

MEMORANDUM

To: All VIEW Members

From: VIEW National Office

Date: July 2017

Re: FAQ – Increase of Annual Membership Subscription Fee



At the June National Council meeting, National Council agreed to enable VIEW to continue to provide members with the same level of services and benefits the Annual Membership Subscription fee would increase in January 2018. Below is an FAQ covering questions members may have in relation to this increase.

When was the last time the Annual Membership Subscription was increased?

The last Annual Membership Subscription increase was January 2013. It was increased from \$10 to \$15, an increase of \$5.00.

What is the Annual Membership Subscription increasing to and when?

The Annual Membership Subscription is increasing from \$15.00 to **\$20.00**.

The \$5.00 increase will take effect from **1 January 2018**.

How often is the Annual Membership Subscription reviewed?

The Annual Membership Subscription is reviewed every two years by National Council.

In 2015 the National Council agreed that in light of the cost saving initiatives implemented in 2012 and the general focus of reducing costs where possible, that the annual membership subscription and Joining fee would remain unchanged.

It has been five years since the last Annual Membership Subscription increase.

Why is the Annual Membership Subscription increasing?

The cost of individual membership is currently \$15.00, and has been so for the last five years, yet every year the costs of running our clubs are rising.

It is necessary to ensure that:

- VIEW is able to continue to provide members with the customary level of services and benefits.
- The Annual Membership Subscription keeps pace with the increased cost of living, which in recent years has been consistently rising.
- The increasing operational and running costs of VIEW do not affect The Smith Family's core responsibilities of assisting disadvantaged children and their families.

Is the joining fee increasing as well?

No. The Joining Fee will not increase and will remain at \$20.00.

New members will continue to receive their name badge and Welcome to VIEW brochure

What does the Annual Membership Subscription cover?

The Annual Membership Subscription contributes to the following VIEW operational and running costs:

- Dedicated team of VIEW staff based in The Smith Family National Office

- Printed copies of the following stationery items: order books, club certificates, raffle books, receipt books, club cash books – any ‘day to day’ item for club administrative use
- Development of VIEW promotional materials including design and production; VIEW essence cards, VIEW display banners, flyers, brochures, A4 & A3 posters, VIEW A4 letterhead
- Maintaining VIEW Website, VIEW database and social media accounts
- Postage of monthly mail outs, including VIEW merchandise and other VIEW materials and Smith Family brochures
- Producing club guidelines, including electronic cashbook, treasurer’s guide, cashbook guidelines, audit processes, Councillor’s and Club handbook, National Minutes.
- Publishing, printing and postage of two VIEW Matters magazines per year
- Providing Media and Public Relations support
- 1800 free call number for members and teleconference facilities for Councillors
- Insurance – The Smith Family maintains both public liability and personal accident insurance for its volunteers which include VIEW club members. Claims are subject to the Terms, Conditions and Exclusions of the Policies
- Organising National events
- Providing free 30, 40 and 50 year service pins to members.

Have the National Council taken into consideration the effect of this increase on all VIEW members?

National Council understands financial circumstances of many of our members in every State and Territory of Australia, and appreciates the lengths that many go to, their generosity of time and commitment to VIEW and their support to the education of disadvantaged Australian children through The Smith Family.

The wonderful generosity of our valued members is greatly appreciated and National Council felt that, our members would understand the reasons for increasing the membership fees for the first time since 2013.

What will it cost a new member to join VIEW in 2018?

New Members joining from 1 January 2018 will pay:

Joining Fee (one off fee) \$20.00

Annual Subscription fee \$20.00

Total \$40.00

Where can I get an updated Membership Application form?

Updated Membership Application forms will be available on the VIEW website from 1 January. A copy will also be included in the January mailout. Club Secretary and Treasurer should ensure copies are available for new members.