

Caroline Chisholm Society

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

We're excited to share a refreshed school engagement model that strengthens community connection. This new approach still gives students meaningful, hands-on opportunities to learn about empathy, generosity, and social responsibility, while ensuring the experience is positive, safe, and purposeful for everyone involved.

Our goal is to remain accessible, safe, and impactful while offering schools engagement options that are meaningful, educational, and aligned with our values.

We want every school partnership to be easy to run, enriching for students, and genuinely supportive of the families we work with.



WHY WE'RE UPDATING HOW SCHOOLS PARTNER WITH US

We truly value the support our local schools provide, and we want to continue these partnerships in a way that is safe, meaningful and practical for everyone. To do this, we've updated how students can be involved with Caroline Chisholm Society.

1. Child Safety Requirements
New Victorian laws mean we can't have children under 15 volunteering onsite without a specific licence. This helps ensure young volunteers are protected, and we must comply with these strengthened safety rules.

2. Limited Space & Suitable Tasks
Our sites are designed for family support appointments, which means space is limited and there are very few onsite tasks that are appropriate or safe for students to complete.

3. Ensuring We Provide a Positive Experience
We want every school visit or activity to be well-organised, meaningful and safe. To do this well would require extra supervision and preparation that isn't always possible during busy service periods.

Rather than offering an experience that feels rushed or limited, we want to provide schools with engagement options that are thoughtful, practical and genuinely impactful.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR SCHOOLS

We've created two new, flexible options that allow students to still learn, connect and contribute, just in ways that are safer, easier to manage, and more meaningful for families.



OPTION 1: SCHOOL DONATION DRIVE - “COLLECT WITH US” MODEL

A simple, hands-on way for students to support families in their community.

What It Is
Your school runs a whole-school donation drive using our approved Material Aid list. Students and families collect items that directly support mothers/ caregivers, babies and children in need.

How It Works

- CCS provides everything you need, including posters, flyers, social media tiles, classroom resources and clear donation guidelines.
- If preferred, our team can also help students create their own posters and promotional materials.
- Your school chooses the date window that suits you.
- Students bring in donation items.
- We can also arrange a one-off collection if needed.
- After the drive, CCS provides:
- A thank-you certificate
- A social media acknowledgement
- A short impact update to share with your school community

Why Schools Love This Option

- No onsite child safety requirements to navigate
- Easy and low-pressure for school staff
- Produces a high volume of useful, high-quality donations
- Gives students a practical way to learn about empathy, community and generosity
- Aligns with sustainability, reuse and environmental values
- Simple to organise and easy to repeat each year
- Allows CCS to support many schools consistently and safely



OPTION 2: MONETARY FUNDRAISING + PACKING ACTIVITY - “BUY, PACK & GIVE” MODEL

A meaningful, hands-on activity that lets students directly support local families while learning about generosity, wellbeing and community responsibility.

What It Is
Your school raises funds and uses that money to purchase items for one of our pre-designed Packing Lists
Students then assemble the packs themselves, creating a powerful learning experience that shows how small actions can make a big impact for families in need.

How It Works

- Your school runs a fundraiser (gold coin day, sausage sizzle, casual dress day, etc.)
- CCS provides everything required to complete the packs:

1. A packing list
2. Packaging guidelines
3. Bags (optional)

- Teachers guide students through the packing activity
- Completed packs are dropped off or collected by CCS
- Your school receives:
- A thank-you certificate
- A social media acknowledgement
- A short impact update to celebrate with your community

Why Schools Love This Option

- No onsite supervision requirements for CCS
- Students gain a hands-on, meaningful learning experience
- Provides predictable, high-quality stock that directly supports families
- Ensures donations meet CCS quality and safety guidelines
- Easy to link to curriculum areas such as:
- Community Engagement
- Civics & Citizenship
- Wellbeing
- Social Justice and Empathy
- Highly flexible — works for small classes, year levels or whole-school projects

Purpose & Impact
This option helps students understand:

- how everyday items can meet essential needs
- how generosity strengthens community
- how their actions create real, immediate support for local families
- the value of working together towards a shared goal

It’s a simple, structured activity that leaves students feeling connected, proud and empowered — while ensuring the families we support receive items that are safe, practical and genuinely helpful.



LEARNING ACTIVITY: THE IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES CHALLENGE

Students are divided into small groups and introduced to a real case study of a family who has experienced financial hardship and received support from Caroline Chisholm Society. To protect the privacy of the families we support, all names and identifying details have been changed.

Students are given cards representing the family's bills, essential expenses and monthly costs. When added together, these expenses exceed the family's available income.

Working together, students must decide which expenses and necessities will be paid, which will go unpaid or be delayed, and explain the reasoning behind their decisions. There is no single correct answer. The activity encourages discussion about priorities, consequences and the difficult choices families can face when there simply isn't enough money to cover every essential need.

The purpose of this activity is to help students better understand financial hardship, the cost of raising children, and the realities faced by families whose income is not enough to meet their basic needs.

Using the provided case study and itemised expense list, teachers are welcome to create and facilitate the activity using their own resources. Alternatively, Caroline Chisholm Society can provide ready-to-use printable activity sheets, expense cards and supporting resources to make running the activity simple and accessible.



SHARE YOUR SCHOOL'S IMPACT

We'd love you to share your involvement with your school community!

Below, you'll find ready-to-use wording for your school newsletter, along with our social media handles so you can tag Caroline Chisholm Society in your posts.

Don't forget to share photos of your activity with us so we can celebrate your school's contribution too!

Newsletter

Our students recently had the opportunity to support families in our local community through a partnership with Caroline Chisholm Society.

As part of the initiative, students worked together to organise and run a donation drive, collecting essential items for mothers, babies and children supported by the organisation. The activity gave students a practical way to learn about generosity, empathy and social responsibility, while seeing how working together as a school community can create meaningful impact.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and care shown by our students throughout the initiative, and grateful to our families and wider school community who contributed donations and supported their efforts.

Thank you to Caroline Chisholm Society for providing our students with the opportunity to learn, contribute and make a difference.
We're proud of what our students achieved and the positive impact their donations will have for local families.

Social media handles

Caroline Chsholm Society

Instagram - carolineschisholmsociety

Linkdin Caroline Chisholm Society



By partnering with us, your school plays an important role in supporting vulnerable families while nurturing empathy, community awareness and generosity in students.

We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to building a positive and impactful relationship with your school.

For next steps or further information, please contact our team.

info@caroline.org.au

Our Commitment to Child Safety

The Caroline Chisholm Society is committed to child safety.

- We want children to be safe, happy and empowered.
- We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers.
- We are committed to the safety participation and empowerment of all children.
- We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.
- We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.
- The Caroline Chisholm Society is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.
- The Caroline Chisholm Society has robust human resources and recruitment practices to reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing board members, staff and volunteers.
- The Caroline Chisholm Society is committed to regularly training and educating our board members, staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.

We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We have specific policies and procedures in place that support our board members, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.
If you believe a child is at immediate risk, phone 000.

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