



**National Minutes**

**And**

**Information from  
National Leadership Team**

**September 2025**

## MINUTES AND INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Thursday 4 September 2025 at Room B1.1.23, Level 1, 61 Petrie Terrace, Brisbane (Hatch)

**Attendees:** **National Executive:** National President Elizabeth Birch,  
**National Vice President:** Lorraine Thomson

### National Councillors:

**Lyall Aldridge** Brisbane and Surrounds; **Hazel Austin** Central & Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne; **Kris Behets** Perth and Surrounds; **Angie Carroll** Hunter/Central Coast Region; **Pam Evans** Sydney North Shore & Northern Beaches; **Dianne Fiddes** Lower Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland; **Jean Jennings** The Sunshine and Fraser Coast; **Pat McRae** NSW South Coast Berry to Eden; **Bernie McSwain** Metropolitan Adelaide and Surrounds including Sunraysia; **Jill Mason** NSW Northern Rivers; **Janet Park** North and Western Metropolitan Melbourne & North and Western Country; **Christine Patmore** South Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne to the Mornington Peninsula & Gippsland.

**VIEW Office** **National** National Manager **Maryanne Maher**; Office Coordinator **Linda Custer** (Minute Secretary); Operations Coordinator **Rebecca Crofts**

Convention Convenor: **Past National President Lorraine Montgomery**

**Apologies:** **Elizabeth Terry** Central and Southern Sydney; **Aletia Norman** New England and North Central NSW

1	WELCOME
	<p><b>Opening Address: National Leadership Team (NLT) Meeting 4 September 2025.</b></p> <p>National President Elizabeth Birch welcomed all to the September National Leadership Team (face to face) meeting in Brisbane. She commented that it was an exciting time with VIEW National Convention 2025 and social gatherings planned over the next few days. Many members will be catching up with friends and making new ones and enjoying all that Convention has to offer!</p> <p>Elizabeth acknowledged that they were gathered on the traditional lands of the Turrbal and Yuggera people and paid her respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.</p> <p>Elizabeth noted that during this meeting the election of the National Executive 2026-27 would be finalized and the 2026-27 National and Zone Councillors would be ratified.</p> <p>Elizabeth also noted that VIEW Clubs continued to celebrate VIEW's 65th 'Blue Sapphire' Anniversary across the country with a variety of blue themed events including blue iced cupcakes on decorative cake stands, members dressed in smart sapphire blue clothing, and blue table decorations, and that the 65<sup>th</sup> blue sapphire pop-up fans have been featuring prominently at Club events and thanked members for promoting their fun events on social media.</p> <p>Since the May National Leadership Team meeting, Elizabeth had attended Murrumbateman (NSW) VIEW Club's inauguration on 10th June. She thanked the hard working Development Team led by the President Murrumbateman VIEW Club Tina Kay and her team who in record time of only a few months led the formation of the Club.</p>



	<p>Even though the Resolution Sub-Committee concentrates on one main resolution the others are not ignored – the Resolution Sub-committee watches updates on the resolution submitted/debated and actioned over the past five-year period and where appropriate continues to lobby and communicate with the relevant authorities.</p> <p><b>Advocacy Tools</b></p> <p>To support consistent messaging, template letters will be available in February from National Office. Clubs and members are encouraged to personalise these letters while maintaining the core wording. These template letters will be available from the <a href="#">VIEW Resolutions webpage</a>.</p> <p><b>Historical Reference</b></p> <p>A full list of resolutions debated at Convention since 1965 is available on the <a href="#">VIEW Resolutions webpage</a>.</p>
<p><b>3.2</b></p> <p><b>Community Grants</b></p>	<p>Linda spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>VIEW Clubs are encouraged to <b>investigate and apply for community grants</b>, particularly from <b>banks and local councils</b>, to support a wide range of Club activities. These funds can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotional events to attract new members</li> <li>• Equipment purchases such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Microphones</li> <li>○ Laptop computers</li> <li>○ Banners</li> <li>○ Square Readers</li> <li>○ Other Club-use items</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Guidelines &amp; Approval Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to <b>Club Handbook 2024–25, Page 21</b> for detailed guidance on grant applications.</li> <li>• <b>Approval from National Office is required</b> before submitting any final application.</li> <li>• Allow <b>at least 10 working days</b> for review and approval.</li> <li>• Once approved, Clubs must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share <b>login details</b> for online applications via email to allow for review of application</li> <li>○ Wait for final approval before submitting the application</li> <li>○ Submit a <b>final draft</b> of the application to VIEW National Office</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Using The Smith Family as Auspicing Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended <b>minimum grant amount: \$1,000</b></li> <li>• Suggested items to meet this threshold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Laptop</li> <li>○ Software eg Microsoft Office Subscription or purchase of Microsoft Word/Excel, etc</li> <li>○ Square Reader</li> <li>○ Mobile phone to operate the Reader</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Smaller grants (under \$1,000) can be sought from other organisations (e.g. local Football Clubs) <b>without auspicing</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Important Reminders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants must be used for <b>VIEW Club needs</b>, not for local students</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Venue Hire</b> qualifies as a grant:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clubs paying for meeting venues should consider requesting a <b>Room Hire Waiver</b></li> <li>○ The <b>Room Hire Waiver Request Form</b> is available on the VIEW website:  <a href="#">VIEW Club Forms &amp; Resources</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>For assistance, contact the <b>Grants Committee</b>: june3@iinet.net.au or phone 0412 617 085.</p>
<p><b>3.3</b></p> <p><b>VIEW in the Community – Raising Awareness including promoting VIEW</b></p>	<p>National Vice President Lorraine Thomson spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Clubs Promoting VIEW to their Communities</b></p> <p>She congratulated the many clubs who have contacted their local Bunnings, and in some areas Mitre 10, to take advantage of fundraising opportunities. Members use these opportunities to also distribute VIEW promotional brochures, enhancing our reach to the community and promoting our VIEW support for Australian students experiencing disadvantage.</p> <p>A number of Clubs have held fashion parades supporting local fashion boutiques and outlets with a percentage of sales donated towards individual club's <i>Learning for Life</i> sponsorship.</p> <p><b>Walk with VIEW</b></p> <p>Hosting a local Walk with VIEW is another great opportunity for VIEW members and friends to 'pound the pavement', armed with promotional information promoting our VIEW purpose. Clubs are asked to inform National Office of any 'Walk with VIEW' events in the pipeline and provide photos and information to share after your 'Walk' Individual clubs benefit from all donations provided by members sponsored by family members and friends.</p> <p><b>Christmas Wrapping – Now is the time to plan your Christmas Wrapping events.</b></p> <p>Christmas 'Wrap and Chat' events have proven to be a successful promotional opportunity for VIEW and The Smith Family. Members are encouraged to make enquiries with local shopping centres in their local area, and with Christmas not too far away, Shopping Centre Management teams would be considering charities to provide local patrons with this amazing fundraising initiative.</p> <p>Please inform us of Christmas Wrapping opportunities and remember to take photos to share on Facebook and the VIEW website <a href="mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au">view@thesmithfamily.com.au</a></p> <p><b>Decade Birthday Celebrations</b></p> <p>Thank you, and congratulations to clubs who have celebrated their significant milestone birthdays recently. There are more celebrations to look forward to towards the end of the year. Clubs across the country are celebrating with the theme "Shades of Blue" for their events, aligning with VIEW's Blue Sapphire 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.</p>

	<p><b>VIEW Area Galas and Zone Workshops/Conferences</b></p> <p>With VIEW Galas and Zone events, members, friends and visitors enjoy the opportunity to attend the success of these events. They are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge, their skills, and to exchange ideas, sharing the VIEW focus and their ongoing support for The Smith Family.</p> <p>These events represent a great opportunity for members to meet a member of the National Executive and where practicable, a representative of The Smith Family.</p> <p><b>Events and Activities</b></p> <p>Clubs, Zone and National Councillors are reminded to complete the compulsory <b>VIEW Event &amp; Personal Residence Event form</b> when events and activities are held in the name of VIEW. Forms are to be submitted at least one month prior to the event/activity via the Online form or submitting a word form to National Office, <a href="mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au">view@thesmithfamily.com.au</a>.</p> <p>Both forms are available on the VIEW Website <a href="https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/view-clubs/resources/forms">https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/view-clubs/resources/forms</a> - Notification for Insurance</p> <p>National and Zone Councillors are reminded to complete the <b>Councillor Summary of Visit Form</b> and share photos when available</p> <p>Clubs and Councillors are asked to please disregard outdated forms.</p> <p><b>Requests for Speakers at Events</b></p> <p>VIEW Executive aim to attend VIEW Club events where possible. Please send your invitation for VIEW Executive attendance to <a href="mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au">view@thesmithfamily.com.au</a>. All invitations and requests are reviewed and considered.</p> <p>Clubs are reminded when making requests for The Smith Family Team members and/or <i>LfL</i> Alumni speakers, <u>forms must be submitted no longer than 3 months prior to the event.</u></p> <p>Please complete the online form relevant for your state at <a href="https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/view-clubs/resources/forms">https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/view-clubs/resources/forms</a>.</p> <p>Please note submitting the 'Request for Speakers Form' does not guarantee attendance – it is subject to availability. The Smith Family Team Member/<i>LfL</i> Alumni are not available for evening or weekend events.</p>
<p><b>3.4</b></p> <p><b>VIEW in the Community promoting VIEW and The Smith Family – Speaker's Bureau</b></p>	<p>National President Elizabeth Birch spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The goal of the Speakers Bureau is to promote and profile VIEW and our connection with The Smith Family, initially targeting external organisations. Through these speaking engagements, we aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform audiences about who we are and what we do</li> <li>• Share opportunities for others to become involved in our work</li> <li>• Highlight our commitment to supporting children in need</li> </ul> <p>Organisations such as Lions, CWA, Rotary, Probus etc offer great opportunities to spread the word and inform them about who we are and</p>

	<p>what we do and perhaps offer an alternative to their members who might want to become involved in our work.</p> <p>To ensure the success of this initiative, we require contact details for potential speaking engagements with organisations. These details should be forwarded to:</p> <p>National Office or PNP Gwen Wilton - <a href="mailto:gwenwilton@bigpond.com">gwenwilton@bigpond.com</a> / 0418 650 257.</p> <p><b>Join VIEW's Speaker's Bureau</b></p> <p>We're always seeking new speakers, a national team of members who represent VIEW at community events, schools, and partner organisations. Whether you're a seasoned presenter or just starting out, your voice can make a difference and we'd love to welcome you to the VIEW Speaker's Bureau.</p> <p>Every speaker is equipped with a USB toolkit that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest VIEW speech</li> <li>• Presentation tips and techniques</li> <li>• Student testimonials to bring your message to life</li> <li>• A report form to complete after each engagement</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.5</b></p> <p><b>VIEW in Community – Promoting VIEW via Website and Social Media</b></p>	<p>Linda spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Website</b></p> <p>The VIEW Website continues to evolve thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Website Working Group and VIEW National Office.</p> <p><b>Keeping Club Pages Fresh</b></p> <p>National Office has been working closely with National and Zone Councillors to help clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update their Club contact details</li> <li>• Share photos and stories from meetings, events, and activities</li> </ul> <p>These updates not only reflect the vibrancy of our VIEW community - they also help promote your club to potential members and partners.</p> <p><b>Your Club Page Matters</b></p> <p>The VIEW Website is one of our most powerful promotional tools - but it's only effective when the content is current and engaging.</p> <p><b>Have something new to share?</b></p> <p>Send your updates, stories, and photos to the VIEW Website Working Group at: <a href="mailto:viewwebsite@thesmithfamily.com.au">viewwebsite@thesmithfamily.com.au</a>.</p> <p>This dedicated team of VIEW volunteers works from home to support your club and ensure your page reflects the heart of your community.</p> <p><b>Social media update – April 2025–August 2025</b></p> <p>The VIEW Clubs Facebook page now has 2,773 followers, up from 2640 in May 2025.</p> <p>We aim to post 4-5 times a week, in the morning. We also engage with the VIEW Clubs we follow on Facebook, liking and commenting on their posts to grow their reach. We also aim to comment when a partner, visit,</p>




guest or prominent community person posts about attending a VIEW event. This is to reach new people.


On Instagram since early May, we have had 8,494 views, reached 883 accounts and grown our followers to 370. Usually about one fifth of people who see our posts are non-followers.


See below for some of the best performing posts.


### Best Facebook posts

<p><b>VIEW Clubs of Australia - Voice, Interests and Education of ...</b> Published by Luisa Bustos · May 12 ·</p> <p>We have another new VIEW Club! Number 2 for 2025! 🎉</p> <p>Yesterday, Saturday 10 May, over 30 women and guests celebrated the opening of Capricornia VIEW Club (QLD) in Rockhampton.</p> <p>The theme was "Beef to the Beach" to acknowledge the region as the beef capital of Australia, surrounded by the coastal areas of Yeppoon, Zillie and Emu Park.</p> <p>The day was supported by the local Smith Family Team, Dan Smith, (who spoke on behalf of TSF QLD), Karen Mulligan and Andrea Bottomley, as well as Michelle Landry, Federal Member for Capricornia and local Councillor Shane Latcham.</p> <p>Doug Taylor, CEO of The Smith Family, sent a pre-recorded video message welcoming the new members, wishing them the very best success and thanking them for supporting The Smith Family.</p> <p>Visiting VIEW members included VIEW National President, Elizabeth Birch, VIEW National Manager, Maryanne Maher, National Councillor Jean Jennings and Zone Councillors Vonda Cannock and Christine Foster.</p> <p>Members from Fraser Coast, Hervey Bay, Mackay and Bundaberg VIEW clubs travelled to join in the celebrations with the 28 inaugural members.</p> <p>Capricornia VIEW Club will be led by President Sharon Collins who expressed how excited she is to be leading a young, vibrant and energetic committee and members, who were all full of pride to receive their VIEW badges and charter.</p> <p>In the spirit of VIEW, a raffle was held with \$500 raised on the day!</p> <p>Many congratulations to everyone involved in the establishment of the club, especially the VIEW QLD Development team, Jan, Coleen and Faye. Rockhampton is located just north of the Tropic of Capricorn, hence the beautiful name Capricornia VIEW Club!</p> 	<p><b>New VIEW Club post – Capricornia VIEW Club</b></p> <p>12 May 2025</p> <p>329 reactions, likes</p> <p>32 shares</p> <p>10,186 reach - accounts</p> <p>20,391 views – time content was on screen</p> <p>23 link clicks</p> <p><i>Our new VIEW Club posts have been very popular this year, but this one beat all records.</i></p> <p><i>It was shared to a number of Facebook Community Notice boards, which is likely to have helped the reach and views.</i></p> <p><i>Well done Capricornia VIEW Club!</i></p>
<p><b>VIEW Clubs of Australia - Voice, Interests and Education of ...</b> Published by Luisa Bustos · May 19 ·</p> <p>It's National Volunteer Week and we want to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful VIEW members for everything you do to support Australian children experiencing disadvantage get the most from their education.</p> <p>VIEW is one of the largest national women's volunteer organisations providing women of all ages and from all across Australia with a network of friends, opportunities to learn, social activities to attend and the chance to fundraise to support education charity <a href="#">The Smith Family</a>.</p> <p>This year, National Volunteer Week celebrates the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme, "Connecting Communities".</p> <p>For 65 years, VIEW has been supporting women to make connections – with each other and with their communities. With clubs in nearly 270 communities across Australia, VIEW is "Connecting Communities" and bringing people together.</p> <p>♥THANK YOU ♥</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://view.org.au">view.org.au</a> to find out more about VIEW and how to join a club near you.</p> 	<p><b>National Volunteer Week Thank you and acknowledgement message</b></p> <p>19 May 2025</p> <p>331 reactions, likes</p> <p>9 comments</p> <p>52 shares</p> <p>2,967 reach – accounts</p> <p>5,286 views</p> <p><i>This post performed the best for reactions, just sneaking ahead of the Capricornia post.</i></p> <p><i>This was also the most shared widely post. It was also shared to many Community groups on Facebook, ensuring it was seen</i></p>



		<i>by many people not in VIEW or aware of our organisation.</i>
	<p><b>VIEW Clubs of Australia - Voice, Interests and Education of ...</b> Published by George Forbes · June 26 ·</p> <p>VIEW Club National President Elizabeth Birch caught up with Cameron Flavell in the beautiful coastal town of Yamba at the iconic Light House this morning, enroute to Byron Bay for the next leg of his Project Road Train world-record run from Sydney to Brisbane.</p> <p>Cameron is looking to set a new world record for the trip, winding through more than 920km of coastal and inland roads in an attempt to raise \$100,000 for The Smith Family.</p> <p>Striking off from Sydney on June 19, Cameron and his roadcrew will make one more stopover in NSW before heading to the Gold Coast on Friday, and then on to Brisbane where the 10 day trek will culminate at the Story Bridge Hotel Saturday afternoon.</p> <p>You can follow Cameron's journey across Instagram and Tiktok by visiting @projectroadtrain or donate by visiting <a href="http://Projectroadtrain.com">Projectroadtrain.com</a> or <a href="http://Thesmithfamily.com.au">Thesmithfamily.com.au</a></p> 	<p><b>Support for community fundraiser, Cameron Flavell post</b></p> <p>26 June 2025</p> <p>118 reactions</p> <p>11 shares</p> <p>4,655 reach - accounts</p> <p>6,264 views – seen on screen</p> <p>3 link clicks</p> <p><i>In this post, National President Elizabeth is seen catching up with community fundraiser Cameron who was running from Sydney to Brisbane for The Smith Family.</i></p> <p><i>Our followers engaged strongly with this post. Shares and likes resulted in more than 4,500 non-followers viewing the post – which was great for raising awareness about The Smith Family, VIEW and Cameron's challenge.</i></p>

	<p><b>VIEW Clubs of Australia - Voice, Interests and Education of ...</b> Published by Luisa Bustos · June 11 ·</p> <p>We have another new VIEW Club! 🎉 Yesterday close to 70 women celebrated the opening of Murrumbateman VIEW Club (NSW).</p> <p>It was a cozy, informative and fun day with 33 inaugural members receiving their badges.</p> <p>Guests walked into amazing table decorations including fresh flowers and a roaring fire which was a great comfort in the chilly 5 degree temperature.</p> <p>VIEW National President Elizabeth Birch gave the charter and presented new Murrumbateman VIEW Club President Tina Kay with her 10 year pin as she was a previous member of Yass Day VIEW Club.</p> <p>Other VIEW members attended from Yerrabi, Goulburn, Gungahlin, Belconnen, Weston Creek, Crookwell, Queanbeyan and the former Yass Day VIEW Club.</p> <p>Attendees heard from Olga Srbovski The Smith Family Regional Programs Manager who provided updates on the work of the organisation, shared anecdotes on students and encouraged members to think of volunteering with The Smith Family.</p> <p>Doug Taylor, CEO of The Smith Family, delivered a pre-recorded message welcoming the new Murrumbateman members to VIEW.</p> <p>The celebration raised over \$300 from a raffle which the club will put towards supporting a Learning for Life student.</p> <p>Congratulations to President Tina Kay and her committee!</p> <p>We wish all members a wonderful time in VIEW!</p> 	<p><b>New VIEW Club – Murrumbateman post</b></p> <p>11 June 2025</p> <p>240 interactions</p> <p>67 comments – mostly congratulations, welcomes and well wishes.</p> <p>7 shares</p> <p>1,368 reach</p> <p>3,294 views, mostly from followers. This is because this post was not shared as much as other posts.</p> <p><i>In this post, we celebrate another new VIEW Club.</i></p> <p><i>The comments on this post were so heartwarming, really highlighting the power of connection, the warmth of all VIEW members and the supportive community we have.</i></p>
4.	<b>PROJECTS AND REGULAR UPDATES</b>	
<b>4.1</b> <b>Learning for Life Student Update</b>	National Councillor Dianne Fiddes - Lower Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland gave a brief update on the student sponsored by the National Leadership Team.	
<b>4.2</b> <b>National Office Update</b>	Maryanne spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.	
<b>The Smith Family Winter Appeal 2025</b>	<p>This year VIEW National Office developed a specific flyer for The Smith Family's Winter Appeal for VIEW and also distributed a Media Release which generated 15 articles from VIEW encouraging members of the public to donate to the Winter appeal. <b>VIEW Clubs donated over \$95,000</b> which is an <b>increase of 50% in 2024</b>. Thank you to all those clubs who contributed.</p> <p>The Smith Family shared some statistics around this appeal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Winter Appeal ran between 1 May and 31 July.</li> <li>• As at Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July fundraising income from individuals was slightly over \$8million, and ahead of the budget for this appeal.</li> <li>• The Smith Family received \$20,259 donations from 18,193 donors.</li> </ul>	
<b>Gift Voucher orders and/or Greeting Cards – Birthday &amp; Christmas</b>	The Smith Family thanks all VIEW Clubs for their generous gifts to their sponsored students and appreciate members' ongoing support, however, <b>The Smith Family is unable to process Christmas or Birthday cards and gift voucher requests more than 2 months in advance.</b>	

	<p>VIEW Clubs are reminded to <b>not send</b> Christmas Cards and December Birthday cards and/or requests for gift vouchers <b>until October</b>. <b>If they are sent prior to October they will be returned to Clubs.</b></p> <p>Below is an example of the Birthday Card sent from The Smith Family.</p> 
<b>VIEW Club Audit</b>	<p>The Smith Family internal audit for VIEW Club financial documents has been completed. Letters have been drafted along with a redrafted Income and Expenditure Statement. Treasurers are asked to use the Closing Balance on the Income and Expenditure statement as the opening balance for 2025.</p> <p>Once the External Audit has been completed, financial documents will be sent back to the Club Treasurer.</p> <p>National and Zone Councillor financial documents will also be sent back at the same time.</p> <p>VIEW thanks all Clubs Treasurers!</p>
<b>Blue Awards      Sapphire</b>	<p>Thank you to all VIEW Members, Clubs and Councillors who made a nomination for a Blue Sapphire Award. National Office received 39 nominations.</p> <p>Winners for the four (4) categories will be announced at National Convention and published in VIEW Matters November 2025 edition.</p>
<b>VIEW National Convention      5-7 September 2025</b>	<p>Over 550 women have booked for VIEW National Convention Brisbane 5-7 September 2025 which will be loads of fun and full of surprises. Highlights from Convention will be in the November edition of VIEW Matters and posted on Facebook.</p>
<b>Club Development – Help us build new VIEW Clubs</b>	<p><b>Potential opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Western Australia - Bunbury, and Mandurah</b></p> <p>Perth and Surrounds National Councillor Kris Behets noted that VIEW had recently promoted VIEW, distributed flyers and held interest meetings (July &amp; August) in Bunbury and will continue to explore opportunities to develop a club in this area.</p> <p>The WA Development team will also investigate Mandurah</p>

	<p>If you have friends or family in these areas, please encourage them to explore joining VIEW. Contact: Mary Deakin 0427 335 158 / <a href="mailto:zonec.wa@gmail.com">zonec.wa@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Victoria – Torquay</b></p> <p>North and Western Metropolitan Melbourne &amp; North and Western Country National Councillor Janet Park advised that flyers are being distributed through local community events promoting interest meetings to be held for a new club in the Torquay/Bellarine Peninsula area.</p> <p>If you have friends or family in this area, please encourage them to explore joining VIEW. Contact: Janet Park 0459 509 529 or <a href="mailto:nationalcouncillorvc24@gmail.com">nationalcouncillorvc24@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Do you know of a town or suburb that would benefit from having a VIEW Club? Has a member moved to an area without one? Would you like to help establish a new club yourself?</p> <p>We would like to hear from you!. Reach out to your Zone or National Councillor, Executive Mentor or email <a href="mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au">view@thesmithfamily.com.au</a>.</p>
<b>VIEW Matters – November 2025 Edition</b>	<p>We are currently working on the November edition of the VIEW Matters magazine. Submissions close on 18 September. Please send your article along with a couple of high-resolution photos to <a href="mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au">view@thesmithfamily.com.au</a>.</p> <p>Submissions for the April 2026 edition will open 1 January.</p>
<b>Making a Difference Awards 2024-25</b>	<p><b>Congratulations</b> to all recipients of the <b>2024–25 Making a Difference Awards!</b></p> <p>We're proud to celebrate the incredible contributions of <b>137 members</b> across <b>NSW/ACT, VIC, QLD, SA, and WA</b> who have gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in their communities. Thank you</p> <p><b>What's Next?</b></p> <p>Nominations for the <b>2026–27 Awards</b> will open in <b>January 2026</b>.</p> <p>The nomination process has been <b>reviewed and refreshed</b>, with updated requirements and a new nomination form to be released at that time.</p> <p>We encourage all Clubs to continue recognising outstanding members by nominating them for a Making a Difference Award. Your stories of service and leadership help shine a light on the heart of VIEW.</p>
<b>Club and Councillor Handbooks 2026-27</b>	<p>The Club and Councillor Handbooks are updated every two years and are currently under review for 2026-27. Any feedback or improvements to the Club and/or Councillor Handbooks should be forwarded via email to Lyn Geer (<a href="mailto:lyngeer@bigpond.com">lyngeer@bigpond.com</a>). Both Handbooks will be finalised by mid-October 2025 and will be available for Work Study Training sessions for National &amp; Zone Councillors 2026-27.</p>
<b>Request for Speakers - TSF team and LfL</b>	<p>This process was introduced to VIEW Clubs over 12 months ago. National Office, along with the relevant Smith Family teams in each state are reviewing the process and making note of the areas where there are any issues or concerns eg missing contact phone number for the</p>

<b>students - NSW/ACT, QLD, VIC, SA &amp; WA</b>	<p>requestor, requests not going through the correct process and requests coming in too early.</p> <p><b>All VIEW Clubs need to ensure that if they would like to have a Smith Family Team member or <i>Learning for Life</i> alumni Speaker for significant VIEW events eg IWDs, Galas, Zone Conferences and Decade Birthdays they need to complete the online form three (3) months prior to the event. Requests made longer than three (3) months will not guarantee a speaker at their event.</b></p>
<b>Upcoming Free Financial Wellbeing Workshops</b>	<p><b>Presented by ANZ in partnership with The Smith Family</b></p> <p>ANZ and The Smith Family are teaming up to deliver free, one-hour Financial Wellbeing Workshops to communities across 10–15 electorates nationally.</p> <p>These sessions aim to empower individuals with practical financial knowledge while strengthening connections between ANZ, The Smith Family, and key stakeholders, such as VIEW Clubs - including government representatives and will include light refreshments.</p> <p>Delivered in-person by The Smith Family, these workshops will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe digital banking practices</li> <li>• Scam protection and how to spot red flags</li> <li>• Banking support available during times of financial stress</li> </ul> <p>The content is drawn from the MoneyMinded program - a trusted financial education resource—and is designed to be practical, inclusive, and easy to share with family and friends.</p> <p><i>Note: These workshops are purely educational and do not promote ANZ products or services.</i></p> <p><u>First Workshop will be held mid- September in Mornington. Victorian VIEW Senior leaders and local VIEW Clubs have been notified of the event and encouraged to attend and promote to others in their communities.</u></p> <p><b>Future Workshops</b></p> <p>Additional dates, times, and locations will be shared with VIEW Clubs via email once we are notified of the locations.</p> <div data-bbox="954 1317 1445 1682"> <p><b>Free Financial Wellbeing Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scam protection</li> <li>• Digital banking</li> <li>• Support in times of need</li> </ul> <p>Register now</p> </div> <div data-bbox="995 1704 1407 1783"> <p>The Smith Family Brought to you by ANZ</p> <p>© Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) ABN 11 005 357 522</p> </div>



<div>4.3</div> <div>Governance and Leadership Project: Geographic Boundaries</div>	<div>The paper was distributed prior to the meeting; however, due to time constraints and the scheduled workshop, it was agreed that discussion would be deferred to the next meeting. This will allow for more thorough consideration and input.</div>																																								
5.	GENERAL BUSINESS																																								
<div>5.1</div> <div>2026-27 National Councillor Nominations and Ratification</div>	<div>National Council unanimously <b>ratified</b> the appointment of National Councillors for 2026-27 as follows.</div> <table><tr><th>Area</th><th>Nominee</th><th>Nominee's Zone</th><th>Period of ZC Service</th></tr><tr><td>NC</td><td>Sandra Fong</td><td>NE01</td><td>2024-25</td></tr><tr><td>NI</td><td>Mary Hollingworth</td><td>NI02</td><td>2024-25</td></tr><tr><td>QA</td><td>Irene Kinder</td><td>QA02</td><td>2024-25</td></tr><tr><td>QB</td><td>Christine Foster</td><td>QB02</td><td>2024-25</td></tr><tr><td>SA</td><td>Bernie McSwain*</td><td>SA</td><td>Returning</td></tr><tr><td>VA</td><td>Annette Harriott**</td><td>VA03</td><td>2025</td></tr><tr><td>VB</td><td>Christine Patmore***</td><td>VB</td><td>Returning</td></tr><tr><td>VC</td><td>Lorraine Batrouney</td><td>VC03</td><td>2024-25</td></tr><tr><td>WA</td><td>Kris Behets*</td><td></td><td>Returning</td></tr></table> <div>Returning Councillors</div> <div><div>* National Councillor returning for a second term</div><div>** PNVP Annette Harriott returning as National Councillor (<i>special dispensation granted</i>)</div><div>*** Filled a National Councillor vacancy in 2025 due to resignation; now returning for a full term</div></div> <div>National Council Coverage</div> <div>VIEW Clubs are organised into 15 National Council Areas across Australia. Having a National Councillor in each area is essential to ensure strong leadership, continuity, and communication between Clubs and National Office.</div> <div>Areas Still Without a Candidate</div> <div>There are currently 6 National Council Areas without a nominee:</div> <div>Call to Action</div> <div>We encourage all VIEW leaders to help identify potential candidates for these vital roles. Serving as a National Councillor is a meaningful opportunity to support Clubs, strengthen our network, and contribute to VIEW’s national impact.</div> <div>Let’s work together to ensure every area is represented and supported.</div>	Area	Nominee	Nominee's Zone	Period of ZC Service	NC	Sandra Fong	NE01	2024-25	NI	Mary Hollingworth	NI02	2024-25	QA	Irene Kinder	QA02	2024-25	QB	Christine Foster	QB02	2024-25	SA	Bernie McSwain*	SA	Returning	VA	Annette Harriott**	VA03	2025	VB	Christine Patmore***	VB	Returning	VC	Lorraine Batrouney	VC03	2024-25	WA	Kris Behets*		Returning
Area	Nominee	Nominee's Zone	Period of ZC Service																																						
NC	Sandra Fong	NE01	2024-25																																						
NI	Mary Hollingworth	NI02	2024-25																																						
QA	Irene Kinder	QA02	2024-25																																						
QB	Christine Foster	QB02	2024-25																																						
SA	Bernie McSwain*	SA	Returning																																						
VA	Annette Harriott**	VA03	2025																																						
VB	Christine Patmore***	VB	Returning																																						
VC	Lorraine Batrouney	VC03	2024-25																																						
WA	Kris Behets*		Returning																																						

<div>5.2</div> <div>2026-27</div> <div>Councillor Nominations and Ratification</div> <div>Zone and</div>	National Council unanimously <b>ratified</b> the appointment of Zone Councillors for 2026-27 as follows.																																																		
	<table><tr><th>Zone</th><th>Nominee</th><th></th><th>Zone</th><th>Nominee</th></tr><tr><td>AA01</td><td>Robynne Daniels</td><td></td><td>QB01</td><td>Diann Kennedy</td></tr><tr><td>NA03</td><td>Dianne Whitten</td><td></td><td>QB02*</td><td>Rhonda Tearle Toni-Lee Munro</td></tr><tr><td>NB01</td><td>Catherine Gallagher</td><td></td><td>SA01</td><td>Denise Kirk# Michelle Modra#</td></tr><tr><td>NH01</td><td>Lorraine Faulkner-Smith</td><td></td><td>SA02</td><td>Judith Myers</td></tr><tr><td>NJ01</td><td>Di Lutze</td><td></td><td>VA02</td><td>Anne Edwards</td></tr><tr><td>NK01</td><td>Cathie Grove</td><td></td><td>VB01</td><td>Dianne Latessa</td></tr><tr><td>NK02</td><td>Evelyn Lockhart</td><td></td><td>VB03</td><td>Heather Wright</td></tr><tr><td>QA01</td><td>Karen Curtis</td><td></td><td>VC03</td><td>Meredith O'Neill</td></tr><tr><td>QA02</td><td>Clare Topp</td><td></td><td>WA01*</td><td>Michelle McGrath Rena O'Sullivan</td></tr></table>	Zone	Nominee		Zone	Nominee	AA01	Robynne Daniels		QB01	Diann Kennedy	NA03	Dianne Whitten		QB02*	Rhonda Tearle Toni-Lee Munro	NB01	Catherine Gallagher		SA01	Denise Kirk# Michelle Modra#	NH01	Lorraine Faulkner-Smith		SA02	Judith Myers	NJ01	Di Lutze		VA02	Anne Edwards	NK01	Cathie Grove		VB01	Dianne Latessa	NK02	Evelyn Lockhart		VB03	Heather Wright	QA01	Karen Curtis		VC03	Meredith O'Neill	QA02	Clare Topp		WA01*	Michelle McGrath Rena O'Sullivan
	Zone	Nominee		Zone	Nominee																																														
	AA01	Robynne Daniels		QB01	Diann Kennedy																																														
	NA03	Dianne Whitten		QB02*	Rhonda Tearle Toni-Lee Munro																																														
	NB01	Catherine Gallagher		SA01	Denise Kirk# Michelle Modra#																																														
	NH01	Lorraine Faulkner-Smith		SA02	Judith Myers																																														
	NJ01	Di Lutze		VA02	Anne Edwards																																														
	NK01	Cathie Grove		VB01	Dianne Latessa																																														
	NK02	Evelyn Lockhart		VB03	Heather Wright																																														
	QA01	Karen Curtis		VC03	Meredith O'Neill																																														
	QA02	Clare Topp		WA01*	Michelle McGrath Rena O'Sullivan																																														
<div>* These Zones will be jointly represented by two Councillors.</div> <div># An election will occur for this Zone – outcome will be advised in November 2025 minutes.</div> <div>Zones Without Nominations</div> <div>VIEW Clubs currently have <b>38 Zones</b> across Australia. Having a Zone Councillor in each area is vital to ensuring strong communication, leadership, and support between Clubs and National Office/The Smith Family.</div> <div>As of now, <b>21 Zones remain without a nominee:</b></div> <div>Call to Action</div> <div>We encourage National and Zone Councillors to collaborate in identifying potential candidates to fill these gaps. Stepping into a Senior Leadership role is a deeply rewarding experience. These roles can be shared (on special request), and they play a key part in strengthening communication across VIEW Clubs and with The Smith Family.</div> <div><b>Note:</b> Zone Councillors may serve for up to two terms (four years).</div> <div>Let’s continue to build strong leadership across all Zones - together, we make a difference.</div>																																																			
<div>5.3</div> <div>Update for VIEW Clubs regarding gifts for Sponsored Students</div>	<div>Maryanne shared the below paper at the meeting.</div> <div>Background</div> <div>For many years and particularly since COVID, The Smith Family have encouraged sponsors to send correspondence to their sponsored students digitally and, if they chose to send a gift, to purchase a gift voucher through The Smith Family.</div> <div>Processing gifts that are not arranged through The Smith Family creates significant logistical challenges. Each item must be checked up to 3 times thoroughly by volunteers and at least one paid team member. Even with these checks, we cannot guarantee that all items will meet suitability or safety requirements, or that personal supporter information has not been accidentally included. The high administrative</div>																																																		



burden of this process is a significant cost to The Smith Family and involves use of resources and time that could be better applied to delivery of our programs to directly benefit children experiencing disadvantage.

### Why the Change?

Feedback collected by The Smith Family from students tells us that students (and their families) **prefer using Prezzy eGift Vouchers** because they're able to choose their preferred retailers based on interests, prices and/or location. It can be an empowering and fun experience for a student to shop for themselves and choose their own gift or put the funds towards something they have been saving up for.

**Students and their families find Prezzy eGift Vouchers quick and easy to use, with the added flexibility of shopping online or in-store. The wide choices and convenience provide opportunities for students to choose the perfect gift for themselves.**

To find out more about how to order Prezzy eGift vouchers from The Smith Family please refer to Student Gift Card Process (<https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/-/media/files/view-clubs/resources/organisational-information/financial-information/gift-card-process-final.pdf>) and to download the VIEW Student Gift Card Form please go to <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/-/media/files/view-clubs/resources/forms/2025/financial-gift-card-order-form-2025.docx>.

### What's Changing?

Based on these positive results, family feedback, and our ongoing commitment to child safety and enablement, **The Smith Family will no longer accept physical gifts and any Gift Cards other than Prezzy eGift Vouchers purchased through The Smith Family for sponsored students.**

This means:

- physical gifts (eg knitted blankets, hats, scarves, gel pens, puzzles, chocolates, etc.);
- gift vouchers purchased from any other sources (eg Coles, Myer, BigW, Visa, Bunnings etc);
- other items intended to be passed on to students (eg stickers, books, bookmarks, etc.)

We know some VIEW Clubs have been generously sending gifts for many years and enjoy being able to connect with their students and send them something special for their birthday or Christmas.

**VIEW Clubs will still be able to send Prezzy eGift Vouchers to their students through The Smith Family for special occasions birthdays and Christmas and to send correspondence through The Smith Family with no changes. The Prezzy eGift Vouchers can also be sent with a personalised message for your student.**

### Timeline

The Smith Family is committed to making this change as smooth as possible for VIEW Clubs and we understand many clubs may have already purchased or started to make gifts for their students.

**From 1 July 2025** there will be a brief transition period where VIEW Clubs may continue to send in any gifts they have already purchased.

	<p>The gift will go through the usual thorough checking to ensure it meets safety and privacy requirements and then be passed on to the student. During this transition period, the VIEW Club will receive a phone call from The Smith Family customer engagement team to remind the VIEW Club that The Smith Family will no longer be accepting gifts which have not been purchased through The Smith Family and encourage the use of Prezzy eGift Vouchers instead.</p> <p>Please note: <b>From 2026, any physical gifts sent to sponsored students from VIEW Clubs (or any other sponsors) will be returned to sender.</b></p> <p><b>Communication to VIEW Clubs</b></p> <p>Communication will be sent out to all VIEW Clubs by email of the proposed changes. There are currently 36 VIEW Clubs who have sent physical gifts in the past twelve months.</p> <p>Executive Mentors or National Councillors will contact the Clubs who are most affected by this change to explain the rationale and reinforce the timeline.</p> <p><b>A few important reminders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sending gifts is neither required nor expected.</li> <li>• If a VIEW Club generously chooses to send a gift, we will be offering Prezzy eGift Vouchers to pass onto the student on the sponsor's behalf. They can do this by sending through a completed Gift Card form to the VIEW National Office.</li> <li>• If a VIEW Club does decide to send a Prezzy eGift Voucher, we recommend a gift voucher of \$25 or \$50 a maximum of twice a year (Birthday and Christmas).</li> </ul> <p><b>VIEW Clubs Donations to Smith Family Learning Clubs</b></p> <p>The Smith Family Team Leaders plan their program delivery to occur at different times during the year.</p> <p>If VIEW Clubs wish to donate items (knitted rugs, library bags, stationery items, etc) to local Smith Family Learning Clubs they are asked to check with the local Smith Family Team Leader in advance, to ensure that these donated goods are required before encouraging members to knit, sew or collect items. This will help determine the quantity, help members plan and reduce disappointment if not required.</p> <p>If there are no requirements for these items VIEW Clubs may consider selling excess rugs, library bags, etc on their trading tables or providing them to other local worthy charities such as Vinnies, Salvos or Red Cross.</p> <p><b>Reminder: VIEW Clubs do not provide gift cards or funds to Smith Family Learning clubs.</b></p>
<p><b>5.4</b></p> <p><b>VIEW Handover Guides</b></p>	<p>Maryanne spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>VIEW Handover Guides</b></p> <p>There is a lack of consistency in the handover procedure of information, documents and items from outgoing office holders to incoming office holders at all levels eg club committee and leadership positions, across the organisation.</p>

	<p>VIEW officeholders as committee members, Zone Councillors and National Councillors are all volunteers who generously donate their time to support their members and clubs and the organisation.</p> <p>To best support incoming officeholders to effectively carry out their roles the Future of VIEW Working Group in collaboration with National Office have developed detailed handover guides.</p> <p>These Handover guides include the documents, items and information that an outgoing officeholder should provide to their replacement with an easy-to-use checklist.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outgoing officeholders are provided with a clear and easy to use guide showing what they need to provide to the incoming officeholder.</li> <li>• The guide will enable more consistent handovers across the organisation.</li> <li>• There will be clear expectations for both the incoming and the outgoing officeholder.</li> <li>• Handover will not rely on memory and fewer things will be missed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposal:</b></p> <p>The National Executive recommend that the National Council agree to roll out the VIEW Handover Guides to National Councillors, Zone Councillors and Club Committees for use in the 2025-26 handover.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>National Council/National Leadership Team agreed to the proposal</b> and that the VIEW Handover Guides be distributed to National Councillors, Zone Councillors and Club Committees for use in the 2025-26 handover.</p> <p>The National Leadership Team agreed with the proposal, subject to some minor changes. All Handover documents will be made available to Clubs before the end of 2025 to ensure smooth transition in 2026.</p>
6.	LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT
<b>6.1 Work Study 2025 Workshop</b>	<p>National Leadership Team participated in a workshop to help National Office prepare for Work Study 2025. Prior to the meeting, NLT were asked to complete a short survey, providing their feedback on the previous Work Study sessions for National and Zone Councillors in 2023. Feedback from the survey and workshop will be incorporated, where possible, into Work Study 2025 for all incoming National and Zone Councillors 2026-27.</p>
7.	OTHER BUSINESS
	<p>Past National President Lorraine Montgomery, Convention Convenor, provided a briefing for the NLT on what was scheduled to happen at National Convention as well as ask for their support during convention.</p>

## Summary of Decision at National Leadership Team Meeting

September 2025

<b>Agenda Reference</b>	<b>Area of Work</b>	<b>Decision, Policy and/or Procedure</b>
3.1	Sub-Committees and Working Groups - Reports	Resolutions
3.2	Sub-Committees and Working Groups - Reports	Community Grants
3.3	Sub-Committees and Working Groups - Reports	VIEW in the Community – Raising Awareness including promoting VIEW
3.4	Sub-Committees and Working Groups - Reports	VIEW in the Community promoting VIEW and The Smith Family – Speaker's Bureau
3.5	Sub-Committees and Working Groups - Reports	VIEW in Community – Promoting VIEW via Website and Social Media
4.1	Projects and Regular Updates	<i>Learning for Life</i> Student Update
4.2	Projects and Regular Updates	National Office Update
4.3	Projects and Regular Updates	Governance and Leadership Project: Geographic Boundaries
5.1	General Business	2026-27 National Councillor Nominations and Ratification
5.2	General Business	2026-27 Zone Councillor Nominations and Ratification
5.3	General Business	Update for VIEW Clubs regarding gifts for Sponsored Students
5.4	General Business	VIEW Handover Guides
6.1	Learning and Development	Workshop – Work Study 2025