Challenging disadvantage together

Strategic Plan 2017-2020

council of
single mothers
and their
children
2017-2020 priorities: Strengthening our futures

**PRIORITY 1:**
A secure income

It is unacceptable for 33% of single mother families to live in poverty. We want the welfare system to better support single mothers at every stage: at home with children, seeking employment, and working to secure financial independence.

**PRIORITY 2:**
Diverse employment and education opportunities that complement family responsibilities

We will work with employers and organisations to cultivate a range of employment opportunities that suit single mothers’ care responsibilities, and support access to further education, training and accessible children.

**PRIORITY 3:**
Safe, affordable and appropriate housing

Single mother families are among the most vulnerable in the housing market. We work with government and other stakeholders to facilitate innovative and collaborative solutions to the lack of housing and discrimination in the housing market.

**PRIORITY 4:**
Legal protection in Family Law matters

We seek more equitable laws and better information, support and treatment of single mothers in court, in relation to concerns for their children’s well-being and their own future.

**PRIORITY 5:**
Wellbeing and resilience of single mothers

We seek to foster the wellbeing of single mothers and reinforce their resilience, capabilities and capacity to parent in order to overcome the negative impacts of entrenched poverty, family violence and social exclusion.

**PRIORITY 6:**
Children’s wellbeing

Single mothers are a highly diverse group with one key commonality: the well-being of our children. CSMC works to ensure the children of single mothers have every opportunity to reach their potential.
Our vision
A society where single mother families are valued and treated equally and fairly.

Our purpose
As a non-profit organisation run by and for single mothers, we exist to improve their lives and those of their children. We achieve change by championing the voices and needs of single mother families, challenging structural barriers to equality, and providing services that support women parenting alone.

Our aim
To build a society that values single mothers for their contribution to their children and the community; treats them with respect and dignity; ensures their financial security with access to choices that complement their family life, including employment and education; and provides affordable and appropriate housing.

Our goals
In 2017-2020, we are working towards economic, social and legal equality and well-being for all single mothers and their children.

How we work
We engage with the lived experience of single mothers, respecting their diversity and valuing their opinions. We listen to single mothers, affirm their resourcefulness, enhance their resilience and encourage informed decision making. We foster connections in communities and with other single mother families.

Key action 1: Inspire single mothers from all demographics to engage with CSMC and support them with valuable programs, resources and connections.

We challenge structural disadvantage through working from a feminist perspective to represent the lived experiences of single mother families. We engage with research, and contribute energetically to public policy to find the best solutions to barriers single mother families encounter.

Key action 2: Influence outcomes in policy and practice through collaborative projects, policy advice and advocacy.

We collaborate to optimise our impact, working with government, community, business and other stakeholders. This enables us to maximise our impact and achieve the best outcomes for single mother families.

Key action 3: Be focused and effective in leveraging our reputation, expertise and resources to maximise our contribution to achieving economic, social and legal equality for single mothers and their children.
The Council of Single Mothers and their Children Vic (CSMC) is a non-profit organisation run by and for single mothers to improve their lives and that of their children.

CSMC advocates for the rights and interests of single mother families, focusing on poverty, social security, child support, family law and housing, and provides specialist support services.