyse currency and interest rate exposure and to evaluate treasury management strategies in the context of the most recent economic conditions and forecasts.

(ii) Financial risks

The main risks the company is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is managed with a mixture of different floating rate debts. At 30 June 2007, the company's total debt liabilities amounted to \$Nil. For further details on interest rate risk refer to Note 16(b).

Liquidity risk

The company manages liquidity risk by monitoring forecast cash flows.

Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements.

The company does not have any material credit risk exposure to any single receivable or group of receivables under financial instruments entered into by the company.

Price risk

The company is not exposed to any material commodity price risk.

(b) Interest rate risk

The company's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in

market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on those financial assets and financial liabilities, has been disclosed where material in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Net fair values

The net fair values of listed investments have been valued at the quoted market bid price at balance date adjusted for transaction costs expected to be incurred. For other assets and other liabilities, the net fair value approximates their carrying value. No financial assets and financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form other than listed investments. Financial assets where the carrying amount exceeds net fair values have not been written down as the company intends to hold these assets to maturity.

The aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their carrying amounts as disclosed in the Balance Sheet and in the notes to the financial statements.

Note 17: Company Details

The registered office of the company is:

Caroline Chisholm Society
41 Park Street
MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039
AUSTRALIA

The principal places of business are:

Caroline Chisholm Society
41 Park Street
MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

Caroline Chisholm Society
30 Gell Street
BACCHUS MARSH VIC 3340

Caroline Chisholm Society
Goulburn Valley Pregnancy Support
71A Wyndham Street
SHEPPARTON VIC 3630

Caroline Chisholm Society
15 Crown Street
LAVERTON VIC 3028

How Can You Help The Caroline Chisholm Society?

- All donations \$2.00 & over are tax deductible.
- We welcome donations of babies' and toddlers' clothing, nursery equipment, toys and maternity wear.
- We rely on the work of volunteers to support the programs provided by the Society. Your time would be greatly appreciated.
- You may be interested in contributing to the Caroline Chisholm Society through full membership and participation in our fundraising and promotional events.
- You may be in a position to make provision for the Society's work in your Will. The following clause will ensure your support of the Society's work with young families:

"I bequeath the sum of \$....., free of all duties, to the Caroline Chisholm Society, 41 Park St, Moonee Ponds, to be used in accordance with the objectives of the Society at the discretion of the Committee of Management".

For further information regarding this report and/or donations or gifts please contact our head office on (03) 9370 5122
Caroline Chisholm Society thanks Polygranet for their generosity in designing this annual report. Polygranet (03) 9499 4776.

Please Note

Photos and images of children depicted in this report are not related to services and programs of the Society and are used with permission. Stories used with permission and identifying details have been changed to protect privacy.

For further information regarding the Caroline Chisholm Society please visit our website.

www.carolinechisholmsociety.com.au



**Caroline
Chisholm
Society**

Pregnancy & Family Support Service

“ May the spirit of love of humanity which motivated Caroline Chisholm be seen in what we do and in what we aim to do.”

Telephone Counselling Service Phone (03) 9370 3933 Freecall 1800 134 863

Head office

41 Park Street (PO Box 846)
Moonee Ponds 3039
Administration (03) 9370 5122
Counselling (03) 9370 3933
Facsimile (03) 9326 1045

Outreach offices

Bacchus Marsh

Caroline Chisholm Centre
30 Gell Street (PO Box 450)
Bacchus Marsh 3340
Phone (03) 5367 6262

Goulburn Valley

71A Wyndham Street
(PO Box 857)
Shepparton 3630
Phone (03) 5821082

Laverton

Laverton Children's Centre
15 Crown St
Laverton 3028
Phone (03) 9369 8360