



Caroline Chisholm Society chief executive Helen Cooney with staff and community members at their new site, which isn't ready yet.

Picture: JOSIE HAYDEN

local business news spruiker

Award finalist

➤ Designer Mario Di Natale from Innovative Space Design in **Moonee Ponds** has been nominated in the Building Designers Association of Victoria's awards. Local projects Eagle's Nest and Hayes Road in **Strathmore** and Mota Residence in **Essendon** were also among the finalists.

Blank canvas

➤ **Westfield Airport West** has a 5m x 2m space on one of its walls to open up to an artist. Those interested can submit a design that incorporates food and culture, with the winner to receive a \$500 voucher and their design to be featured on the wall for a year. The competition closes July 10. Visit: westfield.com.au/airportwest

Designer wins

➤ **North Melbourne** design agency Cobalt Design has won the Professional Services Award at the 2016 Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame. The awards, which were announced on June 9, recognised individuals and companies in the manufacturing industry.

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Vulnerable women at risk

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KEY SERVICE TO MOVE OUT FOR TWO MONTHS

A COUNSELLING and homeless support service will be forced out of Moonee Valley for at least two months, prompting fears vulnerable women with little access to public transport will be left helpless.

Caroline Chisholm Society chief executive Helen Cooney said they had been given a notice to vacate their leased Moonee Ponds home by the end of July. But they can't move into their new building in Essendon until

at least September. Ms Cooney said the society would most likely only be able to support those who had a car, because catching public transport to its other branch in Caroline Springs was incredibly difficult.

"A lot of the clients we see at the moment are particularly vulnerable," she said.

"They might be experiencing homelessness, family violence, mental health issues or social isolation. Those are the people that need us the

most. Everybody needs us, but the ones that need us the most will be impacted."

A planning application for a multistorey development at 12 Shuter St, Moonee Ponds, where the society is currently renting, was approved in April.

The society provides material aid for women who are pregnant or have children aged under five. It will also have to navigate the challenges of storing and transporting goods to those who

need to access it. "We are going to have to move twice and although we have lots of volunteers to help us with those moves, there are some costs associated with it," Ms Cooney said.

Mayor Andrea Surace said Moonee Valley Council was working closely with the society to help it through the transition.

"The temporary loss of the Caroline Chisholm Society from Moonee Valley, even for a short period, is

a detriment to our community," Cr Surace said.

The council operates a duty, intake, referral and support service at Moonee Valley Civic Centre on weekdays, which will offer support to parents of those aged under 18 who were unable to travel outside the municipality.

The society is seeking cash donations or removalist services to help with the move, storage options close to Caroline Springs and cars to help transport. To help, call 9361 7000.

NIDDRIE

Creek water in the clear after fuel spill

WATER quality in Steele Creek has returned to normal following contamination from a petrol tanker crash.

The EPA has been monitoring the water since 15,000

litres of fuel entered the creek after an accident on the Calder Freeway in May.

Warning signs asking people to avoid contact with the waterway, between Keilor and Rosehill roads, will be

removed after confirmation no more traces of fuel remained.

About 175,000 litres of contaminated water, including fuel and firefighting foam, was removed from the creek

during the immediate clean-up after the crash.

Floating booms were used to contain and absorb any remaining contaminants and were removed last Thursday.

Moonee Valley Council will work with Friends of Steele Creek to monitor the creek and vegetation in the affected area for any long-term impacts.

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