

MEDIA RELEASE

51% of Glenelg Shire eligible children are now enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in January.

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UNITED WAY GLENELG ACHIEVES RECORD ENROLMENT IN DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

United Way Glenelg announced a significant milestone with 51% of Glenelg Shire eligible children — from birth to age 5 — enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in January, which means 461 children now receive free books.

"We've come so far from the 39% enrolment at the end of last year, said Executive Officer Nicole Carr.

"The program has sparked such an amazing opportunity for our little ones to learn before they start kindergarten and school."

United Way Glenelg has been actively pushing to make Imagination Library books available to young children in every single town of the Glenelg Shire.

Additionally, Ms. Carr announced that more than 46,000 Imagination Library books have been mailed to children since 2013, when Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was first established.

"Contrary to what some may think, Dolly doesn't fund the program in our area. Each community is responsible for raising funds to operate it."

Portland Aluminium has been unwavering in its support for the program and intends to continue in the future. However, as the program expands, the requirement for additional funding persists.

"The conventional sources of funding have become limited. We cannot repeatedly approach the same organisations and businesses to supplement the funds," said Ms Carr.

"We have established a sub-fund to secure long-term financial resources for the program. While this is building in value, we are actively seeking new businesses or organisations within the community to contribute to the future of our children by investing in the early years."

Imagination Library program is inclusive and not income-biased, welcoming all children residing in the Glenelg Shire. Over the past decade, close to 900 children have participated in this enriching program.

Support the children in our community to receive books, by considering a donation through our website unitedwayglenelg.com.au or contacting us directly on 0410513305.

Photo: Freddie Nash was enrolled into the program in January 2024, and received his welcome book this week. Freddie will receive a book monthly until he turns 5.

United Way Glenelg | Media Release



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