



**Caroline
Chisholm
Society**

Newsletter

Winter Edition – July 2014

SUPPORT GROUPS 2014

Groups in Terms 3 and 4 are:

The Chisholm Pals supported playgroup for young mums aged 16–25 yrs at the Melton West Community Centre, 2 West Melton Drive, Melton West from August 13–September 17 and from October 29–December 3 between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm. This group is open to young parents across the western region of Melbourne. For further information, please contact Erin Newman or Daya Adelan on 9361 7000

We are also conducting a Supported playgroup in the City of Wyndham in Term 4. Dates and venue are yet to be confirmed. We are also anticipating that a Sing and Grow group will take place alongside this playgroup. For further information, please contact Audrey Ciappara or Lisa Autelitano on 9361 7000.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are always looking for volunteers to help sort our donations, knit baby clothes and children's jumpers, or help on our street stall.

Please contact

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

We are critically low in warm clothes for Size 2 and 3 girls and new sheet sets for bassinets. We also need bassinets.

PLEASE DONATE
On Fridays at 12 Shuter
Street, Moonee Ponds.

Save the Date!

Our 45th Annual General Meeting
will be held at 7.30pm on
Tuesday, 14th October, 2014 at
1 Darebin Place, Caroline Springs.
RSVP secretary@caroline.org.au

From the CEO

In Summer, I asked "I'm having dinner. Are you?" And your answer was "YES!"

For those who don't know, we need to raise funds to keep us in the Moonee Valley at a site suitable for our work. The site is at 977 Mount Alexander Road and plans are afoot. However, we need funds.

It appears that the whole State appreciates that specialised support services like ours need to remain central near public transport. In response to our call for help, events are being hosted across Victoria from Carlton to Smeaton near Creswick. Our team at Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley also hosted an event. Do invite me if you're having an event. If I can't make it, I can still send you the credit card slips!

Caroline Chisholm Society volunteers organized a Variety Night, which added to the success of last year's trivia night. It was an engaging and family friendly event. We were aptly hosted by the East Keilor RSL. If you pass our volunteers on the street stall, do come up and say hello.

We are also tremendously grateful for the support from partners, especially the Lions Club of Doutta Galla who have helped by both applying to philanthropic groups and raising funds with the help of quilters.

STOP PRESS

Thanks also to our friends at Essendon Fields who are helping too!
We got this news at the time of printing.

In short, a very big thank you from all here at Caroline Chisholm and a plea to keep going. The clear demonstration of community support is helping our discussions with other funds holders.

So, how is it going?
Together, our community has raised
over \$280,000! Keep up the good work!

In Autumn, I pointed out some critical issues for the Victorian Election. CCS has put the view that our community needs:

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

The first is in the context of our need for a new building and the similar situation of other community organizations.

The current Government has progressed with regard to the second. At the time of typing this newsletter, the Government has opened a tender for "Services Connect" which is the result of Peter Shergold's proposals for long term reform of the services sector in Victoria.

The tender will allow the Department of Human Services to award a contract to test ideas for long term reform of all services. The idea being that it will measure outcomes and thus demonstrate the efficiency and effectiveness of services. That is, does it actually help clients and if it does, is it the best way to achieve that result given the fiscal environment.

I hope that with our colleagues we have an opportunity to participate in one of the test sites. Our team has done a remarkable job of implementing a program logic, including the Outcomes Star which we reflected on in our Summer newsletter.

With regard to support for expectant mothers, we've heard about funding for the Werribee Mercy, where many of our clients have their babies. I'm looking forward to seeing the social service policies of those standing at this State election.

In the spirit of Caroline Chisholm,


Helen Cooney

How we help our clients ...

... with new and pre-loved goods. Have you ever wondered what happens to your donations?

They get sorted and checked and presented neatly ready for clients!

If a client gets in touch with us directly, we either make an appointment for them at Moonee Ponds or just let them know our opening hours for dropping in at our Goulburn Valley office.

The client then comes in and has a chat with our pregnancy and family services team. The team aims to meet their immediate need – usually with clothes, baby goods or maternity goods – and makes sure that they know about the services that are available for them from both the Caroline Chisholm Society and our partners.

With our help, the client might, for example, need help with navigating ChildFirst so that they can

have home visits. Or, we might give them advice about housing access points. Most often, we find clients are in need of a little self assurance and help to build their confidence following a major transition into parenting.

If a case worker is in touch because a client of a partner agency needs goods, they are directed to our administrative support.

This process of having our administrative team support partners has only been possible since April, with the help of a partnership grant from Moonee Valley City Council. Since commencement in April, over 15 partnering agencies have accessed urgently required material aid for their clients.

It is Interesting to note that the families in need have hailed from 13 different countries, many of them asylum seekers and refugees. Caseworkers have typically

described their clients as having little at all. Material aid items have included high chairs, bassinets, prams, nappies, baby bundles, cot packs and affectionately knitted little teddies and crocheted rugs provided by our volunteers.

We're really happy about this programme because it is enabling us to build closer relationships with partnering agencies.

For example McAuley Community Services For Women has established a new policy to direct all donations of baby and maternity goods to CCS. Recently the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development kindly donated a couple of boxes of much needed quality toys that they were unable to house in their new location.



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Connecting With Men's Sheds



The Moonee Valley Men's Shed is supporting the work of the Caroline Chisholm Society by repairing donated baby items.

This is part of the Handy Home Helpers Program funded by the MVCC and the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund. The men at the Shed have made a new base for a beautiful bassinet and a solid, safe base for a change table. Jim and Anton are pictured.

The Werribee Men's Shed is also supportive. Several men from this Shed have joined the Handy Home Helpers Program and The Shed has allowed them to borrow a ute, trailer and lawn mowing equipment to use when doing jobs around the house for our clients.

If you would like to join the ***Handy Home Helpers Program*** please contact Volunteer Coordinator
Glenda Rumble on 9361 7000,
or email grumble@caroline.org.au

Contact us ...

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