

Media release

2 December 2016

Coal workers share Christmas cheer with children in need

Premier Coal workers are helping put a smile on the face of children living in disadvantage this Christmas.

Workers at the Collie coal mine are supporting The Smith Family's Toy and Book Appeal, which aims to deliver more than 45,000 new toys and 30,000 new books to children in need around Australia. Donations from Premier Coal workers will be distributed to children in the Collie area who receive educational support from the charity throughout the year.

Premier Coal General Manager Glenn Burlinson said the Company was proud to be a major supporter of The Smith Family's outstanding work in the Collie area and thanked the workforce for supporting the worthy Toy and Book Appeal.

The Smith Family was founded in 1922 when five businessmen delivered gifts to orphans on Christmas Eve. While today the charity's year-round focus is on providing educational support for disadvantaged children, giving gifts at Christmas is central to the organisation's heritage.

The Smith Family's Western Australia General Manager Lorna Woodley said growing up in poverty could mean going without all year round but it was particularly hard for children at this time of year.

"Supporting education is about more than just what happens in the classroom. It's also about enabling positive experiences in the home and community which allow young people to feel included, and that's why we distribute toys and books at Christmas time," she said. "We're incredibly grateful for Premier Coal's generous support of our Toy and Book Appeal, which will help bring a smile to disadvantaged children's faces on Christmas morning."

To donate a new toy or book, or make a cash donation, visit www.thesmithfamily.com.au. Donations need to be made by Friday, 16 December.

Photo: Premier Coal employees Paul Kent, Tony Papalia, Leonie Walker, Alan Fontana, Eric Smeers and Matt Blackford with donations to The Smith Family Toy and Book Christmas Appeal.

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