



Stock dwindling: GV Pregnancy and Family support lead practitioner Maree Chin in the material aid storage area which is running low on boys' winter clothes.



Help required: Lead volunteer Keren Traianidis says the organisation needs more volunteers. Pictures: Julie Mercer

Support service needs help

GOULBURN VALLEY FAMILY SUPPORT ORGANISATION IS DESPERATE FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS AND STOCK

By Taylah Burrows

An organisation that helps families in crisis is in desperate need of more volunteers and donations.

The Caroline Chisholm Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service provides support, clothing and items to those who need it free of charge.

"Everything here is given to us from the community and that's how it goes out, the same way it comes in," Lead volunteer Keren Traianidis said.

Lead practitioner Maree Chin said the

organisation, which is run by volunteers, was currently experiencing a shortage of boys' clothing in sizes three to seven.

"We can only operate if we've got the stock," she said.

"The demand coming into winter has risen."

"We don't want people to be cold, we want to help them."

Mrs Traianidis said the organisation was also hoping to boost its number of volunteers.

"If we can get more volunteers it will allow us to expand our hours," she said.

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"It doesn't matter how many hours they can volunteer, it can be as little as one or two hours a week up to however many they want."

Ms Chin said people who wanted to volunteer with the organisations would have

to be compassionate, non-judgmental and community-minded.

Anyone wishing to donate clothing or items to the organisation can do so by dropping it off to its 15 St Andrews Rd location during business hours.

IN BRIEF

Symes preselected

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes yesterday announced she had been preselected by the Australian Labour Party to contest next year's election.

"As a proud country Labor member of the Victorian State Parliament in the Legislative Council I have today been preselected by the Australian Labor Party as a candidate for the Northern Victoria Region for the 2018 state election," Ms Symes said in a statement yesterday.

"I would like to thank the many Labor party members, colleagues and community members who have encouraged me to continue my work representing the best parts of Victoria from Mildura to Corryong to Healesville to Heathcote."

"I'm very proud of what I and the Andrews Government are delivering for Northern Victoria."

"Under Labor it is now easier to get into the housing market, expand your business and, like me, raise your family in country Victoria."

Senator Hansen visits region

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The bus tour visited Mildura and Renmark on the way to Goolwa, where the group inspected the Coorong and the Murray mouth.

Mr Pyle said he was not a follower of the One Nation party, but had offered an invitation to the federal cross-benchers to examine water issues in the region, and the One Nation party was the only one to show up.

"Senator Hanson and Senator Roberts asked a lot of questions," he said.

Irrigators are particularly concerned about the 450 Gl of "up-water" which the Murray-

Darling Basin Plan proposes to take from agriculture for the environment.

Mr Pyle said it was made abundantly clear to the Senators that the removal of the water would have a devastating effect on rural communities.

He hopes the information gleaned by the senators will be used in questioning of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in Senate estimates this month.

The News' inquiries to the One Nation party office last week were met with silence.

A statement from Greater Shepparton City Council said no-one was available to comment on the One Nation senators' visit.

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