

Media Release



Monday 18 November 2019

Be Santa for disadvantaged children this Christmas

Residents are invited to become Santa in the lead up to Christmas this year – but, don't worry, there's no need for the fluffy red suit.

Camden Council is partnering with The Smith Family for this year's Christmas Giving Tree initiative, which will collect donations for their Toy and Book Appeal. This year, The Smith Family is aiming to deliver 27,000 brand-new toy and book packs to disadvantaged children across Australia.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, encouraged residents to give whatever they could spare this Christmas.

"Christmas is such a beautiful time of year for so many – getting together with loving families, lots of great food and big smiles on children's faces with gift giving," Cr Fedeli said.

"We can sometimes forget that not everyone has this sort of day. Thousands of children go without opening a present on Christmas morning every year, because their family finds themselves in a situation where they are unable to provide this experience for their children.

"I truly believe the Camden community is one that rallies behind those less fortunate. Whether your donation is big or small, it will help to make a child's Christmas incredible."

Council will have five Christmas Giving Tree locations, including:

1. Camden Council's Administration Building, 70 Central Avenue, Oran Park;
2. Camden Library, 40 John Street, Camden;
3. Narellan Library, corner of Queen and Elyard Streets, Narellan;
4. Oran Park Library, 72 Central Ave, Oran Park;
5. Camden Civic Centre, Oxley Street, Camden.

The Smith Family CEO, Dr Lisa O'Brien, said the organisation was proud to be delivering toys and books to children in need at Christmas.

"The Smith Family was founded in 1922 by five businessmen at Christmas who, aware of the extent of poverty in their communities, made an anonymous donation to a local orphanage, each claiming to be named Mr Smith," Dr O'Brien said.

"Each year we continue this tradition, through our Toy and Book Appeal. The focus of our work is now firmly on helping young people through supporting their education."

Council is accepting donations from today (Monday 18 November) up until Friday 13 December. From Monday 16 to Tuesday 17 December, Council will be delivering the donated food and gifts to The Smith Family.

For more information, including guidelines on the types of gifts to donate and what cannot be accepted, visit camden.nsw.gov.au and search 'Christmas Giving Tree'.

Media Contact:

Christina Fracassi

Media Advisor

Camden Council

PO Box 183, CAMDEN NSW 2570

Phone: 4645 7823 Mobile: 0438 062 628

Email: media@camden.nsw.gov.au