

February 2023

BACK TO SCHOOL APPEAL RAISES \$1.46M FOR THE SMITH FAMILY

Officeworks would like to thank its customers, partners and local communities for their efforts in contributing \$1.46 million to give 2,224 students across the country the support they need to help make bigger things happen at school this year as part of the 2023 Officeworks Back to School Appeal.

This year, Officeworks is celebrating a decade-long partnership with The Smith Family. The annual fundraising effort supports the charity's *Learning for Life* sponsorship program, which provides educational support for children in need.

The 2023 Appeal, which took place from 27th December to 5th February in-store and online, will help to sponsor 2,224 students across Australia to help families meet the cost of school essentials like uniforms, books and excursions.

During their 10-year partnership with The Smith Family, Officeworks has raised \$8 million, which is enough to support the education of more than 12,000 students for an entire year.

The Smith Family CEO, Doug Taylor, said generous support from Officeworks and the Australian community will go a long way, particularly at this time of year.

"Anyone with children knows how stressful back-to-school time can be, with a long list of items to buy including textbooks, shoes and uniforms. This time is even harder for families experiencing disadvantage, and has been compounded by the cost-of-living crisis.

"This is why it's so important that we can provide children on our *Learning for Life* program everything they need to feel confident in the classroom, so they can focus on their learning and open the door to a brighter future for themselves."

Officeworks Managing Director Sarah Hunter said: "We're so thankful to our team and our customers who have dug deep during our Back to School Appeal to help raise \$1.46 million to give 2,224 students across the country the support they need to help make bigger things happen at school this year.

"We are incredibly proud to be celebrating a decade of partnership with The Smith Family. Together, we have raised \$8 million dollars and supported 12,000 students across the country with scholarships through the Learning for Life program, helping make a positive difference for Australian children who need it most."

Officeworks aims to help 30,000 students in need as part of its People and Planet Positive 2025 commitments.

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For further information and imagery, please contact:

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ABOUT OFFICEWORKS

Established 28 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow.

Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site and remote tech support through Geeks2U – delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop.

Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the more than 9,000 team members it employs. It's also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.

ABOUT 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 www.thesmithfamily.com.au

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