

CLOSING DOWN: Left in limbo as store goes into administration



Tessa Mapstone | 21st Aug 2017 12:45 PM



CLOSING DOWN: Bubs Baby Stores have gone into voluntary administration.

John Farmer

COAST parents Jesse and Vanessa Serrell had no idea anything was wrong when they went into a Coast store to pay their lay-by down on Wednesday.

On Thursday they discovered through the Bubs Baby Shops Facebook page the company had gone into receivership after 17 years in business.

The couple is expecting their third baby in two months had spent \$160 on a lay-by cot, but when they went into the Maroochydore store on Saturday to try and finalise the payments and collect their cot they were told that was not possible.

"They wouldn't release our lay-by even if we paid the outstanding amount, and even though it was there out the back of the store," he said.

The couple had tried phoning the store on Friday, but received no answer, and when they went to the Maroochydore shop found it closed.

On another visit on Saturday they were able to get inside, but still got no answers.

"We were told we could buy stuff off the floor and we could contact (administrators) Worrells to try and get our money back," he said.

Desperately in need of a cot and with floor-stock heavily discounted, Mr Serrell dismantled a display model of the same cot and bought it for \$300.

Bubs Baby Shops posted a message on its Facebook page on Friday saying the shop went into voluntary administration as of Thursday.

"If you have unused gift vouchers or credit notes, or are paying off products through a lay-by agreement, you must register your details to bubsbabystores@worrells.net.au," the message read.

"The administrators will then contact you with further information.



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"We will be having a closing down sale and all stock must go."

Mr Serrell said he had contacted Worrells but was not confident he would get the money he had paid out on the lay-by back.

"We're some of the luckier ones, people who have spent thousands will be in limbo now," he said.

"That \$160 could be a car seat that we need for our new

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Contributed

baby, or it could have been two weeks worth of groceries, because we've already got two more kids.

"We're kicking ourselves that we didn't get it off lay-by on Wednesday."

Bubs Baby Shops had two stores on the Sunshine Coast, in Maroochydore and Noosa.



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