XX May 2023

**VIEW Clubs call on the community to help make change this volunteer week**

[name] VIEW Club is calling on members of the community to give their time to children’s education charity, The Smith Family, as part of National Volunteer Week (15-21 May).

VIEW (Voice, Interests and Education of Women) is a leading women’s organisation with 14,000 members in 300 communities across Australia, all dedicated to supporting children in need with their education through The Smith Family. Members do this through community fundraising, spreading awareness, and volunteering.

The theme for this year’s Volunteer Week is ‘The Change Makers’, which [name] Club President [name] said is an accurate reflection of VIEW’s work across Australia.

“We help The Smith Family make tremendous change by giving children the best start to life through a quality education. Last year alone, the charity’s educational and mentoring programs reached almost 160,000 children and young people across the country.”

VIEW members volunteer their time for The Smith Family in a variety of ways, all of which have a lasting impact on a child’s life.

“We help raise funds for programs like *student2student,* which pairs younger children with reading buddies, we sponsor students through the *Learning for Life* program, so they are supported throughout their entire education, and members can volunteer at *Learning Clubs,* where children are given help with their homework after school.”

The Smith Family’s CEO, Doug Taylor, said the charity could not have the impact it does without the help of volunteers.

“Each year, thousands of volunteers play a vital role in our learning support and mentoring programs and provide invaluable in-house administration support, with the students and families we support being the ultimate beneficiaries.”

“We are very grateful to all VIEW members for continuing to donate their time and energy, especially during the last few years which have been disrupted by the pandemic, and now the cost-of-living crisis.”

Members of [name] VIEW Club volunteer for The Smith Family by [insert specific details]. [Name of president] said “There are many opportunities for people to help out”.

“We are always looking for women to join us in supporting The Smith Family and we’d encourage anyone interested to get in touch and come along to our next meeting to learn more about VIEW.”

Anyone interested in finding out more about [name] VIEW Club contact [insert contact details] or visit [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au).

**-Ends-**

**Media Enquiries:** [insert VIEW contact name], VIEW. Ph: [insert contact phone] or email [insert email address]

If appropriate/possible include details of event venue, timing etc to invite local media to attend.

**VIEW:** Founded in 1960 by the General Secretary of The Smith Family, George Forbes, to support the charitable work of The Smith Family, VIEW stands for the Voice, Interests and Education of Women. Visit [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au)

As The Smith Family's largest community sponsor of *Learning for Life* students, VIEW supports the educational outcomes of more than 1,585 disadvantaged children and young people. Through this powerful, longstanding connection, VIEW is proud to enable better futures for young Australians. Visit [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au)

**The Smith Family:** The Smith Family is a children’s education charity that helps young Australians experiencing disadvantage to create better futures for themselves through harnessing the power of education. Visit [thesmithfamily.com.au](https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/)