

25 March, 2014 8:51AM AEDT

# New charity passes on pre-loved baby goods to families in need

By [Lily Partland](#)

**When Ballarat mother Erin Carman couldn't find an easy way to donate her pre-loved baby and children's gear, she decided to start her own charity to ensure it made its way into the home of somebody in need.**

Mother-of-two Erin Carman was at home in Sebastopol over her university break when she found herself with an excess of time and baby paraphernalia.

When she read about Melbourne-based charity St Kilda Mums, Erin realised she'd found a way to solve both problems.

"I went down and spoke to the CEO and asked if I could bring the organisation to Ballarat."

After spending three months learning about how the organisation worked, she started receiving donations in her shed last month and hasn't looked back.

There are three mothers on the committee and about 20 volunteers are on hand to help sort and package up donated goods.

Despite the help, Erin's had to take a year off from her textiles course to run the charity fulltime. But the 27-year-old is delighted to have found a cause she's passionate about.

"I know how hard it is to provide for your children and you want them to have the best. If I can help other families feel a sense of pride and dignity in the way they raise their children, then I'm really happy to do that."

Erin says the most sought after items are prams and cots.

"Demand always exceeds supply with cots. It's not something people are willing to give up or donate, yet it is the item that families need and can't afford."

Australia's high safety standards also mean they can be difficult items for other charities to donate to families. [Eureka Mums](#) is able to carry out the necessary safety checks so they can be safely passed on.

That's one of the reasons Erin says it's important donated items are in excellent condition.

"We want our clients to receive these items as gifts, not to feel like they're getting second-hand items but to feel like somebody really cares."

Berry Street's Shae Eva works with many families who face homelessness when they flee domestic violence or relationship breakdowns.

"They come to us with nothing but the clothes on their back. I'm not resourced to be able to meet their material needs so that's where an organisation like Eureka Mums comes in."

She says the donations make a real difference to the lives of the families she works with.

"The looks on their faces are priceless. To be able to think they're deserving enough to have these items - which are always in great condition and near new - it

just empowers them."

To donate new or high quality second-hand items email [donate@eurekamums.org](mailto:donate@eurekamums.org).



The founder of Eureka Mums Erin Carman (back) and Berry Street's Shae Eva (front) with some of the donated items in Erin's shed. ( Lily Partland - ABC Local)

## More from ABC Ballarat

[Home](#)

[Programs](#)

[News](#)

[Weather](#)

[Emergencies](#)

[Photos and Videos](#)

[Recipes](#)

---

[Top of the page](#)

---

[Change to standard view](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

© 2018 ABC