VIEW Matters

November 2026



25 years of VIEW in WA

Grants success for clubs

VIEW activities across the country

view
voice, interests and education of women

Our Vision

Women creating and leading a more inclusive Australian society.

Our Mission

As a leading voice and valued support network for women, VIEW actively supports, 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



Contents

3 From the Executive
4 Message from The Smith Family CEO
5 News briefs
6 WA celebrating 25 years of VIEW
8 How WA VIEW began
10 More VIEW News
12 Around the Clubs
14 VIEW photos!
15 VIEW merchandise

view
voice, interests and education of women

The Smith Family
Learn today, change tomorrow.



VIEW is a national women's organisation with 13,000 members in close to 260 communities exclusively supporting the education charity The Smith Family. Members sponsor students, volunteer, raise funds 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 1,900 disadvantaged 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: Lorraine Thomson
National Vice Presidents: Angie Carroll; Dianne Fiddes
National Councillors: NSW: Robin Bosch; Sandra Fong; Mary Hollingworth. QLD: Irene Kinder; Christine Foster. SA: Bernie McSwain. VIC: Annette Harriot; Lorraine Batrouney. 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: 130 VIEW members gathered in Perth in September to celebrate 25 years of VIEW and The Smith Family in WA



From the Executive

Congratulations on another wonderful year supporting students experiencing disadvantage. VIEW is now sponsoring more than 1,900 students on The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program.

Generous and hard-working VIEW members also raised significant funds for The Smith Family's other essential learning and support programs. Along with VIEW National President Lorraine Thomson and my fellow National Vice President, Dianne Fiddes, I am incredibly proud of the women across Australia who choose to be part of VIEW.

Recently, I began a new chapter, relocating from New South Wales to Queensland. I've enjoyed getting to know my new area by attending local VIEW club meetings in search of my 'second home'. I've met so many friendly and committed VIEW members, and been inspired by their fun activities and creative fundraising. Thank you to everyone who warmly welcomed me. I'm excited to join Buderim VIEW Club.

To help me settle into Queensland life, I've adopted the motto 'it's never too late to give it a try'. It's a concept we can all embrace to help secure VIEW's future. Put your hand up to volunteer on a committee, or if you're already a committee member, encourage someone else to do so. Keep an open mind to possibilities VIEW has to offer, from sharing your story at a monthly meeting to volunteering to be a speaker in the Resolutions debate at National Convention. Getting more involved is incredibly rewarding and it will also deepen your connection to VIEW and The Smith Family.

Earlier this year, I was delighted to be invited to meet the senior policy advisors of the Hon. Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth. This was an opportunity to discuss one of VIEW's 2026-27 Resolutions, which advocates for more funding towards mental health programs for children. VIEW Resolutions provide a platform for VIEW members to bring issues of importance to the attention of Government and other public bodies. During the meeting, I heard about the Minister's actions and ideas for improvements and provided information about VIEW's work supporting Australian children's education.

I encourage you to discuss your ideas for VIEW's 2028-29 Resolutions with fellow members and submit a motion for consideration. Submissions close 27 November. Members will debate and vote on the VIEW Resolutions at the 2027 National Convention.

Planning is now underway for this special event, taking place at the impressive Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre from 3-5 September 2027. Places are limited, so I recommend booking early.

Finally, thank you again for your commitment to supporting the education of children experiencing disadvantage. Have a safe and relaxing festive season.

Angie Carroll
National Vice President 2026-27

Top left: VIEW National Vice Presidents, Angie Carroll, Dianne Fiddes and VIEW National President Lorraine Thomson

Scan for details about National Convention!

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 students experiencing disadvantage.



Find out more about VIEW by visiting the website at view.org.au or emailing view@thesmithfamily.com.au



Message from The Smith Family CEO

Once again, VIEW has achieved an outstanding year full of impact. On behalf of everyone at The Smith Family, thank you to every VIEW member for your support.

Your contributions are helping thousands of students experiencing disadvantage access the essentials they need to succeed at school and build better futures.

Through October and November, I have had the opportunity to personally thank VIEW representatives at The Smith Family's Great Big Thank You events across the country. I'm pictured below with *Learning for Life* Alumi Isabella at the Victorian event. It has been great to see VIEW represented by members at these gatherings.

I am particularly excited to attend the Perth event later in November, which will also celebrate 25 years of The Smith Family and VIEW operating in Western Australia.

In the West, The Smith Family and VIEW have worked side-by-side to grow services and impact since First WAVE VIEW Club began in 2001. Today VIEW has a network of clubs in Perth and the South West region. The partnership between VIEW and The Smith Family remains central to VIEW's purpose, with members supporting *Learning for Life* students through fundraising, student sponsorship and volunteering.

Across Australia, the connection between The Smith Family and VIEW has never been stronger. This year, VIEW members have enthusiastically supported initiatives including the Return and Earn fundraiser in NSW and our Scam Awareness (Financial Wellbeing) workshops. An *Australian Women's Weekly* feature story also helped raise awareness about VIEW and The Smith Family. We see the impact of this in the positive stories shared by the students and families who benefit from our programs and your support.

As Christmas approaches, The Smith Family's last major fundraising appeal of the year shifts into high gear. With rising education costs putting young people's learning at risk, this year we aim to raise $5 million to support 11,904 children and young people access vital learning and mentoring programs.

Our annual survey shows how much this support means to families doing it tough. This year, 80% of respondents said The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* scholarship program had made a positive impact for their family. More than 63% said the financial support they received through the program helped cover basics like school uniforms, books, stationery and technology, while an additional 12.7% said the funds helped with school camps and sporting activities.

I know as VIEW members your support will help us work towards this important target. Every conversation you have in your local community about VIEW and its connection to The Smith Family can help more students and families access the educational support they need.

Thank you again for everything you do as VIEW members and congratulations on supporting 1,900+ students experiencing disadvantage make the most of their education.

Have a safe and relaxing festive season with your family and friends.

Doug Taylor
Chief Executive Officer



Learn about 25 years of The Smith Family and VIEW in WA!

We're on Facebook and Instagram!

Connect with more than 3,000 VIEW members across Australia on the VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page or follow @viewclubs on Instagram. We've ramped up our social media activity to bring members and others interested in VIEW more news and updates. Share our posts to reach new members!

Scan to follow us on Facebook!

News briefs

VIEW's impact

Learning for Life sponsorships supported by VIEW

1,908 *Students experiencing disadvantage at these levels:*

1,475	417	16
School	Senior School	Tertiary

Blue Illusion Shopping Day Success



Members from Burleigh-Palm Beach VIEW in Robina, QLD.

Thank you to the many VIEW members who showed up at Blue Illusion stores on 17 September for the National Shopping Day in support of The Smith Family. This annual fundraiser sees Blue Illusion donate 7% from all sales on the day to The Smith Family. VIEW members right across the country visited stores to enjoy fashion parades, meet other members and, of course, 'shop for a cause' to support children's education. More than **$26,000** was raised on the day!

VIEW National Convention 2027 - Geelong

Registrations are now open for the next VIEW National Convention to be held in Geelong from 3-5 September 2027. This three-day gathering is not to be missed by VIEW members who want to learn more about VIEW and The Smith Family. At Convention, members will be inspired by guest speakers, hear from incredible authors, catch-up with interstate VIEW friends and make new life-long friends at the fun, social evening events. Convention planning is in full swing with the amazing new Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre booked to host VIEW.

Scan to find out more.



Celebration scarf for WA



Members from Rockingham Sound Day VIEW (WA)

Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped to promote the WA VIEW 25th anniversary Black Pepper scarf! You helped to raise over $2,270 for The Smith Family. The beautiful limited -edition scarf was designed by Black Pepper, especially for VIEW. It was launched at the WA VIEW anniversary celebration held in Perth in September, with $10 from every purchase before 3 October donated to The Smith Family.

New record!

VIEW reached a new sponsorship milestone in November, with the organisation's 1,900th *Learning for Life* student supported by members. Thank you to every VIEW member for the hard work you put in to raising funds to support The Smith Family. Your efforts and contributions are making a huge difference in the lives of children and families experiencing disadvantage.



WA celebrating 25 years of VIEW

Friendship, fun and fundraising for a shared purpose.

Twenty-five years of friendship, community connection and support for children's education were celebrated when 130 VIEW members and guests gathered at the Novotel Perth on 3 September for VIEW's Silver Anniversary in Western Australia (WA). Representatives from all nine WA VIEW Clubs were joined by VIEW National President Lorraine Thomson, VIEW National Manager Maryanne Maher, representatives from The Smith Family, a current *Learning for Life* student and several VIEW members from the eastern states for the milestone event.

The celebration began with a heartfelt video message from the Governor General of Australia and VIEW Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC. She recognised the impact of WA VIEW through members' volunteering, community connections and financial support.

A video followed, featuring Smith Family team members reflecting on 25 years of The Smith Family and VIEW in WA. It was particularly interesting to hear how VIEW supported The Smith Family in the early days. The first State General Manager David Ansell recalled VIEW members helping to recruit students, providing access to prominent and influential West Australians and finding guests for functions.

Inspiring stories and speakers

The event's special guest, The Hon. Hannah Beazley MLA, WA Minister for Local Government, Disability Services, Volunteering and Youth, congratulated VIEW members and spoke about the vital role volunteers play in their communities.

One of the day's most moving moments came when The Smith Family's Julie Walker interviewed *Learning for Life* student Noe, who is studying a Bachelor of Design and Creativity. Noe shared her education journey, explaining how support from her Smith Family sponsor motivated her to continue her studies even through difficult times.

A diverse line-up of speakers explored issues closely connected to VIEW's purpose. The Smith Family's National Manager of Education Research & Insights Kirsten Hancock discussed findings from the organisation's recent Pathways, Engagement and Transitions study, which follows young people experiencing disadvantage as they move through secondary school and into work, training or further study. Sarah Quinton from the Valuing Children Initiative spoke about the need for a national plan to end child poverty. Sea Gals founder Tara Jeisman shared how her community brings women together through sunrise ocean dips, encouraging body acceptance and positive mental health. Vicki Hoff reflected on the leadership, teamwork and personal growth she gained through volunteering with the Army Reserve and the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Reflecting on the past, looking to the future

The afternoon was both a celebration of history and an opportunity to look to the future. Julie Walker shared early thinking about The Smith Family's next five-year strategy, while Lorraine and Maryanne spoke about VIEW can continue making a meaningful impact. WA VIEW National Councillor Kris Behets traced the history of

Today, The Smith Family supports

6,500

WA students

and there are more than

600

VIEW members

across WA, collectively sponsoring

119

***Learning for Life* students.**



Purchasing the 25th anniversary scarf



Event organisers, Michelle McGrath (L) and Rena O'Sullivan (R) with Noe and Julie Walker



VIEW members and friends

VIEW in WA, and inaugural VIEW Club members were recognised for their contribution.

Another highlight was the presentation of the first Barb Colson Memorial Medal (see below), which included recognition for the 11 finalists who all demonstrated the qualities at the heart of VIEW.

The WA Development Team shared their plans to establish new clubs in Augusta, Albany, Mundaring and Kalamunda, before club presidents highlighted what makes their VIEW club special.

Friendship and purpose central to WA clubs

The nine WA VIEW Club presidents agree that every club is different, but friendship and purpose unite them all. In a special part of the anniversary celebration, the presidents spoke about the warm welcome at meetings, encouragement on difficult days and the confidence and skills women gain through VIEW.

Social connection was described as key to VIEW's success, while belonging, kindness and the joy of bringing women with diverse experiences together were also strong themes shared by all.

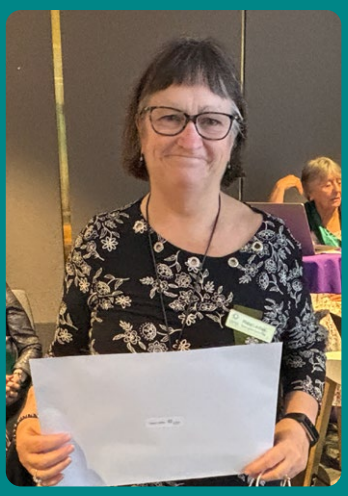
Fun was noted as an important part of WA VIEW Clubs. First Wave VIEW members enjoy themed functions and skits, while Melville City VIEW's mystery bus trips and bring-and-buy days create laughter and new friendships.

Alongside this connection is a strong shared commitment to children's education. From West Coast VIEW's support of 21 students to newer clubs like Busselton, now supporting four students, and Mandurah VIEW raising funds for their first sponsorship, every club is proudly making a real difference through supporting The Smith Family.

A celebration to remember

Adding to the festivities on the day were prizes, raffles, a quiz and the special Black Pepper WA VIEW 25th anniversary scarf. With such a great vibe of coming together and sharing the day, the celebration captured the warmth, fun and shared purpose of VIEW.

Congratulations to Zone Councillors Rena O'Sullivan and Michelle McGrath, National Councillor Kris Behets and the WA Development Team, for a memorable celebration and fitting tribute to 25 remarkable years.



Barb Colson Memorial Medal



Mabel Laidlaw was named the inaugural recipient of the Barb Colson Memorial Medal! The award honours the contributions of Barb Colson, who was instrumental in establishing the first VIEW Club in WA (see page 8). Mabel was nominated for her dedication to VIEW as a founding member of Rockingham Sound Day VIEW. She has served in various committee roles, organised creative fundraising events and preserved the club's history as historian. Her enthusiasm and community connections have helped attract new members, promote VIEW and ensure women feel welcome and included.

Congratulations Mabel!



Inaugural WA members recognised



WA VIEW members



Guest Speaker, Tara Jeisman

How WA VIEW began

VIEW's story in Western Australia (WA) began, fittingly, with a connection between two women. After all, connecting with other women to strengthen communities and support children experiencing disadvantage has always been central to VIEW.

A chance meeting, a lasting connection

While attending a Vauxhall Owner's Car Rally in Tasmania, Perth resident Barb Colson joined a cruise on the Gordon River. There she met Bev Holland, a VIEW National Councillor from Orange, NSW. The pair got talking and Bev introduced Barb to VIEW and the important work members do to support The Smith Family. When she mentioned that The Smith Family would soon be establishing operations in WA, Barb saw an opportunity to build a supportive community for women, who also wanted to give back.

Getting started and forming clubs

When Barb returned to Perth, she contacted friends she thought would be interested in becoming foundation members of VIEW. Later, Barb was contacted by Laurel Fatherly, former VIEW National Vice President. Laurel was living in Perth and volunteered to help introduce VIEW to the state. Barb and Laurel met with Ann McClintock, VIEW National Manager at the time, to discuss what was involved in opening the state's first club and the practical arrangements needed to support its development.

First WAVE (as it then was) VIEW Club opened in July 2001, with a passionate group of women ready to support The Smith Family. Its name, Western Australian VIEW Evening Club, reflects its place as WA's first VIEW Club, and the beginning of a new wave of VIEW activity in the west. The club is now a day club called First Wave VIEW.

Within a decade, seven more VIEW Clubs had sprung up across WA. Today, with the opening of Mandurah VIEW Club in June 2026, VIEW has nine active clubs in WA's metropolitan and South West region.

Growing together, making a difference

From the outset, WA VIEW and The Smith Family team had a special connection, growing together through a shared story of supporting the education of children experiencing disadvantage. As The Smith Family had already shifted its focus to education by the time it commenced operations in WA, VIEW members have been committed supporters of students on the *Learning for Life* program right from the beginning. Sponsorship remains central to their work and relevance, along with volunteering in The Smith Family offices and supporting other Smith Family programs including Student2Student. Since 2014, First Wave, West Coast and Western Suburbs VIEW Clubs have developed a particularly strong and beneficial connection with The Smith Family's Child and Parent Centres at Westminster and Roseworth. VIEW members regularly volunteer and donate learning resources, toys and books for families.





(L to R) Monica O'Donoghue, Lynette Buoy and Barbara Colson

Find out more about VIEW's history in WA!



L-R: NC Brenda Harrold, Barbara Colson and NP Clare Lamborn in 2007

A great start for Mandurah VIEW

In June 2026, more than 100 women celebrated the inauguration of Mandurah VIEW Club, located south of Perth. The club opened with 56 members ready to have fun, build friendships and support The Smith Family's work with children experiencing disadvantage. Today the club is thriving with over 70 members already.

Special guests at the function included City of Mandurah Mayor Amber Kearns, who helped to build early interest in the club. Speakers also included Mr Shannon Wright, Councillor and Principal of Greenfields Primary School and Natasha Upcott, Principal of Mandurah Primary School, (below left), who both spoke about some of the challenges facing the local community. VIEW National President Lorraine Thomson, who made the trip from Queensland, was delighted to present the VIEW Charter to Mandurah VIEW Club Co-Presidents Dee Buckley and Sara Adams, along with badges for the inaugural committee members.

In a wonderful show of support, representatives from all WA VIEW Clubs attended, bringing a warm and welcoming vibe to the event. The celebration concluded with a performance by the Voices in Harmony Choir, a local group including VIEW members. To cap off a very successful event, a raffle raised over $1,000 on the day, kickstarting Mandurah VIEW's fundraising efforts.



Mandurah VIEW Club members



Natasha Upcott and Julie Walker



Lorraine Thomson with Mandurah VIEW inaugural committee

25 years of VIEW in Western Australia

2001 First Wave

2001 WA Western Suburbs

2003 Rockingham Sound Day

2005 West Coast VIEW

2006 Daniella (closed 2008)

2011 Melville City

2013 Bayswater City

2017 Capes

2024 Busselton

2026 Mandurah

More VIEW news

Turning bottles into books

VIEW members across New South Wales have been busy collecting empty bottles, cans and containers to support The Smith Family's Return and Earn campaign.

Through the campaign, which was extended until late November, every 30 eligible containers recycled at a Return and Earn depot provided one schoolbook to a student supported through the *Learning for Life* program.

The Smith Family is grateful to every VIEW member who took part in the campaign. Whether that was recycling containers, running a collection drive, encouraging friends and family to drop containers off or sharing the campaign with others in the community, VIEW's contributions have made a huge difference ensuring the campaign is a success. Thank you for helping Australian children living with disadvantage access the books and learning resources they need.

Although the campaign has now finished, recyclers across Australia can continue to donate and contribute to The Smith Family. Simply choose The Smith Family as your charity of choice when you drop off eligible bottles, cans and containers.



Denman VIEW Club (NSW)



Bathurst VIEW Club (NSW)



Bega VIEW Club (NSW)

VIEW members get financially fit

In August, members from VIEW Clubs across the Western Slopes and Riverina regions of New South Wales participated in ANZ's free Scam Awareness workshop, delivered in partnership with The Smith Family. In an increasingly digital world, staying safe online is crucial and this workshop is a great way to build your financial skills.



Recognising the value of financial confidence and scam awareness for VIEW members, VIEW Zone Councillor, Nita McIntyre, organised for members to attend the workshop. Many shared their own experiences, highlighting how important it is to stay vigilant online. All attendees gained important skills and knowledge about scam prevention, safe digital banking and where to get support during financial hardship.

The feedback from the group was overwhelmingly positive, with participants feeling more confident. Everyone was pleased to take home information packs to share with their loved ones.

More free **Scam Awareness** workshops will be running across the country in 2027. Keep an eye out for them in your community!

VIEW connecting and supporting Saver Plus

VIEW Clubs across Australia are encouraged to put their support behind Saver Plus. Developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services, Saver Plus is available across Australia. It is delivered by Brotherhood of St. Laurence, The Smith Family and Berry Street Yooralla.

For more than 23 years, Saver Plus has supported people on lower incomes to develop lifelong savings habits, gain financial skills and lighten the load of educational expenses. During this time, more than 70,000 people have benefitted from the program, learning money-management skills including budgeting, goal setting and how to balance needs and wants.

Inviting a Saver Plus representative to be a guest speaker at a VIEW Club meeting is a great way VIEW members can support people to grow their confidence around finances, while reducing the stress money can create. Members will find out how the program works, learn savings tips and discover how to connect others in the community to the program.

Email: | **saverpluscl@thesmithfamily.com.au** to be connected to the Saver Plus team.

Brotherhood of St Laurence | ANZ | Berry Street Proudly part of Berry Street Yooralla | The Smith Family Learn today, change tomorrow. | saverplus

Grant funding success

Community grants can help VIEW Clubs make an even greater impact for The Smith Family and students experiencing disadvantage. With some extra support, a great VIEW idea can turn into a successful fundraiser, membership drive or publicity campaign.

Earlier this year, Ulladulla Evening VIEW Club (NSW) received a $1,500 grant from local real estate agency, Jo Jones Property Specialists, through the realestate.com.au Advantage Community Grants Program. Through this program, business customers of realestate.com.au can nominate a local community group, sporting organisation or charity for a one-off grant to support a community benefit.



Through bringing local women together in a welcoming environment, the workshop encouraged connection and support, with the added benefit of participants creating hand-made blankets for people in need. It was also an opportunity for Ulladulla Evening VIEW Club to showcase VIEW and its work to local women who may want to become members.

The Advantage Community Grants Program is available across Australia and accepts submissions all year round. To apply, VIEW Clubs must connect with a local real estate agency who is an eligible realestate.com.au customer.

Banks and other financial institutions can also be a good source of community grant funding. For Bayswater City VIEW Club (WA), going to the effort of scripting a creative marketing pitch as part of their application through Bendigo Bank's Community Sponsorship program delivered in spades. The club applied for $1,300 to help with the purchase of a laptop, software and square reader for fundraising activities, however received $5,000 after impressing the judges! In their presentation, members acted out the tragedy of putting in hours of work on the club's finances only to lose it through failing technology.



Find out more here!

Around the clubs

Hobart VIEW turns 15!

In October, more than 50 VIEW members and friends gathered to celebrate Hobart VIEW Club's 15th anniversary. Since its beginnings, the club has raised $90,244 for The Smith Family, including $8,924 last year. Its 30 members currently sponsor five *Learning for Life* students.

President Jane Kerin welcomed guests, including VIEW National President Lorraine Thomson, National Manager Maryanne Maher and local council representatives. Guest speaker Julie Dunbabin, Senior Tasmanian of the Year, described how her organisation, School Food Matters, is changing the way schools prepare and serve lunches.

Maryanne reflected on memorable moments from the club's history, highlighting its younger Friends of VIEW group, their successful literary high teas and the 2023 VIEW National Convention in Hobart. A display celebrating the club's sponsored students brought VIEW's purpose into focus.

Conversation and laughter filled the room as guests enjoyed an anniversary cake baked by Jane and decorated by her daughter. Congratulations to all past and present Hobart VIEW members on 15 remarkable years!



(L to R) VIEW National President Lorraine Thomson, Julie Dunbabin and Jane Kerin



Busselton VIEW and Vinnies

In August, Busselton VIEW Club (WA) held its annual Sustainable Fashion Show and "Fun-raiser" in collaboration with Vinnies WA. The event featured a short presentation from Vinnies WA Manager of Volunteer Services, May Bowden, on how volunteering can create "a place to belong". Five brave VIEW members modelled pre-loved outfits styled by the Busselton Vinnies team, before guests had the chance to pick up some spring fashion at the pop-up store. Raffle prizes donated by Vinnies capped off a great event to support The Smith Family!

Zone Conference connections

VIEW Zone Conferences are a great opportunity to meet other VIEW members, learn together and share ideas. 45 VIEW members from Burleigh-Palm Beach, Currumbin- Elanora, Nerang, Oxenford-Coomera, Robina, Runaway Bay, Southport, Surfers Paradise and Toowoomba Day VIEW Clubs (QLD) came together on the Gold Coast in September for an engaging day themed around "Connect to Make a Bigger Difference". Highlights included each president sharing their thoughts and aspirations for their club, a presentation on grant-writing tips from a Runaway Bay VIEW member, and updates from The Smith Family's Toowoomba and Gold Coast Team Leader, Kym Juleff. Well done to the organisers, who facilitated an informative day for all!



Container Campaign

Members from Geelong Evening VIEW (VIC) have been busy recycling drink containers to raise funds to support The Smith Family's Digital Learning Essentials program. Like the NSW-based Return and Earn scheme, Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme gives a 10-cent refund for every eligible container recycled. Geelong Evening VIEW members want to raise $500 by July 2027 – that's 5,000 recycled containers! Well done to members who dropped off this first collection!



Nothing trivial about Runaway Bay's fundraising

Over 100 VIEW members and guests enjoyed Runaway Bay VIEW's (QLD) annual Trivia Night, a major fundraiser for club's 18 *Learning for Life* students. More than $4,000 was raised, thanks to support from Runaway Bay Junior Leagues Club and local businesses who donated prizes. Attendees embraced all the activities, including a competition to create a wedding dress from toilet paper!





Handy Helen's beautiful rugs

Well done and thank you to Helen from Southern Highlands VIEW Club (NSW) who handmade these beautiful reading rugs for students supported by The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program. Helen, who knitted each rug with loving care, donated 25 rugs to The Smith Family's Illawarra office, as motivation and encouragement for young readers.

VIEW theatre lovers raise funds

Victorian VIEW members with a love of the theatre are turning their passion into purpose through a fundraising initiative that provides students in need with essential digital tools. The group regularly attends theatre shows, donating an extra $5 on top of their group-discounted ticket price to help fund a Digital Learning Essentials pack through The Smith Family. The group recently raised enough for their third pack to be provided to a *Learning for Life* student in need. At $1,285 per pack, that's a meaningful contribution! A pack provides a laptop, internet access and technical support to help young people overcome digital barriers and succeed in their education goals. For Past National Councillor Bev Orgill, driver of the initiative (pictured second from left), "enjoying live theatre is always fun in great company—but it's even better when it directly transforms a young person's life through education".



VIEW *photos!*



Murrumbateman, NSW



Townsville, QLD


Maroochydore, QLD



Bundaberg, QLD


Gunnedah, NSW


Rockingham Sound Day, WA


Bathurst, NSW


Carindale, QLD


Hervey Bay, QLD


WA 25th anniversary


Noosaville, QLD


WA 25th anniversary

view
voice, interests and education of women

merchandise

Pick up a VIEW gift

to complete your Christmas stockings!

Our Christmas sale has some great deals. All money raised from the sale of VIEW items goes towards supporting children in need to succeed at school.



Christmas Sale Prices

60th Spectacle Cleaner	$2
60th Pin	$2
65th Fan	$2
Travel Wallet (tags not included)	$2
60th Fan	$3
Bumper Sticker	$3
Nail File	$3
Shoehorn	$3
Pen	$8
Bucket Hat	$10
Beanie	$12
Bum Bag	$12
Apron	$26

To order any of these VIEW gifts, please email
view@thesmithfamily.com.au

Prices valid for all orders placed from 15 October 2026 to 15 January 2027.

Unlock the potential poverty tries to hide.



Change the life of a child this Christmas.

With the right help, Ruby* can make the most of her education. But poverty stands in the way of her achieving her best.

Will you help Ruby access the crucial learning support she needs to realise her full potential?

VIEW Club members give children like Ruby the educational support they need to change their lives.

*Names and images have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals involved.

Please donate today.

The Smith Family 1800 024 069

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2026

The Smith Family
Learn today, change tomorrow.