March 26 2020 - 7:30PM

Coronavirus in Ballarat: Eureka Mums continues to help families in need

Rochelle Kirkham

Babies do not stop being born during a pandemic. This not-for-profit organisation understands times of crisis can be when vulnerable families are most in need.
AT WORK: Eureka Mums staff are continuing to fulfil orders for families in need, while the warehouse is now closed to volunteers and community donations. Picture: Neil Para

Staff at Eureka Mums are continuing to work to provide essential baby and children's items to families during the coronavirus outbreak.

Operations manager Trinsa Lewis said the warehouse was now closed to volunteers and community members making donations, to reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus, and a limited number of staff were filling orders.

"We are still working with social workers and maternal health nurses to keep providing what we can while we can," she said.
The organisation has been asked to support 96 babies and children throughout Victoria. Of those, 36 are babies already born or due soon.

Ms Lewis said the coronavirus pandemic would be a challenging time for vulnerable families.

"Many are already finding it difficult as it is," she said.

"I know many families who need nappies just can't find them because people have been stock buying them and the families that need them but can only afford one packet at a time aren't able to buy them.

"Clothing and nappies are our biggest requests at the moment, but we are still helping families with newborn babies that are requesting the cots and prams they require."

**CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION:**

- The coronavirus explained: Everything you need to know
- The steps you should take if you think you might have coronavirus

Ms Lewis said for many mothers, it was a scary time to have a baby and look after children.

"You are being isolated even more by having to stay at home, so families are really feeling it mentally and financially," she said.

"These are the families who would be affected by losing casual work. It is a very hard time."

Instead of donations of goods during this time, Eureka Mums is seeking monetary donations to help keep up with demand for car seats, cots and prams.

"We appreciate not everyone can donate, but people could also knit blankets or squares and for families who are at home, take this opportunity to go through your items and if you can hold them until we are ready to start taking collections again that would be great," she said.

"We will keep going until we have nothing left so once we do open for donations again we will need them desperately.

"Thank you to all those who have been supporting us. We have some amazing people who have already given us a donation and added a bit more to their normal donation because they know it is a hard time for others.

"Just a little bit goes a long way, so we appreciate everybody's support."

Visit eurekamums.org/ to donate.

The Courier has removed our paywall from our stories relating to the health and safety of the community in regards to the coronavirus. This is a rapidly changing situation and we aim to make sure our readers are as informed as possible. If you would like to support our journalists you can subscribe here.