

## Welcome to 2018 – we look forward to another exciting year ahead

Annette, Pat and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you were able to spend quality time with your friends and family and are now feeling refreshed and ready for another great year in VIEW.

### Firstly, Thank you .... for all your efforts in the lead up to Christmas

#### Christmas Wrapping



Thank you to all members who were involved in Christmas Wrapping at local shopping centres providing a valuable service, promoting VIEW Clubs to prospective members, and raising funds, so far over \$15,000. Please inform National Office ([view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)) of the details and results of your Christmas wrapping activities. In this way we are able to record the great contribution you have all made.

Thank you also to all the members who supported **The Smith Family Toy and Book Appeal**, this year raising \$66,000, allowing 1,100 children to enjoy something special under the Christmas tree.



**The Smith Family Christmas Appeal.** As of 7 January, the Christmas Appeal has raised \$3.44m, leaving only \$274,000 required by 31 January to hit our \$3.72m goal. Funds raised to date will help to provide 8,193 disadvantaged students with the extra learning support they need to make the most of their education.!

The National Executive's 2018–19 theme is '**Make Connections, Make a Difference**', and we look forward to assisting VIEW members to connect with The Smith Family and others in their communities, enabling us to grow our membership and provide better life outcomes for more disadvantaged Australian children and young people.

#### International Women's Day (IWD) events throughout Australia

Many regional areas and individual clubs are busy arranging their International Women's Day events for 8 March 2018. This's year theme is **#PressforProgress**. Now, more than ever, there's a strong call-to-action to press forward and progress gender parity. Motivate and unite friends, colleagues and whole communities to think, act and be gender inclusive.

I encourage members to support their club and Zone/Area IWD functions and invite other women in the community to join you. For updates on IWD events in your Zone/Area, contact your Zone or National Councillor or check the website (your Club page has a list of all advised events in your State).

We look forward to hearing about and seeing all the wonderful photos taken at the VIEW events in 2018, including State and regional IWD functions in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

#### Promoting VIEW in the community & attracting new members

Every club needs new members in order to be vibrant and active. New members introduce new ideas, bring fresh perspectives and extend your club's reach in the community. We all need to be welcoming new members. Potential members may be your friends, business/work acquaintances, family members or even someone you have just met.

The beginning of the year is an excellent opportunity to attract new members and there are a number of ways you can do this, by:

- Placing a Media Release with local media outlets. We have included “***New Year VIEW: Opportunity to support children in need with other local [area] women***” media release with this mailout and I encourage all Clubs to use this;
- Actively using social media such as Facebook to promote your club’s upcoming events and activities; and
- Keeping your VIEW Club’s webpage up to date with your correct contact details and community.

For more information or helpful suggestions, please contact your Zone or National Councillor, who will be most happy to help you with ideas and information. Remember, VIEW National Office has a number of promotional materials available: posters, brochures, essence cards (at no cost to clubs). Simply email [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).

### **New Year’s Challenge – Take on a leadership role**



Do you have a New Year’s resolution? If not, you may like to consider this - Have you thought about taking on a role in your club’s Committee, or stepping up to a leadership role in the organisation as Zone or National Councillor in 2018.

New Committee members bring new ideas and learn new skills. It’s a fun and rewarding experience. You meet more wonderful VIEW members and gain the satisfaction of *making connections and making a difference* in your community. Remember members who have a role to play in the club are more engaged and more likely to stay in it.

If you have already been on your Club Committee, then encourage someone else... they may just be waiting to be asked. Healthy clubs have new members who are excited and happy to join their committees... Go on, encourage someone in your club to give it a go!

Annette, Pat and I are excitedly looking forward to meeting many of our valued VIEW members throughout the year, enjoying some of your special events and sharing updated information with you.

Best regards

Jan Roberts  
National President -2018-19