

MEDIA RELEASE – OLIVIA'S PLACE

30th July 2015

Olivia's Place's in Fundraising Mode

Olivia's Place recently entered fundraising mode in order to ensure service delivery can take place in 2016. The Gazette printed an article on June 26, 2015 highlighting the challenge ahead for Olivia's Place staff with the need to raise \$70,000 by the end of September. Olivia's Place Centre Manager, Kirsten Finger says that the organisation originally signed a 2 year lease on their premises in Barkly St in October 2014 knowing they had 12 months of funds to provide services, and she is happy to let the community know they will be able to use the funds they'd raised beyond the planned 12 month period. "We have enough money to provide services to the end of 2015, and to fulfil the obligations of our lease to October 2016, but we now need to raise the \$70,000 needed to provide services to the public in 2016 during our existing lease period. If we are able to reach this goal, then the time that we will be open for service in 2016 will also be spent attempting to raise funds for a further 2 years to either renew the lease, or search for larger premises as the demand we are experiencing has meant we are already outgrowing our current location", says Mrs Finger.

Since the Gazette article, there has been a positive response from the public, with over \$17,000 donated to the organisation. "We want to make it clear to the community that now is the time to get behind us financially so that we are able to continue helping families at the rate our assistance and support is being requested. We are buoyed by the initial response, and we hope that the momentum continues through this fundraising period. We are applying for philanthropic grants and funding, and exploring government funding options, but these things take time and are not guaranteed to be successful. Even if we are successful in obtaining grants, we would like the community to recognise the value of their own input into services like ours and feel pride in their ability to be part of the village helping raise local families."

All of the services provided by Olivia's Place are FREE for those who access them and are focussed around the basic needs that families have when welcoming a new baby such as emotional and social support, basic clothing and nappies, a safe place for the baby to sleep, parenting preparation, the ability to get out and about with their baby to reduce social isolation, and the ability to travel safely in a car. "These are needs that every family is entitled to be offered. Many families may receive these things from relatives and friends, but a lot of families lack those common social support networks for various reasons and this is where our community has the ability to become the village", says Mrs Finger.

Olivia's Place is also gearing up for their annual Dinner & Fundraising Auction 'Celebrate Dads' to be held on August 29th at The Black Tie in Warragul. Already over 100 local businesses have contributed items or vouchers totalling in excess of \$10,000 in retail value, with many more items to still be added to the list. Some of the key items of interest up for auction include:

- Parliament House Dinner & Tour with Gary Blackwood
- Dads only Cooking Class tickets by String & Salt
- Warragul Gazette half page colour advertisement
- High Tea at The Windsor in Melbourne
- And a half day package from Local Boys Complete Property Services

The 2016 event is sponsored by McKenzie Allen Lawyers of Drouin and Green Design Homes of Warragul as well as Allure Kitchens, Raymond Partners and Blackwood's Readymixed.

Tickets for the event are on sale now, and are fast selling out. To find out more visit www.oliviasplace.org.au or the Olivia's Place Facebook page. To purchase your ticket email melissa@oliviasplace.org.au or call 0402 609 343.

Kirsten Finger – Centre Manager

