



Celebrating 50 years: 1969-2019



Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc.

Annual Report 2018-2019

Significant moments

1969: A group of women met to challenge the huge stigmas that forced many women to relinquish children born outside marriage to adoption.

1970: The Council for the Single Mother and her Child legally constituted as a self-help organisation.

1973: We won! Our 3-year campaign for the Federal government to provide welfare payments to single mothers on an equal basis with civilian widows was successful. The number of children put up for adoption dropped dramatically.



1975: Action began to abolish the illegitimate status of children born out of wedlock and to have disputes involving ex-nuptial children moved to the Family Court.

1976: First national adoption conference held.

1982: ARMS, the Australian Relinquishing Mothers Society, was formed.

1988: After a 14-year campaign, Victoria, NSW, SA and Tasmania passed legislation ensuring equal rights for all children under the Commonwealth Family Law Act and the Family Court.

1989: Supporting Parents' Benefit and Widows' Pension merged into the Sole Parents Pension.

1992: Phone-in for single mothers on housing rentals resulted in the Tenancy Advocacy Kit.

1993: Launched 'Home Alone' to challenge government expectations single mothers would leave their children and go to work.

1995: Photographic exhibition Soaring Solo launched in Victoria and toured Australia.

2001: 'Bread and Roses' events celebrating single motherhood began and continued until 2008.

2002: Secured annual funding from the RE Ross Trust enabling the provision of emergency funds to single mother families, which continues today.

2004: Let's Do Lunch groups began in local areas

2005: Held rural retreats and Mother's Day camps annually for three years.

2006 Action group formed to respond to a raft of changes to child support, family law and income support arrangements.

2008 The Protest Picnic demonstrated against poverty and the erosion of women and children's rights.

2013: Launch of the book *Single but not alone* capturing stories of our first 40 years.

2016: Mother's Day rally to 'End our poverty'.

2018: Took a strong stance on ParentsNext, Anti-Poverty Week events, and secured 3 year funding to expand service delivery.

2019: 50th anniversary.





From the Chair

It is a privilege to be Chair of the Council of Single Mothers and their Children in the year that we celebrate 50 years and to acknowledge the groundbreaking work of our founders and early members. Fifty years ago, mothers who were unwed were pressured to give up their children for adoption and if they did not, they received few welfare benefits, scant community support and their children were illegitimate. Our founders were a group of such women who were supported by families, friends, colleagues and over time, politicians and policy makers. The work of these wonderful, tenacious women and their supporters has a lasting impact on the lives of single mothers and their children today and it was wonderful to have this important milestone recognised by the Governor of Victoria, with the invitation to celebrate our anniversary at Government House in August 2019.

While we celebrate the achievements of our founders and their supporters this year, I wonder whether any of them envisaged in 1969 that there would still be a need for our organisation fifty years in the future?

In the second half of our anniversary year, the Council of Single Mothers and their Children is preparing to publish the results of its survey of over 1000 single mothers across Australia, which shows that while single mothers today are in many ways more advantaged than those of 50 years ago, barriers such as poverty and unaffordable housing still prevail.

In the past year, CSMC has focussed on building our future capacity and extending our reach. This is vitally important if we are to meet the increasing need for information and support for single mothers in a range of circumstances. I congratulate the CEO on bringing in additional grants to: expand our rural outreach; develop an online advocacy toolkit; establish a new database; and in the next financial year, appoint an additional Contact Worker to help respond to calls and emails from single mothers.

The Board of CSMC appointed at the 2018 Annual General Meeting has settled in well having performed a gradual and planned changeover. I acknowledge the significant contribution and leadership of the outgoing Chair Jessica van Dyke, who has stepped down from the role of Chair due to professional commitments, but is continuing to support the work of CSMC as a director of the Board to the next Annual General Meeting. I extend my thanks also to other members of the Board including Louise Smith who stepped down in April 2019.

Barbara Schade

Board members 2018-19

Jessica van Dyk	Kylie Porter
Deirdre Bignell	Dimi Rokkos
Barbara Schade	Dina Tyas
Robyn Curnow	Louise Smith (R)

Good wishes for the next 50 years- we can only wish you weren't needed but events in recent times show us that your advocacy and support for sole parents, for women and children is needed as much as ever before.

Thanks for all your work for all of us.

CSMC member

50 years of single mother community

Making connections

When you've spent five decades working one-on-one with single mothers to help them create better lives for their families, your connections within the community grow deep and wide reaching.

Every day, Contact Workers at CSMC are making connections with single mothers. Some contact us regularly, while others use our services intermittently as circumstances change or the need arises. Sometimes a one-off contact is all they need.

We see their struggles, their bravery and their determination to achieve better life circumstances for themselves and their children.



Finding place and friends

Nuru is a refugee from Sudan. She came to Australia with her husband four years ago, and has a daughter born in Australia.

When she first came to Australia, Nuru felt very isolated and spent much of her time in the house cleaning, cooking and looking after her baby. When her daughter was one year old, her husband left Australia to go back to his second wife and she does not think he will return.

Nuru contacted CSMC when she was unable to obtain food and groceries from her local organisations. She had been given a brochure from a support agency, and in great need, picked up the phone.

We helped her with funds for groceries and information about her rights. We talked with her about her Centrelink entitlements, and put her in touch with a local group that supplies groceries and food on a weekly basis and also hosts a weekly community lunch.

When Nuru contacted us again this year, she said that, on the whole, life is slowly improving. She has made friends with other mothers from Sudan who support each other and help out with child minding and shopping. We continue to support her with information she in turn shares with her friends.

2018-2019 in review

CEO Report

2019 represents fifty years since the founders of the Council of Single Mothers and their Children gathered to change the way that single mothers were treated, to provide them with choices, and address the lack of rights of 'illegitimate' children. Celebrations will be taking place throughout the year.

Looking forward, we are intent on building our capacity and our services. We aim to reach 20,000 families a year by 2022. In 2018-2019 we supported a record number of single mother families, surpassing the previous year by 20%. We launched our podcast, Single Mothers Speak Out, in February and undertook programs to reach new audiences, including single mothers in rural Victoria.

We continue to work with single mothers to tackle the structural barriers that they encounter. In 2018-2019, we focussed on raising public awareness of the punitive and discriminatory ParentsNext program with a view to having it halted and replaced with a genuinely helpful work-readiness program.

In September, we conducted our first national survey of single mothers, attracting over 1000 responses and a new source for insights into single mothers' lives. Analysing the data has been a significant task fitted in to existing workloads with the report due out in late 2019. A gift left to CSMC by Jo Clancy, an early member who passed on in April 2018, supported and enabled this project.

I was delighted to be Victorian Co-Chair of Anti-Poverty Week in 2018 and 2019. CSMC held two events during the week to highlight this key issue: *'Single mother headed households are the family unit most likely to be in poverty in Australia'*.

We continue to work to ensure financial sustainability of CSMC. Our thanks to the Victorian Government for ongoing funding of our core services, through the Department of Education and Training and since January 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services.



This year has seen a considerable increase in our philanthropic grants and donations from individuals, in part due to our participation in Progress Labs, an intensive program delivered by Australian Progress to escalate the impact of advocacy organisations.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our generous donors without whom we could not do this work and acknowledge the generosity of the Phyllis Conner Memorial Trust, the R.E. Ross Trust, Gandel Philanthropy, the Victorian Women's Trust, Westpac Foundation, and the Office for Women.

Our Board is a highly talented and skilled group of single mothers and I thank Jess van Dyk for her three years as Chair and welcome Barbara Schade, elected Chair at the AGM and Deirdre Bignell, elected Vice Chair. I thank all Board members for their contributions.

In our 50th year, we are celebrating single mothers' resilience; their determination to give their children the best life possible despite the challenges they encounter; and our collective ability to make change happen – we are indeed a **force to be reckoned with!**

Jenny Davidson, CEO



ParentsNext is punishing parents of young children for focusing on essential unpaid care work.

From stories to advocacy

Many single mothers who contact our Support Line experience multiple complex issues. Their financial stress is due to a number of factors including previous and ongoing family violence, caring for children with a disability and the rising costs of housing and utility bills. Research shows that women who leave relationships are financially worse off than men and this is exacerbated as they are generally the primary carers' of their children.

Financial hardship continues to be the main issue our service users encounter, with housing and homelessness, social security issues, and family violence all rising significantly. A 60% jump in matters relating to health, mental health and disability is deeply concerning.

Disability Support Pension and NDIS

Single mothers with health or mental health issues and physical disabilities affecting their ability to maintain paid work are struggling to find help. While they qualify for NDIS assistance, they have not been successful in their applications for the Disability Support Pension. Many are on the Newstart Allowance, having been taken off the Parenting Payment when their youngest child turned eight. They are thus compelled to continue looking for work even as it compounds their health issues and impacts their parenting.

Katie has fibromyalgia, Lyme's disease and arthritis. She has sole care of her children, one of whom has significant behavioural issues. She has no extended family support and struggles to cope with her children and her illness. To qualify for assistance she needs to show that her children are being neglected, a catch 22 that puts her parenting in a bad light. With assistance she has won a reprieve from job searching, but still struggles financially on the low Newstart Allowance.

Family violence & assault

Calls from women escaping violence and struggling with insecure or unsafe housing are distressing.

Maya moved to country Victoria to escape her violent partner but felt trapped when he found them and harassed the children. Her car was stolen and when she reported it to police she was too afraid to mention the ongoing aggravation from her ex-partner. The family moved to a caravan park but found it too expensive to stay there.

Nancy felt lucky to be offered housing after fleeing family violence and was able to obtain some white goods with a family violence assistance package. Unfortunately it did not cover the costs relating to her sons' diagnosis of autism. They were waiting on family services for extra support and rang CSMC for help. She said it was a relief to be able to talk with someone who understands her situation.

Shamimi rang when she could no longer tolerate the harassment and abuse she and her children experienced from members of her extended family. The police became involved and she has had to relocate three times in the last two years. The trauma has impacted on her children's mental health, with two of them now in counselling.

She called again prior to Christmas when she had no presents for the children, very little food and barely enough petrol to get around. The costs of repeated relocations, with new school uniforms, books and equipment each time had eaten up her savings.

We provided Shamimi with support and information, and emergency relief for groceries, a Christmas hamper, toys for the children, school stationery packs and school costs.

Too many women are returning to situations of violence as a result of poverty and the lack of affordable accommodation. We work with other organisations to prevent families like Shamimi and her children from ever having to do that.



Additional barriers

Leaving family violence is almost always confronting and confusing to navigate but for people newly arrived in Australia, the extra layers of language barriers, unfamiliarity with the system, and often isolation from their extended family can exacerbate a bad situation. CSMC is being contacted by more women in these positions and assisting them well requires time and intensive ongoing support.

Single mothers speak out against poverty at a Forum at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre in Melbourne 15 October 2018. L-R: Juanita McLaren, Suzanne Baker, Liz Zanella and Kerry Arch.



"The sole parents safety net is shrinking!"

We have lost not only the benefit of a higher income on Parenting Payment Single when our youngest turns eight, we have also lost the tax offset for pensioners at tax time. The School Kids Bonus which helped us purchase expensive school books and uniforms and paid for camps and excursions, is gone. The Low Income Super Contribution was replaced with the Low Income Super Tax Offset. The Family Tax Benefit Indexation freeze until 2020 means that while the cost of living rises, Family Payments will fall further behind as families effectively become poorer. The Newstart payment is dismally low and has not increased in real terms for more than 20 years.

At this time in our nation's history, it seems we are going backwards. The protections provided for vulnerable single parents have been with us for half century but now the support they have provided is rapidly crumbling."

Kerry Arch, CSMC member and founder of United Sole Parents of Australia.

I am now re-partnered and will discontinue my membership. I have appreciated the support from CSMC and being part of the community for the last 7 years or so. Before I leave I'd like to make a donation to CSMC. You have always been great to communicate with and I appreciate your kind ways.

CSMC former member

Poverty

Single mothers living in poverty, whether they are working or not, increasingly experience crises that for those with greater resources would be everyday issues. A washing machine or refrigerator that breaks down becomes a catastrophe; not being able to put petrol in the car can mean that children have to stay home from school; and caring for ailing or disabled family members is additional pressure on the family. One mother described it as 'lurching from crisis to crisis'.

Living on a limited budget that doesn't cover the basic cost of living is a harrowing experience. Single mothers who are trying to live on Newstart are among the poorest families in Australia. Single mother headed households have been identified as the family unit most likely to live in poverty. Single mothers tell us that financial counsellors have said to them that 'budgeting isn't the issue: they simply don't have enough money to live on'. Single mothers are doing everything they possibly can to keep afloat financially, but too often something unplanned comes up and they are forced to choose between paying bills or buying groceries.

CSMC designed and posted a survey in September 2018 for single mothers across Australia to complete. Income and financial wellbeing are a significant component of the survey which also asks about employment and education, child support, housing, family law and family violence and the health and wellbeing of mothers and their children. With over 1000 responses, analysing and reporting on the data has been a considerable task. The report will be released at the end of 2019 and will be the final marker of our 50th celebration year.

Centrelink

Council of Single Mothers and their Children have become deeply concerned about the increasingly punitive and discriminatory policies affecting client interactions with Centrelink.

ParentsNext, JobActive and the Cashless Debit Card are three Centrelink related programs that are particularly demeaning for single mothers and in our view are significantly contributing to the growing rates of poverty in single mother families. Underpinning these and other programs is the Targeted Compliance Framework which permits the suspension and cessation of income support payments without regard to the impact on the children or the family as a whole. These penalties can lead to rent and other payments falling into arrears, children missing social events, school fees unpaid and so on. Distressingly, they are impacting some single mothers' mental health reserves to breaking point. We continue to work for change.

Standing up for better policy

CSMC has always written submissions to government and other relevant bodies, sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children (NCSMC).

This year we have expressed views on:

- ◆ The proposed expansion of the Cashless Debit Card (with NCSMC)
- ◆ The use of cross-examination in the Family Law particularly where family violence has occurred
- ◆ The next generation of employment services
- ◆ The inquiry into ParentsNext
- ◆ The Fair Work Commission's deliberation on the national minimum wage
- ◆ Australia's response to the Convention on the Rights of the Child through a joint submission with NCSMC to the UNICEF Report to the United Nations.



**Single
mothers
have your
say!**

www.csmc.org.au/2018-survey

Parents Next

The Senate inquiry into the Federal Government ParentsNext program generated feedback and concern from single mothers who were directly impacted. Women contacted us about being misinformed by ParentsNext providers, having their Centrelink payments suspended for apparent non-compliance, being denied exemptions for family violence or illness, being forced to participate in – and often pay for – unsuitable activities, and being made to travel long distances to attend appointments and activities. **The common thread was the humiliation and loss of dignity women felt at having their parenting scrutinised and their freedom to choose activities for their children curtailed.**

CSMC has been active in respect of ParentsNext since its trial phase. In this financial year, we worked with a coalition of concerned organisations and individuals to bring the issue to the attention of the public and to negotiate with the government and relevant department to bring about change. When the government announced a Senate Committee Inquiry into ParentsNext we posted a survey with NCSMC to enable parents in the program to express their views. We wove the early results of this into our submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry and later released a report on the survey. We supported single mothers tell their story to the media resulting in excellent coverage. We were invited to provide evidence to the Senate Committee further to our submission and were also asked to find and support single mothers to tell their stories to the Committee in confidence.

Our submission is on our website along with a detailed survey report on participant views of the program. Both can be found under the publication section.



Senators Watt and Siewert receiving a box of petitions relating to ParentsNext outside the Senate Committee hearing in Melbourne 27 February 2019. L-R: front - Senator Murray Watt, Ella Buckland (Convenor of the Facebook group 'Parents against ParentsNext' and initiator of the petition), Senator Rachael Siewert. Back - Sarah Squire (Head of Women's Research, Advocacy and Policy Centre at Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand), Terese Edwards (CEO, NCSMC), Jeremy Poxon (Unemployed Workers Union), and Jenny Davidson (CEO, Council of Single Mothers and their Children).

Tools for change

This year we have been creating an online self advocacy toolkit for single mothers across Australia to access and use. It is intended to help single mothers better understand their rights, and to increase their skills in representing themselves and their children. We know from our support services that single mothers face challenges negotiating with employers, government bureaucracies such as Centrelink, health services, schools and more.

The toolkit has been designed with input from members and will increasingly include podcasts and stories from real life to provide examples and inspire confidence. The Single Mothers Self-Advocacy Toolkit has been made possible through a grant from Gandel Philanthropy and we look forward to its release late in 2019.

Online support for rural single mums

With support from the Felton Bequest, the Victorian Women's Trust and the Westpac Foundation, CSMC has been exploring effective ways to support single mothers in rural communities. This work has highlighted particular challenges rural single mothers face both generally and in attempting to create support and friendship networks.

We engaged with key service provider groups in three rural communities in Victoria and while they were keen to work with us, we discovered many operate on stereotyped views of single mothers and had key information gaps. This led to a training program. We simultaneously engaged with local single mums and in one region created a closed Facebook group for local single mothers.

Growing capacity

This year CSMC has recorded a **20% growth** in contacts seeking support and information, reflecting our increased presence online and use of social media. Single mothers tell us they are pleased to be able to search our information resources and contact us at when it is convenient for them. Social networking (up 40%) and email/website contacts (up 58%) have increased to **1648** this year. Additional funding is enabling us to establish a new database and to employ another part-time Contact Worker in the new financial year.

Extra care required

Sarah has two now adult children on the autism spectrum. It has been a long haul as her husband left when the youngest was four and just diagnosed. She hasn't had much help raising her children and suffers depression as a consequence of trying to cope alone. Ironically, she could have had family support but was unable to move interstate due to a Court Order her husband obtained to prevent her moving. She doesn't have funds to challenge the order and hasn't been able to win support from legal aid. For Sarah, as for many other socially isolated single mothers caring for children with a disability, her best friend and greatest comfort is her little dog.



CSMC has been Sarah's first point of contact for many years, for moral support and assistance relating to services and advocacy for her children. We have linked her to local community disability services, carers' organisations, parent support groups and research programs. We also raise our concerns about the isolation and difficulties imposed on mothers such as Sarah by court judgements and orders at odds with the realities of their lives.

CSMC SERVICE CONTACTS

Major issues

Financial
hardship

20%

Homelessness
and housing

49%

Family violence
and assault

45%

Arrows and accompanying percentages show increases in issues of concern to the single mothers seeking our assistance, the rise in our service contacts this year and increases in the location of single mothers who contact us.

2925

single mothers contacted our support services.

Most had one or two children, with half the children at school and a third pre-schoolers

20%

Melbourne's
west

23%

Outer
metro

37%



231

families assisted with emergency food and housing relief.



COUNCIL OF SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN INC. 2018-2019 Financial Report

The accompanying notes form part of these financial reports

Balance sheet for the year ended 30 June 2019

	NOTE	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	2	135,041	41,184
Term deposits		125,000	75,000
Non-current assets			
Office furniture & equipment	3	3,137	4,521
Total Assets		263,178	120,705
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	4	14,754	9,144
Grants in advance	5	170,412	49,936
Provision for staff leave	6	46,688	45,962
Total Current Liabilities		231,854	105,042
Net Assets		31,324	15,663
Total Equity		31,324	15,663

Income statement for the year ended 30 June 2019

	NOTE	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
INCOME			
DET-DHHS core funding		223,888	216,125
Donations & Bequests		34,643	13,973
Grants		97,617	50,615
Interest received		2,722	1,338
Sundry income		314	384
TOTAL INCOME		359,184	282,435
EXPENSE			
Audit & finance fees		2,061	1,863
Board & volunteer expenses		504	548
Depreciation & losses on disposal		1,384	2,004
Fundraising ER distribution & expenses		4,933	4,515
Occupancy costs / office overheads		30,896	28,994
Planning & publicity		7,188	4,676
Project grant expenditure		97,617	50,615
Staffing costs		194,393	174,550
Stronger together newsletter		4,548	8,659
TOTAL EXPENSE		343,524	276,424
PROFIT FOR YEAR		15,660	6,011
LESS EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE			
Staff leave provision 2016-2017	6	-	13,000
Staff leave provision 2017-2018		-	6,962
TOTAL EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE		-	19,962
NET PROFIT / LOSS		15,660	(13,951)

COUNCIL OF SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN INC. 2018-2019 Financial Report

The accompanying notes form part of these financial reports

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Retained surplus (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2017	29,614	29,614
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(13,951)	(13,951)
Balance at 30 June 2018	15,663	15,663
Balance at 1 July 2018	15,663	15,663
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	15,660	15,660
Balance at 30 June 2019	31,323	31,323

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2019

	NOTE	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
Cash from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		356,462	280,756
Payments to suppliers & employees		(215,327)	(237,089)
Interest paid		2,722	1,338
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7(b)	143,857	45,005
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payment for plant & equipment		-	(1,500)
Payments for investments		(50,000)	(75,000)
Cash flows from investing activities		(50,000)	(76,500)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		93,857	(31,495)
Cash at beginning of financial year		41,184	72,679
Cash at end of financial year	7(a)	135,041	41,184

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019

1. Statement of significant accounting policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements

AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows

AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 1031 Materiality

AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards

AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated. **The full statement of accounting policies and the Auditors Report from Stephen Allen at Alkemade & Associates, are available on request.**

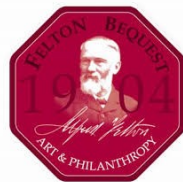
COUNCIL OF SINGLE MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN INC. 2018-2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 cont'd.

	2019	2018
	(\$)	(\$)
2. Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	108	338
Cash at bank	134,933	40,846
Term deposits	125,000	75,000
	260,041	116,184
3. Office furniture and equipment		
Office furniture & equipment at cost	17,559	17,559
Less accumulated depreciation	(14,422)	(13,038)
	3,137	4,521
4. Trade & other payables		
Trade payables	3,322	770
GST payable	4,781	4,175
Payroll liabilities payable - superannuation, PAYG, union fees	6,651	4,199
	14,754	9,144
5. Grants in advance		
DHHS Pathways to family violence work	8,708	-
Gandel Philanthropy	21,050	29,880
Office for Women	9,930	-
Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust	72,692	-
Ross Trust Emergency Relief	29,984	-
Ross Trust Capacity	18,848	-
Victorian Women's Trust	8,516	15,160
Other grants	684	4,897
	170,412	49,937
6. Employee provisions		
Annual leave	33,053	34,363
Long service leave	13,635	11,599
	46,688	45,962
7. Cash flow information		
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
Cash on hand	135,041	41,184
(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net profit		
Profit/loss from ordinary activities	15,660	(13,951)
Depreciation	1,384	2,004
Changes in assets & liabilities		
Increase/decrease in trade creditors	1,633	(2,211)
Increase/decrease in other creditor & accrued liabilities	124,454	39,200
Increase/decrease in provisions	726	19,962
Cash flows from operations	143,857	45,005

Thank you

The Council of Single Mothers and their Children receives invaluable support from Government, charitable foundations, trusts and philanthropists who together enable both our core support and policy work, build our capacity and make possible the extension of our reach to single mothers and their children in a variety of situations, locations and cultures. We thank them all.



Individuals and organisations who donate time, resources, skills and funds, enrich our organisation and the work we are able to do with and on behalf of single mother families. We thank:

- ◆ Speakers at our Anti-Poverty Week 2018 panel event *Solutions to entrenched poverty in single mother families* – Kerry Arch, Suzanne Baker, Juanita McLaren, and Liz Zanella
- ◆ Placement students – Breanna Large, Renee Fortune, Naomi Honeychurch, and Masa Mikola
- ◆ CSMC office & policy volunteers - Maureen Marshall, Helena Melton, Suzanne Baker, Irit Ziv
- ◆ QV Women's Centre for event spaces
- ◆ Cecilia Anthony & her team, Federal advocacy advice
- ◆ Ella Buckland, leadership in ParentsNext campaign
- ◆ Terese Edwards CEO, the National Council of Single Mothers and their Children, collaboration
- ◆ Sarah Lorimer, re-branding expertise
- ◆ Donors large and small
- ◆ Matthew Harris: guidance in construction and use of our new database
- ◆ Thatch @ Pretentia: website & social media
- ◆ Lant3k IT Solutions: support beyond their contract
- ◆ Langham Hotel: toys and prizes

- ◆ Circus Oz: free tickets for single mother families
- ◆ Progress Labs, leadership training and networking opportunities in the non-profit sector.

The value of the 3732 hours provided this year to CSMC by member volunteers, students, and pro-bono services at a nominal \$20 per hour, is \$74,640

Thank you for the tickets to Circus OZ It was my daughter's first live show to watch and she loved it.

CSMC member

Image attributions

Images have been sourced through Graphic Stock or Unsplash under licence or are photos that are the property of CSMC. Single mothers' names have been changed in all stories to respect their privacy.



**Council of Single Mothers
and their Children Inc.**

210 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
ARN: A0014618W
ABN: 28 796 387 679

W: www.csmc.org.au
Fb: [www.facebook.com/
councilofsinglemothers](https://www.facebook.com/councilofsinglemothers)
Tw: @CSMCVIC
E: csmc@csmc.org.au
P: 03 9654 0327

