

**FUNDRAISING RECEPTION FOR THE HOBART VIEW CLUB TO SUPPORT
THE WORK OF THE SMITH FAMILY IN TASMANIA
REMARKS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ALAN BLOW AO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MONDAY 15 MAY 2023**

Good evening everyone. My wife Margaret and I warmly welcome you to Government House for this fundraising reception for the Hobart VIEW Club to support your work on behalf of The Smith Family in Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land and sea.

I'll be brief in my remarks, so that you can enjoy the presentation by Tasmanian Author Robyn Mundy and musical performances by Sheng-Yuan Lynch and the Elizabeth College jazz ensemble.

It is a great pleasure to have with us tonight members of the local VIEW Club, and representatives of The Smith Family as well as supporters and sponsors. For many years, The Smith Family has been supporting young Australians by focusing on providing educational opportunities.

Education is one of the world's most powerful change agents. Many young Australians living in poverty face numerous challenges when they attempt to engage with education. More is needed to overcome the educational inequality that is caused by poverty. The Smith Family works every day with thousands of children and their families to help them unlock better futures for themselves by means of greater access to educational opportunities.

That work relies on two primary pillars: volunteers and fundraising. VIEW is a national women's volunteer organisation with clubs in over 300 communities and a membership of more than 15,000. The VIEW clubs exclusively support The Smith Family in its important work as Australia's largest children's education charity.

VIEW Clubs have been established wherever there are Smith Family programs. For more than 60 years, VIEW Club volunteers throughout Australia have assisted with The Smith Family literacy, numeracy, mentoring and technology programs. VIEW Clubs are also significant fundraisers, with more than \$1 million raised by members in 2020-21.

Those volunteers collectively dedicate more than 70,000 hours to service and support of The Smith Family annually. Over the past six decades, more than \$40 million has been raised for The Smith Family; more than three million hours have been volunteered; and significant work has been undertaken to raise awareness of and advocacy for disadvantaged Australian children.

Here in Tasmania, it is marvellous that we have some 18 VIEW members who directly support three Smith Family *Learning for Life* students. I am sure that is a very rewarding experience. Since it was founded in 2021, the Hobart VIEW Club has raised more than \$50,000 in support of The Smith Family and education of young Australians in need.¹

Learning for Life sponsorship assists families in need to afford a child's education essentials such as uniforms, shoes and stationery. Sponsored students are also connected with a Smith Family *Learning for Life* Program Coordinator who supports them to stay engaged, stay in school and break the cycle of disadvantage.² I commend you for the important work that you do supporting disadvantaged youth in Tasmania in their academic endeavours.

It is also important to recognise that VIEW Clubs have also provided an opportunity for women to collectively have a voice on important subjects. Through their networks in local communities, VIEW members help to spread the message about disadvantage in Australia and the importance of long-term education support in helping a child break the cycle of disadvantage.

I will conclude my remarks now with my congratulations to you all for your support to The Smith Family in Tasmania, your support for the education of our nation's most vulnerable children and your support for each other, strengthening the Voice, Interests and Education of Women in Australia.

After Robyn Mundy's presentation and musical performances, my wife and I are looking forward to speaking with you in a less formal setting while you socialise and enjoy some time looking around the State Rooms of Government House.

Thank you.

David ...

¹ Email Maryanne Maher / David Hughes 16 Nov 21

² <http://view.org.au/who-we-are/what-we-do/> 8 May 23