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NEWS 03

Support service in limbo

A FAMILY support service savs it is working under a cloud with fears it could be kicked out of its temporary base in Moonee Ponds be-fore a new home is ready. Caroline Chisholm So-

ciety chief executive Helen Cooney said while a new, permanent hub for the service was due to be completed in Essendon later this year, a development application submitted on its leased home in Moonee Ponds had

GROUP FEARS IT COULD LOSE HOME TO NEW DEVELOPMENT

thrown the organisation's

work into uncertainty.

Moonee Valley Council is expected to decide whether to approve an application for a six-storey building at 8-14

Shuter St next month.

Ms Cooney said they feared if the project was approved, they would have to vacate 12 Shuter St before the completion of the Essen don building because their lease lapsed in February.

"Timing for us is a real challenge in a couple of dif-ferent ways," Ms Cooney

"We'd like to only have to move once, not only because there's a lot of hassle, but because it sends mixed messages to our clients who sometimes don't have great English.

"A short period of notice to leave the building will have a significant impact on

our families who need support.
"You've got families who

may have fled family viol-ence or had their first child, or are a refugee and English is a barrier.'

Ms Cooney said despite asking for a lease renewal until February 2017, the landlord had not agreed nor given them clarity over how much notice they would get

"The uncertainty of that is their capacity to know whether or not we will be there for them in the future," she said.

Lou Rendina Real Estate managing director Lou Rendina told *Moonee Valley Leader* the landlord would give the organisation eight weeks' notice.

Mr Rendina said develop-ments normally took at least

three or four months to get been given planning ap-

"He's (the landlord) open to keeping a longer period of their existing lease arrange-ments to accommodate their arrangements," Mr Rendina

Ms Cooney said while she felt more reassured upon hearing Mr Rendina's com-ments, she was yet to hear the arrangement details from the landlord herself and wanted it in writing.

MOONEE PONDS

New build still a 'no'

MOONEE Valley Council has remained opposed to the first stage of development at the old Moonee Ponds Mar-ket site, despite the developer tinkering with its plans

As previously reported in the Moonee Valley Leader, Caydon Property Group appealed council's refusal of a plan to build 617 apartments in buildings of up to 26 sto-

The developer submitted amended plans prior to the hearings, which included an additional basement carpark, five new retail tenan-cies along Aspen St, adding three three-bedroom apart ments and reducing one-bed apartments by nine.

At a special meeting held At a special meeting held last week, councillor Nicole Marshall said although there had been positive amendments, the plans still exceeded planning controls.

Cr Jan Chantry said she felt "torn" about the proposal because it was within an activity centre, but she could not support a proposal that would bring the "Docklands" to Moonee Valley.
But Cr Paul Giuliano said

his opinion had swaved by the developer's concessions

The hearings are set to begin in April.



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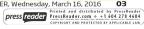
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Thinking Kids Children's Centre

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