

ST KILDA

# Packed to rafters at warehouse

## VOLUNTEER GROUP NEEDS SECOND PREMISES

**Therese Allaoui**

ST KILDA Mums are being squeezed out of their St Kilda warehouse and are desperately trying to raise enough money to gain access to a second premises to stock their donations.

The huge and prolific volunteer organisation, which helps provide struggling parents with items including baby clothes, prams and toys, has been forced to stop accepting donations temporarily.

St Kilda Mums chief executive Jessica Macpherson said they were trying to raise \$67,000 to secure a second warehouse across the road from Vale St premises, saying the warehouse was becoming "dangerous".

Ms Macpherson said St Kilda Mums helped distribute about 23,000 items among 6500 families last year, and expected the figure to climb.

Goods are collected by the Mums, and then cleaned, repaired, labelled and packed, before charity and social workers take them from the warehouse to those in need.

"The prams and the car restraints especially all need to be cleaned, so we actually need a lot of our space for our volunteers to work, but also to be stored while in the process of being fixed," she said.

"Our warehouse is 200 sq m, but it's packed to the ceiling with donations, and every inch of the floor is cov-

ered with prams, and the shelves are all chockers.

"It's a real struggle for us at the moment, and it's not safe. Once it's full, there's nowhere to put anything, and we can't keep stacking stuff up."

Homeless aid organisation Launch Housing's deputy chief executive Heather Holst said since St Kilda Mums had grown it had been able to provide more assistance to clients.

"They're such a fantastic, respectful group, and anything which can help make their jobs easier, so they can do more, can only be great for all involved," she said.

**Find out more about how you can help, and the charity's work, via [stkildamums.org.au](http://stkildamums.org.au)**



St Kilda Mums volunteers Anneke Swift and Ihapa Hape can hardly move in the warehouse.