

From the Interim CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am grateful for the privilege to provide you with this update in my capacity as the Interim CEO for the Caroline Chisholm Society.

From this privileged opportunity I have the fortune to also be able to meet with various members, volunteers, supporters and partners from across Melbourne and Shepparton with wonderful responses to our requests for support and sharing community generosity with the mothers and babies who come to us in times of need.

We continue in the foundations established for our organization through the vision of our founders Dr Philomene Joshua and Mrs Pat Coffey OA., and the hundreds of volunteers and supporters who have and continue to have the best interests of women, unborn babies and children at the heart of all we do.

Our dedicated team of staff across our three sites along with the countless hours given through our generous volunteers, provide us with insights into the adversities women and children experience.

More than ever these complexities are with us as we encounter them on a day-to-day basis – in our own communities, our neighbourhoods and in our own immediate networks of family and friends.

Additionally, we are reminded of the hope through services we offer as one mother, only last week, recalled that when a case is closed this is not a time of sadness, but excitement - expressed with a sense of achievement - as for the first time since she was 15, she wouldn't have a social worker in her life.

2019 is a big year for the Society with our 50th year celebration plans well underway for an event to recognise the women who responded to the urgency for the plight of mothers and their children with the complexities of homelessness, family violence and mental health impacting their capacity to provide for their immediate and long term needs.

Keep this in mind as there will be various opportunities to be a part of the celebration in the journey so far!

Best wishes

Jennifer

Mother's Day Appeal

Donate by 3 May to help us fund our annual Mother's Day Morning Tea, as we help children say thank you to their Mum.

Donate at any of our offices, by phone or online at:
<https://caroline.org.au/donate-now/>



CAROLINE CHISHOLM SOCIETY WOULD
LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR

Mother's Day Morning Tea

to celebrate you as a mother!

Friday May 10th, 2019
10 am to 12 pm

Sunvale Community Park
20 Neil St, Sunshine VIC 3020

You will be treated to a delicious morning tea
while you relax and enjoy good company.

There is a playground and activities for children
too!

Please RSVP by Friday May 3rd, 2019 by phone on 9361 7000
or by email to secretary@caroline.org.au





Save the Date

Let's celebrate our 50th!

Saturday 5 October 2019

Plans are underway with details to come

Fundraising Working Group

Mothers and babies – at the heart of what we do!

If you are keen to make an impact in the lives of Mums, Bubs and their Families please get in touch.

For details email: secretary@caroline.org.au or speak with Jennifer Weber on 03 9361 7000

Please like us on Facebook to stay up to date with our regular news

@carolinechisholmsociety

A note from the President, Dr Michael Christie

Dear Friends,

As we find ourselves in the throes of an election campaign, now is the time to be engaged in the issues impacting the lives of the mothers and children accessing our services.

Some of the ways we can advocate for families is to arrange a time to meet with local candidates to discuss the work underway to support at-risk and vulnerable mothers and children, including seeking their pledges to make the necessary investments into our work.

We know from our work here in the western suburbs of Melbourne – Generation West – over 40 babies are born every day; 281 a week and over 14,000 a year.

However along with the lack of infrastructure and services to support our growing communities increasingly at-risk and vulnerable mothers and their children are going without access to vital services and the necessary supports to improve social, emotional and economic outcomes.

We know from our work in the Goulburn Valley, led by an incredible team of volunteers and lead practitioner the growing housing shortage and affordability creates a constant source of anxiety; shortages in access to home visitation programs with mothers waiting from 6-13 weeks for a referral to a funded agency; and food security issues – all impacting the health and wellbeing of women and children.

When mothers attend our welfare appointments our team of volunteers led by our lead practitioner are quick to respond. Our approaches to government to date for funding have been acknowledged but we need action! Putting mothers on wait lists is not acceptable!

Across Victoria thousands of women and children will be expected to sleep in accommodation tonight that very few of us would accept as being reasonable. And yet the health and safety of women and children is being compromised with government funding going to motel accommodation obviously past the use by date.

A report into the housing crisis resulted in recent media coverage highlighting the boycott, and yet government funding continues to be paid out to “dodgy accommodation providers” <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/no-more-referrals-to-dodgy-crisis-housing-warn-homelessness-services-20190214-p50xu7.html>

We can do better, and I know our supporters want better too.

Our mothers, unborn babies and children – deserve the best we have to share as a community. And it's time we let the government know that we care enough to speak up on their behalf.

Contact us...

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