About The Smith Family

The Smith Family helps unlock opportunities for disadvantaged Australian children.

No one would deny that children are Australia’s future, yet right now one in seven Australian children are living in disadvantage and do not have access to the same educational, health or life opportunities that many of us enjoy and often take for granted. Without support, the disadvantage they experience today is likely to continue into adulthood - and on to the next generation.

Changes in family structure, the workplace, and across society at large are impacting negatively on children’s wellbeing. Tougher financial times will see a growing number of families falling between the cracks and increased hardship for those already struggling. When children are left out, they get left behind. Without support, the disadvantage they experience today is likely to continue into adulthood – and on to the next generation.

The Smith Family, a national, independent children’s charity, works in partnership with other caring Australians to help disadvantaged Australian children and their families.

As research has shown, supporting children’s education and learning is one of the most effective means of breaking the cycle of disadvantage and ensuring all children have the same opportunity to realise their potential.

At the centre of our work, and the heart of our organisation, is our belief in the power and possibilities of relationships. For disadvantaged children to thrive, many of whom are growing up in lone parent and jobless households, they need to be connected to, and supported by, an extended family.

At The Smith Family, we link disadvantaged children with education and learning programs, opportunities and supports, and connect them with those Australians who have the capacity, skills and resources to help. Our work in 95 communities is extended and enhanced by the more than 21,000 members of VIEW Clubs of Australia, together with 6,500 volunteers from the community and our corporate partners, who volunteer their time and energy to ensure we reach children in need.

The Smith Family’s education and learning programs are informed by research and made possible through our network of strong partnerships with other organisations and individuals working towards our vision of a more caring and cohesive Australia. Our programs support not only children but also their families and communities, who provide the crucial nurturing relationships and supportive learning environments a child needs, particularly during their important first five years of life.

More than 65,000 disadvantaged children and young people are accessing our comprehensive Learning for Life programs, which span a disadvantaged child’s early years through the vulnerable transition points in their development, such as moving from home to primary school and from school to further study or workforce entry.

At every step along the way, our nationwide network of Learning for Life workers support these children, linking them with emergent literacy and numeracy programs in their early years, and as they grow up, with comprehension, digital, financial, health and emotional literacy programs, so that children can develop the skills and capacities they need for their journey through life. We enable these literacies through mentoring and tutoring opportunities, and through a financial scholarship, which assists with the costs of essential school expenses such as uniforms, books and excursions.

At the same time, parents have access to The Smith Family’s ever-expanding set of resources, which include parenting education and skills development opportunities to help them raise their children and participate more fully in society themselves.

For more information on The Smith Family or for details on how you can help disadvantaged children realise their potential through education, please visit thesmithfamily.com.au

Donation Line 1800 024 069
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