

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 24 November 2023

QTAC celebrates success of The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program through *Remind Me* launch to help Queensland students apply to university.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) has launched a new service called QTAC Remind Me – a reminder service targeting students interested in applying through QTAC to tertiary study.

The service offers timely reminders regarding ATAR release dates, Offer Rounds, and other application-related reminders through both email and SMS.

To help launch the service, QTAC staff raised more than \$1,000 from 1000 sign-ups at various careers expos across the state, with the proceeds going to national education charity The Smith Family to mark its longstanding commitment to educational equality for students in Queensland.

Paul Carr, QTAC Assessor, enthusiastically praised the fundraising efforts, stating, "Fundraising for The Smith Family was a great way of engaging with prospective applicants and their families. QTAC Staff, students, and their families wholeheartedly embraced its mission to raise funds for The Smith Family".

This staff-lead fundraiser showed the desire of QTAC staff to contribute and collaborate more closely to support The Smith Family and marks the beginning of more guidance, support and collaboration between QTAC and the national children's education charity.

"This milestone is a testament to QTAC's dedication to making the journey to higher education as smooth as possible and its commitment to lifelong learning," Mr Carr said.

The Smith Family has been helping students experiencing disadvantage make the most of their education through its flagship *Learning for Life* program, providing financial support, and evidence-based learning and mentoring programs to young people from primary school through university across Australia.

In Queensland, more than 11,000 students in 151 partner schools are supported on The Smith Family's *Learning for Life* program. As a steadfast pillar of educational opportunity in Queensland for over 30 years, the program's success is underscored by an impressive 85% of Year 12 *Learning for Life* students actively pursuing study or work 18 months post-high school, highlighting its remarkable impact.

For years, the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) has been collaboratively working to alleviate stress and paperwork burdens for scholarship recipients seeking to pursue tertiary education.

CEO of QTAC, Dr. John Griffiths, expressed his passion for lifelong learning, stating, "Our dedicated team members are passionate advocates for lifelong learning, and they deeply connect with this program's mission".

General Manager of The Smith Family in Queensland, Alan Le May, said students and young

people are referred to the program from more than 799 partner schools in 91 communities of high need across Australia.

“Learning for Life focuses on wrap-around support throughout a child’s entire educational journey, meaning they can be sponsored from their first year of primary school all the way through to completing tertiary study,” Mr Le May said.

The Smith Family’s *Learning for Life* educational support program offers three essential forms of assistance:

- **Financial Support:** This includes assistance with school essentials such as uniforms and books, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder a child's educational journey.
- **Out-of-School Learning and Mentoring:** Tailored to each child's unique needs, these programs provide valuable enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom.
- **Personal Support:** Each child in the program receives dedicated personal support from a Smith Family team member, helping them stay motivated in school, complete their education, and pursue further training or work.

In Queensland, 944 *Learning for Life* alumni are now studying a range of courses across various universities, including Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Sunshine Coast University through The Smith Family’s Tertiary Scholarship.

For more information about The Smith Family and its *Learning for Life* program, visit thesmithfamily.com.au

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ABOUT QTAC

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) operates a centralised tertiary application service for 16 higher education providers in Queensland and Northern New South Wales, across both undergraduate and postgraduate admissions. QTAC has been providing potential students and education institutions, employers and governments with the opportunity to connect and create long lasting productive relationships over the past 40 years, by delivering a range of education opportunities.

ABOUT THE SMITH FAMILY

The Smith Family’s focus is on helping young Australians to overcome educational inequality caused by poverty. The national, independent education charity works with thousands of children and their families throughout Australia to help children access opportunity that change their futures.

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