

Our Tradition

Caroline Chisholm (1808–1871)

Our inspiration to love women and their babies comes from Caroline Chisholm. Mrs Chisholm lived an admirable life responding to the needs of youth with patience and energy. With the support of her husband Archibald and her children, she assisted people in need, irrespective of their country or creed, by social reforms and charitable work. She re-united families, protected vulnerable girls, placed the unemployed in gainful work and achieved improvements for immigrants of little means.

The Society

The Caroline Chisholm Society was established in 1969 to offer material aid and pregnancy counselling services. It exists so that women can be supported to continue their pregnancy. Within a decade, the Society responded to the needs of the community and was providing home and family support. Today, the Society is a professional agency of social and community workers, service support staff and volunteers, who offer pregnancy counselling and support, material aid and family support. The Society provides services that respond to the needs of families and supports them to achieve and maintain a safe and nurturing environment. The Society is a non-denominational and non-political charity.

Our values

The Caroline Chisholm Society:

- has respect for life,
- is compassionate and caring,
- values social justice,
- believes in empowerment of women and families,
- recognises diversity, and
- operates accountably according to best practice.

Our Services

The Caroline Chisholm Society supports families from the moment they learn of their pregnancy until their children go to school. To meet our clients' needs, funding and donations of goods are received from government, philanthropic organisations and families. Our Society offers:

Pregnancy counselling and support

- *general counselling and support for families* in person or over the telephone,
- *pregnancy counselling including pregnancy loss and grief counselling* that is respectful, compassionate and empowering,
- *referral to maternity services* including support with maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, child development and sleep and settling, and
- *referral to other services* where needed.

Material aid

- *goods and services* especially quality pre-loved baby equipment, bassinets and high chairs, and
- *other emergency relief* such as food and vouchers to help ease pressure on our clients.

Family support

- *assessment, planning and action as part of Child FIRST* for families and children at risk of entering or re-entering the child protection system,
- *support services for families* including case management and in-home support,
- *housing support* including advocacy to landlords and government and assistance with priority housing applications, and
- *social support* including mentoring support and peer groups that encourage parents to be child centred and family focused as they tackle common challenges such as parenting strategy, challenging behaviours and postnatal depression.

Our Strategy

Effective services

By 2015, the families supported by the Caroline Chisholm Society will be more able to keep children safe, healthy and raised by confident parents, families and communities as a result of our support.

We will do this by providing quality family and pregnancy support, with authoritative leadership in social and community work locally and nationally. We will also do this by locating our services closer to our clients.

We will know we are on track if we are a reliable and well known service provider in North West Melbourne, we are a consistent and reliable service provider in the Goulburn Valley, and evidence-based evaluation illustrates our success.

Strong finances

By 2015, the finances of the Caroline Chisholm Society will include regular funding comprised of government and non-government income. We will continue to ensure that the Society is in a financial position able to support our services.

We will do this by fostering our relationship with government and members, whilst providing regular communication of our community activities.

We will know if we are on track if we have secure on-going financial support from government, members and the community.

Sound governance

By 2015, the Caroline Chisholm Society will be a model Community Service Organisation.

We will do this by regularly updating and implementing policies and procedures that are informed by best practice.

We will know we are on track if our membership is stable, our regulators are satisfied and our clients are engaged in our decision making.

YES! I would like to support the Caroline Chisholm Society

Personal details

Name

Address

Suburb

State Postcode

Phone H

Phone W

Mobile

Email

My preferred method of communication:

Mail Email

The gift of my time

Please contact me about:

- Volunteering
- Donating, sorting and transporting new and quality pre-loved products for young families
- Attending functions and events

Thank you for your support

