

Your Support Real Impact

Real stories of change made possible by you.



"Thank you for showing us what we could be in the future."

Inside this issue – all thanks to you.

- Setting the stage for brighter futures
- The right support transforms sisters' lives

**2026 Spring
Supporter Edition**



**The Smith
Family**

Learn today, change tomorrow.

Scan to watch
the full story

SmArts participants in acting workshop

Opening doors to creative futures

When 30 excited children stepped into the Ensemble Theatre to begin their *SmArts* course, they couldn't imagine the magic the coming days would hold.

Each student was there because they were considering a career in the arts. But almost a third had never had the chance to see a live theatre production before, let alone be part of one.



SmArts participant in character workshop

SmArts changed that, thanks to support like yours.

The experience began with a backstage tour, taking in everything from prop stores to rehearsal rooms and ending up on stage.

"It was perfect, standing up there under the lights," said Year 11 student Sulaf.

"It's the best thing that's ever happened to me," agreed Hajar, from Year 8. "We experienced what it's like to be backstage and see all the special effects."

Over four days, the students tried their hands at every aspect of theatre production. They took part in fun, practical workshops on lighting, set and

costume design. Had masterclasses in acting and directing. Then developed their own characters and performed them on stage.

As well as building confidence and exploring new creative talents, the students got clear, practical advice from professionals and had all their questions answered.

"I'm going to use this experience to help me be a great actress," said Sulaf.

"I'm going to take the advice that it's better to have multiple skills to lean into," added Tigui, in Year 10. "I have so many things I'd like to do."

If you can see it, you can be it.

SmArts is one of several career-focused programs available to students, thanks to wonderful supporters like you. These are so important at this time of year, when students make choices about their elective subjects for years 9–12.

Hajar, Sulaf, Tigui and the other *SmArts* participants are making their choices with a clear understanding of what's possible. They have the guidance, confidence and aspiration they need to set goals for their future and achieve their dreams.

That's the kind of support that helps children transform their lives.

80% of students agreed they have increased their creative skills through participating in SmArts.



© Karen Watson

A weight lifted, two futures transformed

Two sisters race up to their mum, eager to share what happened at *Learning Club* today.

"We're making a city out of recycled materials! I'm building houses," says Nevaeh (9).

"I made a hospital," adds her sister, Serenity (8). "It's so fun."

Seeing her girls' love of learning "means the world" to Tesa, who had to leave school at 17 to help support her family. Determined that her daughters will have the opportunities she missed out on, she puts their education above all else.

"Education is key, so that's my priority," Tesa says.

But supporting her girls' education hasn't always been easy, with the daily challenges caused by financial hardship. So, when Nevaeh and Serenity's school connected them with The Smith Family, Tesa says, "it was a weight off my mind."

"It means the world to the girls that someone's out there supporting them."
– Tesa, mum of Nevaeh and Serenity

Nevaeh and Serenity joined a *Learning Club*, and now it's their favourite part of the week.

Every Wednesday after school, they join other students for fun activities that build teamwork and problem-solving skills, like making the recycled city. They also make lots of new friends and

Nevaeh and Serenity
Learning Club students

get crucial help with schoolwork from skilled volunteers. It's helped them catch up and feel much more confident.

"*Learning Club* has really helped my girls with maths and writing," says Tesa. "It's helped Neveah focus on schoolwork. Serenity was very shy, and it's really helped her open up."

"It's helped me get ready for NAPLAN," adds Serenity.

At *Learning Club*, program manager Kimberly noticed Serenity needed some extra support with her reading. She suggested Serenity join *student2student*, so she can practice reading every week with a buddy close to her age. The ever-eager student jumped at the chance.

"I did a practice to see what it was like, and I really enjoyed it," says Serenity. "I'm so excited to meet my buddy!"

Access to our programs means children like Nevaeh and Serenity can get exactly the support they need, right when they need it. And that's all thanks to wonderful supporters like you.



Tesa and her daughters, Nevaeh and Serenity

Scan to watch
the full story

Dr Karen Duggan

One remarkable gift. 1,300 brighter futures.

As a cardiovascular physician, researcher, and scientist Dr Karen Duggan dedicated her life to helping others. Now, through a generous gift in her Will, her impact will continue for generations to come.

Karen believed everyone deserved a fair go and that education had the power to open doors and create opportunities. **That's why she chose to leave her home to The Smith Family in her Will.** It's a gift that will help make every tomorrow better for Australian children in need.

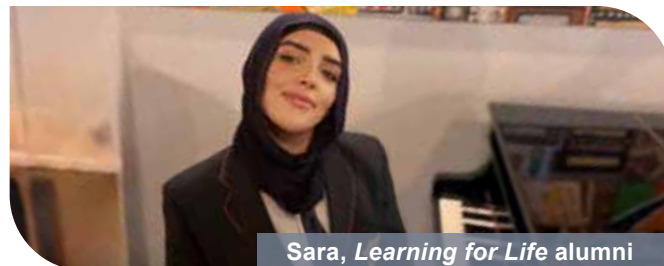
Karen's beautiful family home in Clovelly was sold at auction for \$10.4 million. The proceeds from this extraordinary gift will support nearly 1,300 students through The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program over the next five years.

Karen believed education changes lives. Sara's story shows how.

Learning for Life alumni, Sara, knows first-hand the difference educational support can make through Karen's legacy. After arriving in Australia before her fifth birthday, Sara faced many challenges. When her family moved to Melbourne at age nine, she knew no one.

“It's inspiring to see someone from the same work field helping students like me.

– Sara, *Learning for Life* alumni

Sara, *Learning for Life* alumni

Through school, she joined a *Learning Club* and found a place where she felt supported. “It was a great community to be a part of when we didn't know anyone,” she said. With support from The Smith Family, Sara embraced every opportunity. She is now studying medicine and pursuing her dream of becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon.

Knowing Karen worked in medicine makes her gift even more meaningful. Today, Karen's generosity will help many more students like Sara stay engaged in their education and pursue their aspirations. Through the power of education, her legacy will continue to make every tomorrow better.

While Dr Duggan's gift is the largest gift in a Will The Smith Family has ever received, every gift can make a meaningful difference. Even a small percentage of your estate, once you've taken care of your loved ones, can help future generations of Australian children build brighter futures.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, contact our team on **02 9085 7118** or **gifts-in-wills@thesmithfamily.com.au**.

Education creates lasting change – and so do you.