

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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WORLD RENOWN

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SHELTER REPORT

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LIFE AND LIMB

# Moonee Valley Leader

**9**  
SHARING  
A WHOLE  
LOT OF  
LOVE



Picture: ANGIE BASDEKIS

**Caroline Chisholm Society**

Dear Mr. Danny Pearson MP  
Member for Essendon

Please help keep  
Caroline Chisholm Society  
in Moonee Valley

**Signed  
& sealed**

**CASH FOR NEW HOME MEANS SOCIETY CAN STAY**

Dear Mr. Danny Pearson MP  
Member for Essendon

Please help  
Caroline Chisholm  
in Moonee Valley

**Tamara Heath**

A LAST-MINUTE lifeline will enable a family support organisation to continue to protect pregnant teenagers and victims of domestic violence in Moonee Valley.

The State Government has announced it will pitch in \$950,000 to allow the Caroline Chisholm Society to build a community services hub in Essendon.

As the Moonee Valley Leader

reported last week, the society desperately needed the Government's help to pay for the hub at 977 Mt Alexander Rd, fearing it would otherwise be forced to leave the area.

Society chief executive Helen Cooney said she was "delighted and very excited" by the announcement, which would mean the society could continue to help women who face issues such as family violence, homelessness and mental health problems.

Plans had been approved for the hub, which had been designed to be a "warm and welcoming environment" for pregnant women and new mums to come for emotional and practical support.

Ms Cooney said the site was chosen for its public transport and freeway access.

The lease on the society's current Moonee Ponds base in Shuter St, which is small and inaccessible to people with disabilities, is due to expire

early next year.

Ms Cooney thanked Essendon state Labor MP Danny Pearson for helping to secure the money, for which the society has campaigned since 2013.

"If Danny hadn't helped us, I don't think this would have happened."

Mr Pearson said the Government's backing would

enable the society to continue its "excellent work".

"The society has worked hard to raise \$300,000 towards the hub and Labor's support will make sure the Moonee Valley community has better access to family services."

The money is part of a \$1.4 million package supporting services across Melbourne.

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