



## GEELONG MUMS

**“Stronger Communities, Safer Families”**

### **ORGANISATION OVERVIEW:**

Established in 2013 by volunteers, Geelong Mums exists to provide babies and children experiencing disadvantage with the essential nursery equipment and clothing they need for a safe start in life. We collect and safety-check nursery equipment including cots, prams, and car seats, clothing, books and toys from the community.

We receive requests from Maternal & Child Health Nurses and social workers on behalf of families. We then meet or exceed each request with quality donations. The families we help are experiencing a multitude of disadvantages including family violence, homelessness, unemployment, illness and disability, and refugee, migrant and indigenous families. Our material aid not only keeps the children in those families safe, but also provides parents and caregivers with dignity, choice and the means to connect with support services and their community.

### **HOW THE GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED:**

#### **Salaries – volunteer co-ordinator and capital items – equipment for volunteers to repair items**

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, Geelong Mums has seen its volunteer pool diminish. As with most charities around the nation, restrictions, lockdowns, health concerns and safety fears have all resulted in fewer volunteers returning to support the important work we do. This in turn has had an impact on the volume of material goods we can process in any given day, risking the wellbeing of more than 6,000 babies and children each year. As a volunteer-led charity, without the support of the community, we simply cannot do what we do without people power.

Traditionally, word of mouth has always been the primary way we have engaged with new volunteers, but now we need to try new ways to engage the community. The Stronger Communities, Safer Families project will aim to recharge and reinvigorate our volunteer program, welcoming existing volunteers back to the warehouse and attracting new volunteers to our mission. Through investing in volunteering, we can build stronger communities and ensure community wellbeing by providing a safe start in life for more vulnerable babies and children.

**Note: Geelong Mums is a recipient of a Geelong Community Foundation grant for 2021/22.**