

MEDIA RELEASE – OLIVIA'S PLACE

4th August 2014

Warragul Business Group Backs Olivia's Place and Local Families

Olivia's Place Pregnancy and Early Parenting Resource Centre is being backed by the Warragul Business Group and its members in providing our services to the local community's families. The Business Group, this week, has presented Olivia's Place with a \$500 cheque and is encouraging its members and other local businesses to do the same in an effort to encourage local families to continue shopping locally.

Peter Nicholson, Executive Member of the Warragul Business Group, expressed the Group's concern at the community's response to the relocation of the council's Children and Family Services to Normanby St, taking with it the only public access baby feeding facilities and central baby change facilities. "There is a current gap in service provision of centrally located parenting facilities in Warragul. This need is demonstrated by the concerns of the 400 plus people who petitioned the Shire and dozens of Facebook comments which clearly express this need on both the Baw Baw Shire website and Facebook page, letters to the Gazette and Olivia's Place Facebook pages. As a result, the WBG is proud to launch a fundraiser amongst local business in support of the provision of parent facilities by Olivia's Place."

The need for financial support of parent facilities arose when Olivia's Place located suitable premises for establishing their centre in central Warragul, but found the rental costs to be more than other suitable premises further out of town, or in other towns of the Baw Baw Shire. Kirsten Finger, Coordinator of Olivia's Place, feels this sends a strong message to local families that local business and community services are hearing their pleas for family friendly services. "This is a wonderful and necessary thing that the Warragul Business Group, its members and other businesses are doing in order to support local families to be able to continue shopping locally. I would encourage local families to respond by keeping their shopping local wherever possible to say thanks for the support."

Olivia's Place will make an announcement soon regarding location of premises, and are aiming to open doors in early October. For more information please contact info@oliviasplace.org.au or 0402 609 343.

Kirsten Finger – Centre Coordinator

