

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 23 September 2021

WANNON WATER DONATES TO SUPPORT EARLY LITERACY

United Way Glenelg has received a \$5,000 grant from Wannon Water to expand their Dolly Parton's Imagination Library throughout the Glenelg Shire.

The grant will mean an additional 555 books will be posted in the mail to local children.

The books will assist in building basic literacy skills in children living in the Glenelg Shire, laying the foundation for future educational achievement.

Nicole Carr, Executive Officer of United Way Glenelg welcomed the grant saying the waitlist for children to receive books had grown over the past 8 months and getting books into the hands of more children was imperative.

"Literacy is important within the first three years of a child's life because, by the time a child is three, their brain is already 85% developed.

She said children learn with stories, pictures and repetition and says many important concepts are embedded into literacy, which is how they learn.

"We know that parents and caregivers are the first teachers, and we want to encourage them to talk, sing and play with their babies, read the books, and talk with them while conducting everyday activities because we know that this is an important teaching," concluded Ms Carr.

Wannon Water awarded the grant under their Ripple Effect Grant Community grants, supporting not-for-profit, community organisations to undertake projects that aim to strengthen communities.

General Manager Community and Corporate Services Kellie King said empowering carers of young children to engage in a shared reading experience to support language development is contributing to a better community.

"We believe that building stronger communities is linked with building value for our customers and our communities, and making our contribution to a better world," Ms King said.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program that gifts free books to children from birth to age five in the Glenelg Shire, as a way of supporting early literacy and fostering a love of reading. Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them, at no cost to the child's family.

Parents can enrol their children in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library online by visiting <https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability>

For more information, please contact Nicole Carr on 0410 513 305 or via email mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au

Photo: Kellie King, General Manager Community & Corporate Services Wannon Water shares a selection of books focusing on the water!

#wannonwater #rippleeffect #beyondwater

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