

VIEW *Matters*

April 2025



VIEW's Blue Sapphire Anniversary
International Women's Day with VIEW
Supporting students

view 
celebrating 65 years

Our Vision

Women creating and leading a more inclusive society.

Our Mission

As a leading voice and valued support network for women, VIEW actively raises awareness of, and participates in, the work of The Smith Family.

Our Guiding Principles

Inclusive and welcoming
Diverse and respecting
Supportive and caring
Locally focused while nationally active
Collaborative and future looking



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VIEW is a national women's organisation with more than 13,000 members in nearly 270 communities exclusively supporting the education charity The Smith Family. Members sponsor students, volunteer, fundraise and advocate to improve the life outcomes of Australian children and young people experiencing disadvantage.

As The Smith Family's largest community sponsor of *Learning for Life* students, VIEW supports the educational outcomes of more than 1,800 children and young people.

Through its connection with The Smith Family, VIEW is proud to enable young Australians to create better futures for themselves.

National President: Elizabeth Birch
National Vice Presidents: Sandra Jankovskis and Lorraine Thomson

National Councillors: NSW: Angela Carroll; Pam Evans; Dianne Fiddes; Pat McRae; Jill Mason; Aletia Norman, Elizabeth Terry. QLD: Lyall Aldridge; Jean Jennings. SA: Bernie McSwain. VIC: Hazel Austin, Janet Park. WA: Kris Behets

National Manager: Maryanne Maher

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The Smith Family provides Australian children living with disadvantage with the tools and support to thrive at school. This help extends to the child's family and community with wrap-around support essential to breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Helping a child to do well in their journey through school brings a lifetime of reward for them and their family. Investing in a child's education today will have a long-term impact that

empowers them into their working life. For more information, please visit thesmithfamily.com.au.

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Front cover: Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW with VIEW National President Elizabeth Birch at VIEW's 65th anniversary celebration at NSW Government House.



L-R: Elizabeth Birch (NP), Sandra Jankovskis and Lorraine Thomson.

From the Executive

Welcome to this special edition of VIEW Matters, celebrating an incredible milestone: 65 years of VIEW! This is a great time for all VIEW members to reflect with pride on VIEW's rich history, celebrate our achievements and look ahead to a bright future. We have so much to celebrate!

Firstly, in case you missed it, in November the Governor General of Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC agreed to be VIEW's new Patron! It followed a meeting in October last year with Elizabeth and other representatives from VIEW. She has also agreed to be The Smith Family's Patron.

Elizabeth, Sandra and I are also very excited to share the wonderful news that VIEW now collectively

sponsors more than 1,800 students on The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program. That's an incredible achievement! We extend our deep gratitude to you all – your dedication to fundraising has made this possible.

It was great to be able to announce this to the VIEW National Leadership Team in February when we all met in The Smith Family's National Office. We were provided with an update on the Governance and Leadership project, determined the next three resolutions and received media training to support us for this exciting year ahead. We also enjoyed renewing friendships, sharing knowledge and connecting with each other and The Smith Family team.

Elizabeth, Sandra and I would like to congratulate the clubs who organised functions and activities to celebrate International Women's Day this year. As one of Australia's leading women's volunteer organisations, VIEW consistently provides an opportunity to 'encourage action to heighten awareness of the resource, strategies and activities that positively impact women'.

In mid-March, we were honoured to attend a Vice Regal afternoon tea hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales to celebrate VIEW's 65th anniversary. Nearly one hundred excited VIEW members from Sydney

and surrounds joined us at the function to recognise VIEW's significant contributions and the vital work we do with The Smith Family.

We hope many VIEW Clubs across the country will consider hosting events to celebrate this special Blue Sapphire 65th Anniversary and, in the spirit of our theme, 'shine a light on our brilliance'.

As a proud Queenslander, I'm thrilled that our key anniversary celebration is VIEW's National Convention to be held in Brisbane in September. Bringing together VIEW members from across the country, Convention is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, share experiences and be inspired by guest speakers. Elizabeth, Sandra and I warmly encourage you and your friends to join us in Brisbane for a memorable experience reinforcing VIEW's shared purpose and strength. I'm sure VIEW's Queensland members will be out in force making this a Convention to remember.

Thank you to every member for your dedication to supporting the education of Australian students experiencing disadvantage – you are what makes VIEW so special.

Lorraine Thomson
National Vice President 2024-25

What is VIEW?

VIEW is a national women's volunteer organisation supporting the education charity, The Smith Family. Connected through a common purpose, VIEW Club's 13,000 members:

- make lasting friendships, share ideas and knowledge and enjoy social activities;
- learn and develop new skills, while giving back to their communities; and
- advocate for and support the educational outcomes of Australian children experiencing disadvantage.

Find out more about VIEW by visiting the VIEW website at view.org.au, calling 1800 805 366 or emailing view@thesmithfamily.com.au.

view.org.au



1800 805 366





Message from The Smith Family CEO

Congratulations to each and every VIEW member on VIEW's 65th anniversary and on reaching the incredible milestone of supporting 1,800 *Learning for Life* students!

Celebrating 65 years of supporting The Smith Family is a remarkable achievement. Along with VIEW Clubs, we believe that education is one of the most powerful tools for breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Knowing that we have a strong and dedicated community of more than 13,000 generous, caring and creative women across Australia who share this belief is truly inspiring. We are deeply grateful for everything VIEW members do to support The Smith Family and the families and students we work with. Your commitment to supporting the education of young Australians not only changes lives but strengthens communities.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of expressing my heartfelt gratitude to the VIEW National Leadership Team at their annual face-to-face meeting in Sydney. It was also an honour to celebrate this special anniversary milestone alongside VIEW members at a wonderful event hosted by Her Excellency, the Governor of NSW.

This celebration served as a powerful reminder of the enduring impact VIEW members continue to have in their communities.

I am also grateful for the support provided by VIEW members for our 2025 Back to School Appeal. Your efforts in reaching out to local media have helped amplify our message, ensuring more Australians understand the importance of supporting children's education. This year, it was especially wonderful to see VIEW members joining us to say thank you to Officeworks for their part in the Back to School campaign. To the VIEW members who answered our call for help and visited Officeworks stores in Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Braddon, Albury, Bathurst, Wodonga, Bayswater, Mildura and Warnambool on behalf of The Smith Family – thank you.

I know there are many exciting and fun VIEW activities planned for the year ahead, including new club openings, your Blue Sapphire Awards, countless fundraising activities, and of course, VIEW's National Convention. I am looking forward to joining many of you in Brisbane in September at this wonderful event.

Convention is one of VIEW's long-standing traditions, bringing members together to share ideas, celebrate achievements, inspire each other and of course, have fun. If you are considering attending, I urge you to book your ticket soon! It is truly a VIEW event not to be missed.

In closing, congratulations again on 65 years of making a difference. Look out for a congratulations card sent to all clubs recently. Together we are making real progress in empowering students living in disadvantage to achieve better futures. Thank you for your dedication, passion and unwavering support. Wishing you all a wonderful Blue Sapphire year of celebration!

Doug Taylor
Chief Executive Officer



**We're on Facebook
and Instagram!**

Join our online community of more than 2,500 fellow VIEW members to connect with like-minded women across Australia and stay up-to-date with VIEW news. Join the VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page or follow @viewclubs on Instagram.

VIEW's sponsorships and contributions

1 April 2025



268
VIEW Clubs
in communities

VIEW Clubs continue to support the good work of The Smith Family, providing an important source of volunteers, fundraising and connection in local communities.

Sponsorship of The Smith Family's Learning for Life program

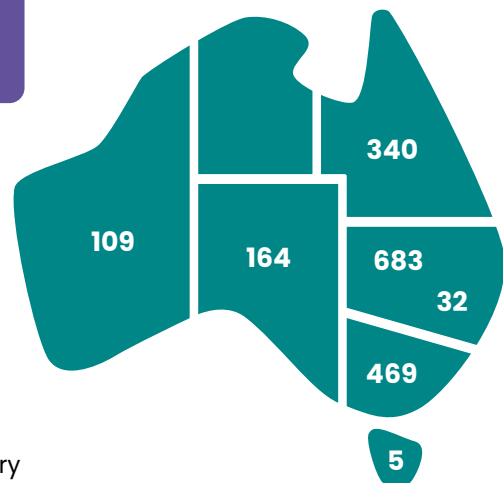
VIEW is proud to be The Smith Family's largest community sponsor of Learning for Life students.

VIEW Clubs sponsor

1,802

students on The Smith Family's Learning for Life program

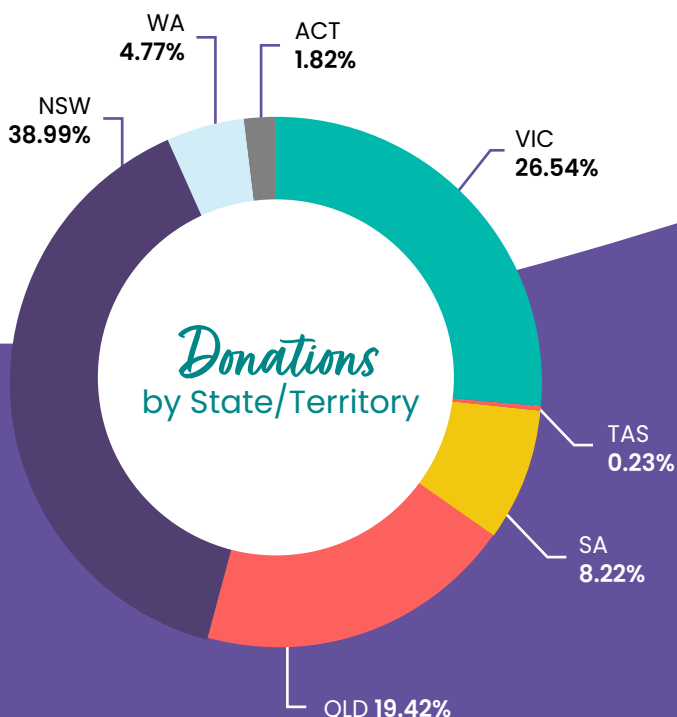
1,489 | **282** | **31**
School | Senior School | Tertiary



Note: The number of students sponsored by VIEW Clubs in each State is subject to constant fluctuation as clubs open and sponsor students, existing clubs take on new students, clubs close and students exit the program.

Contributions to The Smith Family 2024 calendar year

Digital Learning Essentials	\$297,415
Joyspreader Gifts	\$85,680
Winter Appeal	\$63,570
Christmas Appeal	\$42,451



VIEW donated **\$1.5 million**

in 2024 to The Smith Family's programs for young people in need.



In the last financial year, VIEW Clubs **gifted over \$100,000** to students for Birthday/Christmas through Prezzye Gift Cards.

Celebrating 65 years of Voice, Interests and Education of Women!

VIEW's Blue Sapphire Anniversary is a time to reflect on VIEW's remarkable achievements and celebrate the ongoing impact members have in supporting the education of students experiencing disadvantage.

VIEW's history

The first VIEW Club was officially inaugurated on 30 March 1960 in Balgowlah Heights on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Just three months earlier, The Smith Family had published an advertisement inviting housewives to step out of their homes and meet like-minded women. The concept of VIEW came from The Smith Family's General Secretary, George Forbes, who recognised that societal roles for women were shifting. Many wives and mothers were feeling socially isolated and questioning their place in the world. At the same time, The Smith Family, which had provided welfare support to families since 1922, needed volunteers and fundraising support to continue its vital work. Forbes saw the opportunity to create a women's network that fostered decision-making, friendship, knowledge sharing and confidence while exclusively supporting The Smith Family. At a time when women were largely excluded from service clubs, VIEW's focus on friendship, discussion and action was revolutionary.

During the early 1960s, VIEW's popularity grew rapidly. Clubs opened across Sydney, and the organisation expanded into regional NSW, attracting women from all walks of life. VIEW became known as a place for making connections and friendships, gaining skills, hearing from guest speakers, debating issues, and supporting and fundraising for The Smith Family. Within five years, 80 VIEW Clubs had been established with 5,000 enthusiastic members.

By 1969, there were 134 clubs in NSW, including 19 in regional areas. The movement continued to expand, and in 1970, Canberra welcomed the first VIEW Club outside NSW. By the decade's end, there were 213 clubs, and VIEW had become a formidable fundraising force, contributing \$275,000 to The Smith Family in that year alone. In the 1980s, VIEW expanded into Victoria (1983) and Queensland (1986). The VIEW National Convention (first held in 1962) became a key national event, and members were raising their voices on issues affecting the wider community. By 2011, VIEW had a presence in every state and territory, with thousands of women – housewives, mothers, professionals and retirees – joining to enrich their lives and make a difference in their communities.

Like many volunteer organisations, VIEW has experienced fluctuations in membership numbers over the years due to changing societal demands on women. Some clubs have closed, new ones have opened, and others have flourished with over 100 dedicated members. Despite the challenges, VIEW has endured, consistently supporting The Smith Family's direction and mission, and adapting to the evolving needs of VIEW members. In the 1990s, when The Smith Family shifted its focus from welfare to educational support for disadvantaged students, VIEW embraced the change. Clubs increased their fundraising efforts



to sponsor students supported by The Smith Family, and members used

their collective voice to raise awareness about the importance of education in breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Today, VIEW is the largest community sponsor of *Learning for Life* students, supporting more than 1,800 young Australians.

As VIEW celebrates 65 years, its legacy of friendship, making connections, sharing knowledge and making a difference remains as vital as ever. With thousands of dedicated VIEW members continuing to support The Smith Family – and each other – VIEW is honouring its past while also contributing to a future where every Australian child has the opportunity to succeed.

Marking our 65th anniversary

On 17 March, almost 65 years to the day since the first official VIEW Club meeting, 100 VIEW members gathered at NSW Government House Sydney for a wonderful afternoon tea hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales. Joining Her Excellency and Mr Wilson were the VIEW National Executive, members of the VIEW National Leadership Team, members from VIEW Clubs in and around Sydney (including as far afield as Lithgow in the Central West and Forster on the North Coast) and representatives from The Smith Family, including CEO Doug Taylor.

It was particularly special to see members from VIEW's longest running clubs – Parramatta VIEW, Pennant Hills VIEW and Caringbah VIEW – at the event (see photo above right). These clubs were all inaugurated in 1960 and are among the first VIEW Clubs formed.

the event, Her Excellency congratulated VIEW on 65 years of supporting The Smith Family, highlighting the significant contribution members have made, not only through sponsoring students on the *Learning for Life* program, but also by making connections in their communities and advocating on issues of importance.

In her speech, Her Excellency called VIEW members

“change makers in Australian society”,

reminding them that every time they stepped out of their homes to fundraise, volunteer or advocate for VIEW and The Smith Family, they were making a difference in their communities. She also noted that it was not until the late 1980s – almost three decades after VIEW formed – that other service clubs admitted women. The Governor invited Elizabeth Birch, VIEW National President and Maryanne Maher, VIEW National Manager to join her to cut the celebration cake while the audience gave three hearty cheers to VIEW. Following the formalities, guests were invited to visit the stunning rooms of Government House and wander the beautiful garden while enjoying

canapes, champagne, tea and coffee to the accompaniment of the Royal Australian Navy Woodwind Trio.

Her Excellency and Mr Wilson engaged with VIEW members and posed for photos. It was a delightful afternoon, and a memorable way to launch VIEW's Blue Sapphire year of celebration!



At



International Women's Day with VIEW

In early March, VIEW members marked International Women's Day with an array of functions and activities to celebrate women, promote this year's theme "Accelerate Action" and raise funds for The Smith Family. Here are a few of the highlights. See page 14 for more photos!

Victoria

In Colac, two hours west of Melbourne, more than 100 women enjoyed a sold-out International Women's Day (IWD) breakfast, hosted by **Colac Evening VIEW Club** (VIC).

The event, the first IWD function presented by Colac Evening VIEW, was a resounding success, raising over \$4,000 for The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program.

The breakfast featured an engaging panel discussion with three local women: Zoe Hudgell, newly elected councillor and local business owner; Fiona Brew, CEO of Colac Area Health; and Ami Hillege, Executive Officer of the Colac Area Health Foundation, dedicated volunteer and migrant from South Africa. Each speaker shared their unique experiences, challenges and triumphs, inspiring the audience

with their stories of resilience, leadership and how the Colac community can support emerging female leaders.

Elizabeth Gurthridge, President of Colac Evening VIEW Club, described the event as "a morning of inspiration, connection and generosity. The stories shared by our panellists resonated deeply with everyone in the room, and we are so proud to contribute to such an important cause."

Other celebrations in Victoria included an event hosted by **Sunbury Macedon Ranges VIEW Club** where the highlight was a presentation from *Learning for Life* student, Orshina.

This confident young woman had the audience spellbound.



Colac IWD breakfast



Heather, Sunbury Macedon Ranges VIEW Club President with IWD guest speaker, *Learning for Life* student, Orshina

She described her journey with great emotion and expressed her deep gratitude for the educational support she received.

Western Australia

In Perth, **West Coast VIEW Club** hosted a luncheon at Hillary's Yacht Club with a jammed-packed agenda featuring three guest speakers and a video presentation from a *Learning for Life* student. The event's keynote speaker was Michelle Fyfe, CEO of RAAFA, who

kept the audience entertained with the story of her life. Guests also heard from Felicity Farrelly from Graduate Women's Association WA, which has a close connection with VIEW, and Julie Walker, General Manager of The Smith Family WA. In the same week, **First Wave VIEW Club** hosted a lunch at the Marmion Angling Club with terrific guest speakers and delicious food. Members from other VIEW clubs in and around Perth joined in the celebrations.



VIEW members at First WAVE VIEW Club event

New South Wales

In Central Western NSW, **Bathurst VIEW Club** (see photo above right) joined forces with Café Viva to host a fun-filled brunch on the grounds of the Bathurst Catholic Cathedral. With a guest speaker, fundraising raffle and belly dancers – this brunch had everything! Joining VIEW members and their friends were guests including Andrew Gee MP, Paul Toole MP, Bathurst Mayor Robert Taylor and Councillors Natalie Cranston and Nick Packham. The event's guest speaker was Shona Kennedy from the Bathurst Young Mob, who gave an inspirational speech about her personal journey, reflecting on the strong women in her life. To finish, guests took part in an energetic belly dancing workshop, led by the Bashira Belly Dancers.

The **Southern Highlands VIEW Club** hosted a wonderful brunch with a delicious spread of baked goodies and specially-made IWD cupcakes, donated by a local patisserie (see photo below right).

In Glen Innes, 80 VIEW members came together for a Zone celebration, with inspirational guest speaker The Hon. Nichole Overall MLC. On the north coast, **Camden Haven Day VIEW Club** hosted a morning tea for members from **Port Macquarie Lighthouse VIEW Club**, **Port Macquarie Day VIEW Club** and **Wauchope VIEW Club**, as well as other local groups including Kew Bowls Club and Bonny Hills Exercise Group.



Southern Highlands VIEW Club members

Central Queensland

IWD activities in Queensland included a fabulous event organised by the soon-to-be-formed **Capricornia VIEW Club** in Rockhampton. More than 20 women who plan to join Capricornia VIEW enjoyed the event which featured a guest speaker, raffle and delicious cupcakes. The event was also an opportunity to formalise the Club's formation and elect their first Committee!

Unfortunately, several IWD events planned and organised by VIEW clubs in Queensland and northern NSW had to be cancelled due to ex-tropical cyclone Alfred.



South Australia

In Adelaide and surrounds, VIEW members were involved in five IWD activities! In addition to events hosted by various SA-based clubs including a fabulous Zone luncheon, members from **Tonsley** and **Blackwood Hills VIEW Clubs** were delighted to join 3,000 other community members at Adelaide's much-loved IWD Breakfast event hosted by Senator The Hon. Penny Wong. This year's guest speaker was Rachel Perkins, a proud Arrernte and Kalkadoon woman,

and an inspiring writer, director, and producer.



Adelaide East VIEW members at their first Zone IWD Luncheon

Tasmania

Members from **Hobart VIEW Club** formed a small choir and performed at Salamanca Markets as part of the Women's Voices Project, an initiative by Print Radio Tasmania. See page 14 for a photo and the full story.

Other VIEW news

VIEW coming to Kyneton

A new VIEW Club will be inaugurated in late April in Kyneton, in the Macedon Ranges region of Victoria. For the past six months, the VIEW Victorian Development Team has been busy promoting the benefits of VIEW – including our connection to The Smith Family – to interested women in the community.

Lyn Geer, from the Development Team, said 36 women (so far!) have signed up to join the new club. All committee positions are filled and the new members are eagerly awaiting the club's official opening.

"We've had advertisements in the local papers and flyers in local shops, libraries and council offices. Interest meetings have been held each month at the Kyneton Bowls Club and current VIEW members had an information stand at the local Rotary market. Other women asking friends, neighbours and family to come along to meetings has also worked well at attracting new members," she said.

"The new members have enjoyed meeting for coffee and a chat in between the monthly interest meetings. They are a very keen and generous group of women who are happy to help and be involved."

Anne Gleeson, who will be the inaugural Vice President of Kyneton VIEW Club said: "I hope we can form a group of active members who are supportive of each other and committed to the ideals of The Smith Family. We have such a diversity of talents, availability and ages – a good combination for a club that works effectively and open-heartedly towards improving the educational possibilities of disadvantaged Australian children."

Keep an eye on the VIEW Facebook page for photos from the inaugural!

Adelaide's newest members are settling in

Following the official opening of Adelaide East VIEW Club in November last year, the club has been busy ticking off 'firsts'.

In mid-December, the inaugural Committee (pictured) hosted their first luncheon meeting, taking over from the Helper Team.

In February, their first fundraiser was held in partnership with Prospect VIEW Club.



Together the clubs sold 350 tickets to a private screening of the Bridget Jones movie, *Mad*

About a Boy. With a catered afternoon tea and raffles, the event was a great success!

Farewell Leonie, welcome Lisa

In March, The Smith Family and VIEW said farewell to Leonie Green (pictured far right), The Smith Family's former Head of State and Territory Operations who retired after 12 years in the role. Leonie has attended many VIEW events and National Conventions, always joining in the fun and friendship. Last year, she was involved in securing Her Excellency Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, as VIEW's Patron.

Leonie said a highlight of her time was working closely with

the amazing women of VIEW, in particular the many VIEW Executive over the years. We wish Leonie all the best – she now has time to join a local VIEW Club so look out for her at VIEW events.

Lisa Allan (pictured middle), formerly The Smith Family's Head of Fundraising, is the new Head of State and Territory Operations. In just her third week officially in the role, the VIEW National Leadership Team were lucky to meet and hear from Lisa during their gathering at National Office. Congratulations Lisa!



Thank you for supporting the education of students in disadvantage

Learning for Life student stories

Mark Ryan is a Board Member of The Smith Family. He's also a former *Learning for Life* student who understands first-hand the life-changing impact of The Smith Family's educational support.

Mark and his twin brother Andrew grew up in a single-parent household in public housing in Brisbane's north in the 1980s. His mother had left school in Year 10, limiting her opportunities for work. Money was always tight for the family and Mark remembers that he and his brother didn't have a lot of things compared with their peers.

"We didn't have a car and there were lots of charity drop-offs at the front door at Christmas time. It was an upbringing where we were well aware we were part of the have-nots rather than the haves," he recalls.

Despite her own experiences at school, Mark's mum encouraged her sons to value their education and study hard. Both boys performed well academically and were great sportsman, competing in cricket and tennis. With support from teachers who also saw their academic potential, Mark and Andrew participated in gifted and talented programs in high school and set their sights on university.

Just as they were considering how they would manage the long commute to university, their expenses, study demands and a part-time job, The Smith Family came into the lives. Both boys joined the *Learning for Life* program with a Tertiary Scholarship. The

financial assistance they received helped to cover many of their university costs, enabling them to focus on their studies.

"The Smith Family financial assistance supported us in terms of transport, textbooks, student union fees and all the things that as a family if we didn't have. Not having this support may have led to some pretty hard choices as to whether we would have been able to take up those university studies," Mark says.

Today, Mark is the Manager of Strategic Communications at Queensland Rail and Chairperson for not-for-profit, Return Serve Inc, which helps young people experiencing disadvantage access free or low-cost sporting opportunities in Brisbane.

Young Karingbal woman, Faith is another former student who has benefitted from The Smith Family's support. As a young student, Faith juggled school and caring for her unwell mother. In Year 9, she started receiving support through the *Learning for Life* program. With ambitions to become a professional musician, The Smith Family's Tertiary Scholarship enabled Faith to complete a Bachelor of Music at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University. After three years of study, Faith graduated in 2024 and was selected to give the Student's Speech at her graduation ceremony.



Faith Kayrooz



L-R: Mark and Andrew Ryan

A professional performer since the age of 14, Faith has performed alongside a range of artists including The Veronicas. She has also performed at Government House in Canberra for the Carers Australia 30th Anniversary event. Her heartfelt deeply personal song "Mumma's Not Doing Well" was inspired by her experiences as a young carer. In November 2024, Faith released her debut EP, which features her own folk and country-inspired songs.

You can hear more about Mark and Faith at the upcoming VIEW National Convention in Brisbane, in September this year. On Day one of Convention, Mark and Faith will join a panel of Smith Family team members to share updates on the latest Smith Family research projects and its vital work in communities.



Scan the QR code to book your Convention ticket now!

Around the clubs

The VIEW National Leadership Team celebrated reaching the milestone of supporting 1,800 *Learning for Life* students at The Smith Family National Office in February.



Wagga Wagga window display

How fabulous is this promotional display which Wagga Wagga Evening VIEW Club (NSW) created in their local library window? The display tells the history of VIEW and The Smith Family, explains the support provided to *Learning for*

Life students through sponsorship, advertises the club's upcoming International Women's Day Breakfast in March and spells out V.I.E.W! Great promotion! Would this work in your area?



Gunnedah VIEW members recognised

Congratulations to these wonderful, dedicated, community-minded and generous VIEW members from Gunnedah Evening VIEW Club (NSW)! Kate Knight and Linda Lee, President and Secretary

respectively, of Gunnedah Evening VIEW Club were recognised with the Community Achievement Award at Gunnedah's 2025 Australia Day presentation. Well done!



VIEW speaks on loneliness

In February, Michelle Holland and Anne-Maree Davis (pictured L-R), Committee members from Orange Evening VIEW Club (NSW), were honoured to represent VIEW at a roundtable in their town as part of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the prevalence, causes and impacts of loneliness in NSW. The pair joined members of other local groups including the Country

Women's Association and Men's Shed to discuss the causes of loneliness, its impacts and ideas to decrease social isolation in regional communities. The roundtable followed a hearing in Sydney where Elizabeth Birch, VIEW National President and Maryanne Maher, VIEW National Manager discussed a VIEW submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry.

VIEW and Officeworks

To support The Smith Family's Back to School appeal and partnership with Officeworks, earlier this year VIEW members in nine areas visited their local Officeworks stores to personally thank staff for getting behind the appeal. Well done to the members who stepped up to help in this way, including these women from Bundaberg VIEW Club (QLD).



Hobart VIEW Club choir

Members from Hobart VIEW Club were involved in the Women's Voices Project, an initiative by Print Radio Tasmania aimed at empowering women through connection and storytelling. Women's groups were invited to select a song that reflected their

group and prepare it for recording. Hobart VIEW Club singers chose 'Put a Little Love in your Heart'. As part of IWD, the VIEW Choir was interviewed on radio and recorded their song in the studio. On March 8, they performed at Salamanca Markets to a welcoming crowd!



Lithgow VIEW receives award

Congratulations to Lithgow VIEW Club (NSW) which received the NSW Seniors Festival Community Achievement Award for the Bathurst Electorate! Lithgow VIEW Club is very active in their local community, with a large membership base

who sponsor 10 *Learning for Life* students. The club has built strong connections in the local community and members are well known for the many fundraising and social activities they take part in. Well done to all members!

All wrapped up!

December 2024 was another amazing fundraising season for VIEW Christmas wrappers. This year close to \$50,000 was raised with members across several states participating in gift wrapping stalls in shopping centres and at the Good Food and Wine Shows in Melbourne and Sydney.



VIEW photos!

From recent celebrations



Gunnedah VIEW Club (NSW) IWD event



Hamilton VIEW Club (VIC) IWD event



Toowoomba Evening VIEW Club (QLD)



Drysdale Day VIEW Club (VIC) IWD event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



65th Anniversary event



view

voice, interests and
education of women

merchandise



New Merchandise

- VIEW Bumper Sticker..... \$4
- 65th Pop Up Fan..... \$5

- Beanie..... \$20
- Bum bag..... \$15
- 60th fan..... \$5
- 60th spectacle cleaner..... \$5
- 60th pin..... \$6
- Pen..... \$8
- Shoehorn..... \$5
- Nail file..... \$5
- Key ring..... \$10
- Travel pack..... \$10
- Backpack..... \$5
- Apron..... \$22
- Poncho..... \$10

All money raised from the sale of VIEW gifts helps children in need to succeed at school.
To order any of these VIEW gifts, please email view@thesmithfamily.com.au

Send Flowers

Save Money

Support The Smith Family

To order please visit:

www.petals.com.au/view
or phone 1800PETALS (738 257) and quote 5816

to receive your 10%* discount **plus**
18%* will be donated to The Smith Family

*on the flower value



Poverty shouldn't limit a child's potential

Yet every day it takes a hidden toll on Ella's learning.

1 in 6 children in Australia are living in poverty. Like Ella*, many are missing out on the extra learning support they need.

Ella's mum does everything she can, but these invisible barriers are causing her to fall behind at school.

You can help Ella access the extra learning support she needs.

For 65 years VIEW Club members have provided life-changing educational support to children in Ella's position.

*Names, location and associated images have been changed to protect the identity of Ella and her family.

Please donate today.

 [The Smith Family](#)

 1800 024 069

**WINTER
APPEAL
2025**



**The Smith
Family**

Learn today, change tomorrow.