



VIEW National Leadership Team meeting
DISCUSSION PAPER
From: VIEW National Office
Date: June 2026
Subject: Update for VIEW Clubs regarding gifts for Sponsored Students

Update for VIEW Clubs Re: Gifts for Students sponsored on *Learning for Life* program

Due to logistical challenges, the diverse needs of families, and The Smith Family's updated screening process in line with its child protection policy and guidelines, The Smith Family is moving away from forwarding physical gifts to students and families, particularly items that cannot be adequately screened without risking damage.

This paper provides an update on the final stage of the sponsored student gift policy changes.

As communicated last year, (**6.3 Update for VIEW Clubs regarding gifts for Sponsored Students** *September 2025 National Leadership Meeting Minutes*) this change is part of The Smith Family's ongoing commitment to child safety, privacy, consistency, and ensuring an appropriate supporter experience for *Learning for Life* families.

All sponsors including VIEW Clubs are advised **that any gift received after 31 May 2026 that has not been purchased through The Smith Family will be returned to the sponsor and the interim escalation and assessment process that has been in place during the transition period will cease from this date.**

This includes:

- 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); *Please note: Gift vouchers are included because many show the location they were purchased from when checking the card balance online, which may result in a breach of privacy.*
- other items intended to be passed on to students or families (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.

Cards/messages/letters are not part of this process and will continue to be forwarded on to students and families.

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.

If a sponsor chooses to send a gift, The Smith Family will be offering Prezzy eGift Cards to pass onto the student on the sponsor's behalf.

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>.

VIEW Clubs can also contact The Smith Family Customer Support Team on **1800 633 622** if they require assistance.

As a reminder:

- sending gifts to students is optional and never expected.
- If a VIEW Club generously chooses to send a gift, The Smith Family 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.
- 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).

Thank you for your continued support and helping The Smith Family team manage sponsor expectations throughout the transition period.

VIEW Clubs Donations to Smith Family Learning Clubs

Team Leaders plan their program delivery to occur at different times during the year. 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.

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.

Reminder: VIEW Clubs do not provide gift cards or funds to Smith Family Learning Clubs.