

MEDIA RELEASE – OLIVIA'S PLACE

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Olivia's Place Celebrates Dads

Olivia's Place Pregnancy and Early Parenting Resource Centre held their annual dinner and fundraising auction on Saturday night with the theme of 'Celebrate Dads'. Almost 100 guests enjoyed great food in an intimate setting at The Black Tie in Warragul, with a live auction led by SEJ Real Estate's Paul Phillips, and a silent auction. Guests included local member for Narracan Gary Blackwood with his wife Fritha, local Councillor Terry Williamson and his wife Christine, as well as representatives from formal sponsors of the auction including McKenzie Allen Lawyers, Green Design Homes, Allure Kitchens, Raymond Partners and Blackwood's Readymixed & Garden Supplies. Other businesses to sponsor the auction included Fiore Massage, Gippsland Vacuums, Warragul & Drouin Gazette, Bank Place Medical Centre, String & Salt and Gary Blackwood. Items auctioned at the event were donated from over 100 local businesses.

The fundraising event was again well received, with many guests saying they were looking forward to next year's event already. The event was successful in raising \$17,572 for Olivia's Place which will help them immensely in their goal of raising \$70,000 by the end of September in order to continue service provision in 2016.

Centre Manager of Olivia's Place Mrs Kirsten Finger said "We are thrilled with the results of the fundraiser, and are very grateful to the local businesses for supporting and valuing our work through donations and sponsorship, as well as to all the ticketholders for purchasing tickets to come along and bid on items on the night. Our team has worked really hard on running the fundraiser this year and we are feeling really encouraged."

The fundraising tally for Olivia's Place's overall goal now stands at over \$33,000. "We still need another \$37,000 in order to reach our goal, and we'll be looking to the community and local businesses to hopefully now take up the commitment to joining our Project 500 list, which asks for a \$200 annual donation or \$17 per month donation over 3 years," said Mrs Finger.

Olivia's Place has had in excess of 700 service users across its services since the centre opened in October, 2014 and Mrs Finger was recently made semi-finalist of the Gippsland Regional Achiever award with the Victorian Regional Achievement and Community Awards, and if successful \$2000 will be won for Olivia's Place. "The nomination for this award is recognition for not only all the hard work that the entire team has put into establishing Olivia's Place, but also acknowledgement of the very real needs of families in our community", said Mrs Finger.

To find out more about signing on to support Olivia's Place into the future, visit their website www.oliviasplace.org.au and search Project 500. Next year's dinner & auction will be held on Saturday August 27.

For more information please contact kirsten@oliviasplace.org.au or 0402 609 343.

Kirsten Finger – Centre Manager

