

MEDIA RELEASE

Book gift to Acknowledge the end of the Kindergarten year

For a young child, starting school is an exciting but sometimes daunting experience.

In preparation for this milestone, United Way Glenelg along with Portland Aluminium have gifted children across the Glenelg Shire a book about an endearing and heart-warming story called *It's lovely when you smile* by author Sam McBratney.

Close to 200 children received the beautifully written and illustrated book, focusing on how children can discover words to tell us how they might feel some days.

Nicole Carr United Way Glenelg's Executive Officer said children have very complex emotions and often cannot say what they truly feel due to not knowing the words to express themselves.

"The start of school is an exciting time, with new friends to make, finding fun ways to learn and a chance to discover different things, but there will be some days at school when children are feeling grumpy, a little sad and can't find a smile.

"The story reminds them that it is okay to feel this way but sometimes we should talk to a grown-up like Mum, Dad, or a teacher.

"It also encourages children that showing kindness to a friend by saying something nice, sharing a game or giving them one of their smiles is a great way to build resilience."

The graduation gift builds on the outcomes achieved through the very successful Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. The program, which is a shire-based initiative, had its start locally in 2013 and puts a new, age-appropriate book in the hands of children every month, free of charge to families.

Portland Aluminium Plant Manager Ron Jorgensen said it was important to recognise the importance of literacy for our youngest readers, to give them the best possible start to their schooling.

"Portland Aluminium's partnership philosophy is based on Education, Opportunity and Leadership, and to have the opportunity and ability to help educate the next generation, to give them the best possible start to life is a privilege.

I am personally very proud to be involved in the program."

If you're interested in receiving more information about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, please contact Nicole Carr on 0410 513305 mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au

Photo: Quinn Van Smale is super excited to be starting school next year and was

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Media enquiries to Nicole Carr on 0410 513 305 or mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au