

“Making Connections Makes a Difference”

Welcome to your new VIEW Executive E-Newsletter! Every quarter, we'll be bringing you news about what's being happening with VIEW and The Smith Family through this E-news. We hope you enjoy it!

OUT AND ABOUT WITH YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

It's been a busy start to the year. In January, we were excited to head to Sydney for several days of orientation and induction to our new roles. We were able to meet The Smith Family's CEO, Doug Taylor and several other senior staff. We learnt so much about The Smith Family and felt genuine appreciation for the work of VIEW. Please keep up your fundraising and volunteering – it really is making a difference to students and their families.

In February, we attended our first “official” event as the VIEW National Executive – and it is one we will always remember - a cocktail party at Admiralty House in Sydney as the guests of Their Excellencies, The Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley and his wife, VIEW Patron, Linda Hurley. The function was an auspicious occasion, one of many to celebrate 100 Years of The Smith Family. You can read more about the function in the upcoming VIEW Matters magazine due out in April. We were honoured to represent all VIEW members at this special celebration for donors, corporate partners, volunteers and supporters of The Smith Family.



Marg Woodhouse & Wendy Harmer

One thrill we all had at the event was to meet and talk with the wonderful Wendy Harmer, a Smith Family centenary champion! As you would expect, she was a hoot! Marg even got

to sing “You are my Sunshine” to her! We're so excited that she will be attending the VIEW National Convention later this year. Mrs Hurley was also a delight, singing a song about The Smith Family and VIEW to all guests! We are really very lucky to have Mrs Hurley as our Patron.

In March, we joined clubs in celebrating International Women's Day. Marg and Evelyn attended several different functions in Victoria and Queensland and thoroughly enjoyed meeting members and learning

more about club activities. It was great to see members being able to get together again for this important day in the VIEW calendar. Congratulations to everyone who organised and participated in IWD events. You can read more about IWD events in the VIEW Matters April 2022 issue – coming soon!



Area QC Gold Coast

March also brought the devastating floods in Queensland and Northern NSW. We have been in touch with clubs in the areas affected. Sadly, a number of members and their families lost their homes or were temporarily displaced. We are offering support and assistance where possible. Our thoughts are with all those impacted, including our members and *Learning for Life* students and families.

Finally, just a few days ago Marg joined the SA Up, Up and Away forum via Zoom. This was a great opportunity to learn more about what VIEW Clubs in South Australia are doing. Well done for all your great fundraising!

We'll leave you with this photo taken at the Admiralty House event under grey skies!

Take care, Your VIEW National Executive



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO IN VIEW

These are some messages from *Learning for Life* students and families that have been shared by The Smith Family with you, their sponsors.



"I am forever grateful that you are allowing and assisting me in achieving my dreams as a paramedic. Thank you so much! I will never forget the help that you have provided. You are a major reason why I am able to do what I love." Channie, 20 years old



We are thankful for your support as this helps Brooke to have books, the proper uniform and participate in school trips and excursions. This has made Brooke more confident and happy to attend school. Thank you, your support is much appreciated and helps more than you know." Brooke's carer

I am very thankful for everything [my sponsors] do to support me, I am very grateful to have them in my life and they motivate me to do better every day so that one day I can also help kids who need it." Marwa, 14 years old

HOW YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For *Learning for Life* student, Jason, his buddy became his learning lifeline.

With learning difficulties and family hardship, remote learning during the pandemic was challenging for Jason. His internet connection was often down because upgrades were underway on local phone towers. This meant for weeks Jason was forced to read and complete remote lessons on a small, prepaid smartphone.

He could have been cut off from learning completely in the lockdown. But thanks to amazing supporters like you, Jason was invited to join The Smith Family's student2student reading program. He began working with a student buddy, who called two or three times a week, to help him with reading.

Reading out loud with a buddy became Jason's learning lifeline. It was more fun – and less stressful – than squinting at words on his mum's smartphone. "Jason's a maths kid – he's not a reading kid," says

Courtney, his mother. "But student2student made a huge improvement to his literacy."

Your contributions to The Smith Family mean students like Jason have the tools and learning support they need to succeed at school! Thank you!



SOME INTERESTING STATS FROM THE SMITH FAMILY

The Smith Family tracks long-term progress of *Learning for Life* students against four long-term outcomes:

1. School attendance
2. Completion of Year 12 or equivalent
3. Continuation and completion of tertiary studies
4. Post school engagement in education, training or work

The outcomes:

68% of *Learning for Life* students in Year 10 in 2018 advanced to Year 12 in 2020.

94% of sponsored students continued from first year to second year study at University in 2020-21.

79% four in five students who left in years 10-12 were working and/or studying 12 months after leaving the program.

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE SMITH FAMILY!



Volunteering with The Smith Family is another way you can make a real difference to students in need.

VIEW members Anna and Kathy from Perth recently shared their

experiences as Smith Family Learning Club volunteers.

Anna has been a Learning Club volunteer for two years, tutoring students after school one day a week.

“Some children have difficulty learning and concentrating,” she says. “But it’s really rewarding. I can be another person in a child’s life who cares about them and their learning.”

Anna loves helping at Learning Club and suggests others who are interested should give it a try.

“The schools are always looking for volunteers,” she says. “If I can make the slightest difference to a child’s life then it’s worth it.”

Read more about Anna and Kathy’s volunteering here: <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/stories/volunteers/anna-and-kathys-story>

The Smith Family also has another volunteering opportunity for VIEW members...and it can be done from home! The student2student program is seeking volunteers for one weekend between May 2nd -28th October to man the out-of-hours child protection hotline. Calls are rare, but the service needs to be covered over weekends. Can you help?

Email: paula.tinker@thesmithfamily.com.au

Contact view@thesmithfamily.com.au if you would like to learn more about other volunteering opportunities.

PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

VIEW Clubs always have great fundraising ideas. The latest popular activity is Paint ‘N Sip afternoons where members come together to learn to paint, while enjoying an afternoon drink and raising funds for The Smith Family!

Hobart VIEW Club (TAS) and Macarthur Evening VIEW Club (NSW) are two clubs who have raised funds for their *Learning for Life* students with this fun activity!



CAN YOU HELP US?

- ◆ We are eager to share your wonderful activities and learn about your clubs and always enjoy reading about events and members in your newsletters. Please forward them to us!
- ◆ Now is the time to send your latest committee photos, contacts and emails to admin@view.org.au to be uploaded to the VIEW website. It is important we keep your websites up to date, but we need your help. Don’t forget to showcase your club with photos and articles about your activities. Remember, a club email is the preference rather than a personal email which can change often.
- ◆ Please send your Committee Lists to National Office (view@thesmithfamily.com.au) so they can update your information.