

## MEDIA RELEASE – OLIVIA'S PLACE

10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

### **Olivia's Place's Future in Community's Hands**

Olivia's Place Pregnancy and Early Parenting Resource Centre opened in October 2014 in Barkly St, Warragul and in that short time the demand for our services has become so great that we have already had to take waiting lists for new clients. In only 8 months we have provided services to almost 550 people including:

- consultation/case management for complex issues
- parent room facilities,
- material assistance,
- free community information sessions and the
- Warragul Farmer's Market outdoor parent facilities.

In addition to this, Olivia's Place has also provided more than 100 baby bundles filled with brand new items to local parents in need via the centre as well as via the Warragul Hospital Maternity Ward, several local GP clinics including Gladstone Street Medical Clinic, Bank Place Medical Clinic, and Trafalgar Medical Clinic. Baby bundles are in high demand at this time which tells us how many families are struggling and in need of that little extra support to welcome their new babies.

We also network closely with other services such as Youth for Christ, Anglicare, and St Vincent de Paul to meet the needs of local families, and are receiving new networking requests weekly. In May, we needed to close our books to new clients and establish a waiting list for those needing assistance, due to an increasing awareness of and demand for our support.

We have been able to provide this incredible level of services thanks to previous financial and in-kind support of many local individuals and businesses, as well as an amazing team of over 20 volunteers working together to deliver much needed services to local families.

Olivia's Place was only able to open due to this generous support, however even we have been overwhelmed by how necessary our service has been, and how many families are in great need.

Looking to our future, Olivia's Place is now in the community's hands. To guarantee our ability to provide services from October 1 this year, through to the end of our in September next year, we need to raise \$70,000 by August 30.

If we are unable to reach this goal, we will have to make the devastating decision to close our doors. We know the work we do is valued by those who utilise our services, and we believe the community values our work as well. There are many ways the community can get behind Olivia's Place's fundraising needs, and you can read about our fundraising efforts at [www.oliviasplace.org.au](http://www.oliviasplace.org.au), but the most direct way you can support our work and our future is by making a financial donation. Direct deposit details can be found on our website, and donations over \$2 are tax deductible. If we are unable to reach our fundraising goal, funds raised between now and the end of August will be utilised to cover a small range of services that can be delivered in the absence of having an open centre through part of 2016.

For more information please contact [info@oliviasplace.org.au](mailto:info@oliviasplace.org.au) or 0402 609 343.

Kirsten Finger – Centre Coordinator

