



United Way Glenelg

Monday 19 December 2017

## **AUSTRALIAN BLUEGUM PLANTATIONS SUPPORTS OUT OF HOME CARE READERS**

United Way Glenelg was thrilled to be the recipient of a grant from Australian Bluegum Plantations (ABP) to fund books for some of the most vulnerable children living in the Glenelg Shire.

Children living in Out of Home Care (OoHC) are more likely to start school developmentally vulnerable than other children.

United Way Glenelg's early intervention initiative, "Improving school readiness for children living in Out of Home Care" focuses on building skills and confidence that they need to start school ready to learn.

Nicole Angelino, United Way Glenelg Executive Officer said children in OoHC often miss out on early intervention support.

"Funding support from ABP will provide quality monthly books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to children aged 0-5 years,

"The much-needed resources will help achieve better outcomes for children and families,

"We are working with partner agencies Brophy Family Youth Services, Mackillop Family Services and Wind Mara to identify the children and sign them up," said Ms Angelino.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is an early learning initiative that gives children the opportunity to reach their full potential. United Way Glenelg and Portland Aluminium brought the Imagination Library to the Glenelg Shire in 2013. Together the program has steadily grown to the point where it has delivered the largest number of books to a community anywhere in Australia.

Every month until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, children receive a high quality, age-appropriate book chosen by experts in childhood education. The program builds a lasting love of reading.

The program is open to all children living in the Glenelg Shire aged from 0-5 years. Families can enrol their child by completing an enrolment form located on United Way Glenelg's website

<http://www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au/imagination-library1>

Due to its immense popularity the early literacy initiative is oversubscribed, meaning children are placed on a waiting list until funding is available.

"Currently we were fully subscribed and our obligation to children is they receive the books every month until they graduate at age 5", said Ms Angelino.

"The waiting list continues to grow as each child is born in the Glenelg Shire. For a book to reach the hands of a little one it costs \$7.00 per month, per child," concluded Ms Angelino.

With approximately 20 children on the waiting list, United Way Glenelg continues to seek donations from businesses, community groups and individuals.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library please contact Nicole Angelino on 0410513305 or [mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au](mailto:mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au)

**END**

Media enquiries to Nicole Angelino on 0410 513 305 or [mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au](mailto:mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au).