

Store opens at Wilcannia to offer affordable quality clothing locally

Residents of the small town of Wilcannia can now shop locally for affordable and stylish clothes at the town's new recycled clothing store.

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes has established the social enterprise within its branch office in Reid Street.

The Wilcannia fashion store Cooe Clothing had its first trading days earlier this month and attracted residents needing a wardrobe refresh.

The social enterprise stocks recycled clothing for women, children, and men, as well as a small selection of accessories and gift items.

CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes chief executive officer Anne-Marie Mioche said the organisation had started the recycled fashion store to meet a community need.

"Clothing is an essential item but until now there's been no local shop selling clothing," Ms Mioche said.

"We have started this store within our branch to make quality clothing available at an affordable price."

The recycled clothing store complements another CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes Cooe social enterprise.

Coee Cuts is an affordable hair salon that operates one week every month from the CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes branch office.

The Coee social enterprises are funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Office for Women and Catholic charity Mary Ward International Australia.

The initiatives provide training for women and girls in the areas of life skills and job readiness, in communities that often lack those opportunities.

"In our first days of trade we have received great feedback about the quality, range and pricing of items for sale," Ms Mioche said.

"Community members have also had the chance to say hello to our social enterprise assistant Merica, who has been recruited for the fashion store."

Coee Clothing is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm in normal weeks, and during the Coee Cuts week of each month, Coee Clothing will open four days a week.

Ends.....

Photos attached. Captions:

IMG_0043 CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes's Coee Clothing opens with social enterprise assistant Merica Kerwin and CCWF manager delivery and safeguarding (Healthy Relationships – SistaCare) Christine L'Estrange ready to serve customers.

IMG_0038 Coee Clothing, a social enterprise of CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes, brings affordable quality clothing and a small selection of gifts to Wilcannia.

IMG_0039a Some of the children's and women's clothing stocked by Coee Clothing, a social enterprise store operating in the Wilcannia branch of CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes.

IMG_0040a Coee Clothing opens to enable Wilcannia residents to shop locally for affordable and stylish clothes.

Media contact: CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes media officer Faye Wheeler – 0455 262 468