NEWS

Demand for help to grow

Expansion to help more needy families

BY MICHELLE SMITH

EUREKA Mums is doubling other goods, one "tinker" in size to be able to better fixing prams and other items, support families in need around Ballarat.

The charity is currently closed for donations while renovations are carried out to expand their warehouse in lockdown is likely to delay Sebastopol after a business sharing the front of their building moved out earlier were due to be working on this year.

The new footprint will be a little over double the space the charity had previously, and allow for better social distancing, more volunteers and more storage for donated items.

"We've been pretty squashed for quite a while but last year when we were them, but with more volallowed to have volunteers unteers we'll be able to sort back in, social distancing was really hard and we had to reduce the number of volunteers we could bring list any more." back in because we didn't have the space," said Eureka JobKeeper and JobSeeker Mums operations manager Trinsa Lewis.

more volunteers back in their babies and children. because we can social distance better."

could only have three "bundlers" sorting clothes and and two staff members. Ms Lewis expects those numbers to double when the new space opens.

This week's statewide the reopening slightly, to early March, as tradespeople the renovations over the past few days.

But because it is an essential service, it remains open for social workers to access goods for families in need.

"We were having to stop donations because we were overflowing and didn't have volunteers to go through through items a lot quicker and hopefully we won't have to put families on a waiting

With the phasing out of payments Ms Lewis expects an increase in the number "This will allow us to have of families needing help for lot more coming to us now

"Families were assisted by the fact that JobKeeper In the old space, social and JobSeeker were around those various supports, in



GROWING: Beck Moss and Trinsa Lewis in the older section of Eureka Mums' Sebastopol warehouse before this week's statewide 'circuit-breaker' lockdown. Picture: Kate Healy

because those supports have disappeared," she said.

"Despite lockdowns and distancing rules meant they and we suspect we will get a the past 12 months we have

helped just as many families as before." Ms Lewis said the expansion meant more volunteers would be needed, as well as more donations and fundraising to cover the in-

creased rent and power bills. "We try to minimise all our ongoing costs but rent and power are the two we can't have donated or get goods in kind with so there's definitely

need for untied financial donations," she said.

Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up to the Eureka Mums newsletter for details.