

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** VIEW Clubs

**From:** VIEW National Office

**Date:** June 2017

**Re:** The 2020 *Learning for Life* Growth project



## I've heard that The Smith Family has received funding from the government – what's that all about?

The Smith Family's ambition is to grow the reach of its *Learning for Life* program to support more disadvantaged students.

To this end The Smith Family has been actively advocating to key stakeholders including governments as to the effectiveness of the program.

The Australian Government has recognised the value and merit of our *Learning for Life* program and committed \$48 million over four years towards it.

This funding is an acknowledgement of the proven effectiveness of The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program and the resulting improved educational outcomes for the disadvantaged students it supports.

The funding will enable The Smith Family to enhance its capacity and capabilities to support 24,000 **new** students to access the *Learning for Life* program.

A three way partnership, between government, the broader Australian public and The Smith Family, will ensure the ongoing support for these students, as sponsors are brought on during this four year period.

## Does this mean The Smith Family doesn't need VIEW Club funds anymore?

More than ever, The Smith Family is encouraging VIEW Clubs to continue its valued support, as well as seeking support more broadly from the Australian public.

There are more than 1.1 million children and young people living in poverty in Australia. At present The Smith Family reach 33,000 disadvantaged children with its *Learning for Life* program. Thanks to supporters like VIEW Clubs and the general Australian public, these children can participate in the *Learning for Life* program.

The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program is based on the provision of long term support for disadvantaged students.

The Smith Family will need thousands more sponsors to support the new students being recruited to participate in *Learning for Life*.

The Australian Government funding will in part enable The Smith Family to undertake activity to help it attract more sponsors to support the 24,000 **new** students.

**The ongoing support of these sponsors will be the key to ensuring sustainability of the program over time, long after the government funding has concluded.**

## Will the funds be paid directly to families?

No the funds will not be paid directly to the families. New sponsors will enable regular payments through the scholarship program to the families.

The funding provides The Smith Family with the capacity to offer its educational support program to an additional 24,000 disadvantaged students. It also will support the attraction of sponsors – because a sponsor will be needed for every additional child brought on to the *Learning for Life* program. They are essential to ensure that we can meet our commitment to these children on a long-term basis.

The funding will enable The Smith Family to:

- **Attract and retain sponsors** – develop new markets to attract new sponsors on an ongoing basis
- **Build and enhance our on the ground practice** – recruit supporting team members (eg supporter care, sponsorship team), training and skill development of team members. As well as match a Smith Family team member to each of the 24,000 new sponsored students, whose role is to support their long-term participation in education
- **Sustainability** – improve current processes/systems, better technology to support our programs and data-driven implementation. Cover the cost of the short-term educational programs provided as required to these new students

### Does this mean The Smith Family will now get most of its funding from Government?

No. The Australian government funding will be received proportionately over four years ending in June 2020.

The Smith Family is predominantly funded by the Australian public. Along with the support of these individuals, The Smith Family also benefit from the support of Corporations, Universities, Trusts and Foundations and from the members of VIEW Clubs of Australia.

Every supporter is important to The Smith Family. They are the reason why The Smith Family can do its work throughout Australia.

The Smith Family also runs a Recycling Operation in (NSW and ACT) as a commercial enterprise that contributes its surpluses to The Smith Family's infrastructure costs.

In the last financial year, 82 cents in every dollar of funds raised was spent on Smith Family community programs.

The Smith Family works with governments in every State and Territory and also federally where the government funding and the program activity relates specifically to its mission. The Smith Family mission is to create opportunities for disadvantaged young Australians to participate in their education, so they can achieve the futures they deserve.

### Is The Smith Family prepared as an organisation to achieve this significant growth?

Yes. The Smith Family is confident of achieving this growth because they have:

- tested, trialled and successfully implemented new delivery models and team roles instrumental to supporting students while maintaining quality delivery.
- launched a new sponsorship model (in January 2016) that will support sponsorships to become sustainable over time.
- invested in our capability as a data-informed and data-driven organisation enabling strategic, responsive and effective work practices, and
- a shared commitment across The Smith Family and a mission-driven culture that will assure our success.

The Smith Family is confident it can deliver on its commitment.

### **What happens after the Australian government funding ceases in 2020?**

By June 2020, The Smith Family will have recruited the sponsors needed to support on an ongoing basis the 24,000 new students.

The long term support coming from sponsors, (including VIEW Clubs), for these students will be the key to ensuring we can continue to support them, long after the government funding has concluded.

### **Does this mean we no longer need to sponsor our *Learning for Life* student(s)?**

No. This Government funding does not affect your VIEW Club's sponsorship at all.

Your Club's ongoing support helps your sponsored student/s to attend school and stay engaged while there. They will continue to benefit from the *Learning for Life* program and achieve the improved outcomes that this program makes happen.

Your sponsorship will remain as is and you will continue to receive information about your students' progress and enjoy the ability to correspond with them.

### **What else can VIEW Clubs do to help?**

The Smith Family needs more Australians to understand the challenges faced by disadvantaged students and the positive impact of improved educational outcomes for a child's future.

VIEW Club members located in over 320 communities play a valuable role in advocating for disadvantaged children in their local communities. VIEW Club members are vital in spreading this message and attracting new sponsors – particularly where The Smith Family does not yet have a presence.

More than ever the support of VIEW can make a difference to students and families in need across Australia.

### **What outcomes are The Smith Family and *Learning for Life* program delivering ?**

The average attendance rates of *Learning for Life* primary school students is 90.7%.

Seven out of 10 disadvantaged young people on the program are completing Year 12.

Since 2012-2015, *Learning for Life* has enabled over 6,500 disadvantaged young Australians to finish Year 12.

More than four-in-five (84%) former *Learning for Life* students were engaged in employment, education or training, a year after leaving the program.

These results are boosting the long-term employment and social participation outcomes of disadvantaged young Australians.

In 2015-16, The Smith Family reached 127,424 children young people parents, carers and community professionals.