



United Way Glenelg

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 25 April 2017

More children, more books thanks to Portland Aluminium's commitment

Children in the Glenelg Shire continue to have a bright future with Portland Aluminium confirming their commitment to the Imagination Library, now in its fifth year.

United Way Glenelg partners with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide an age-appropriate children's book every month to each child enrolled in the program at no cost to their families. The program is available to all children from birth through to age five (children "graduate" on their fifth birthday).

United Way Glenelg brought the Imagination Library program to the Glenelg Shire in 2013. Together with Portland Aluminium, the program has steadily grown to the point where it is has delivered the largest number of books to a community anywhere in Australia.

To date, more than 19,000 books to more than 550 children throughout the Glenelg Shire.

Nicole Angelino, United Way Glenelg Executive Officer said the support it has received from Portland Aluminium has been instrumental in achieving these brilliant outcomes.

"The goal is to eliminate the financial barrier to book ownership that low-income families often face and allow families to build a home library for their young children, many for the first time," she said.

"It's a simple and direct approach that embodies both practical support and inspiration for children and their parents, starting children on the road to a love of reading with their very own libraries and encouraging families to read and learn together."

"Research continues to show that reading aloud to children starting from birth, as well as pointing to pictures and sounding out words helps brain development and fosters one-on-one interaction with parents and caregivers."

Portland Aluminium Plant Manager Peter Chellis said the company was proud to be supporting the shire's youngest learners.

"Portland Aluminium is happy to continue our association with the *Dolly Parton Imagination Library* in the Glenelg Shire, we believe it is one of our most beneficial partnerships," Mr Chellis said.

"Today's young readers will be tomorrow's leaders so we are pleased to play a part in ensuring local children have access to books, resources and support that will start them on the path to success at school and on into later life," Mr Chellis concluded.

Portland Aluminium commitment to the Imagination Library means that 60% of the children on the waiting list for over 18 months will start receiving the books from June.

For more information on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library including how you can support the program please contact Nicole Angelino on 0410 51 3305 or via email mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au or make a donation through www.givenow.com.au/uwgimaginationlibrary

- End -

Media Interview and Photo Opportunity

Where: TBC

When: TBC

Who: United Way Glenelg, Portland Aluminium and newly registered parent and child.

What: 58 children will be registered to receive books thanks to a partnership with Portland Aluminium.

Why: Increase the rate of early childhood exposure to reading in the Glenelg Shire.

Media enquiries: Nicole Angelino 0410 513 305 or mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au