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MEDIA RELEASE

SA WATER BUILDS ON SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2010

SA Water will build on its already successful scholarship program next year when it rolls out four new scholarships aimed at South Australian students taking part in university studies.

SA Water Chief Executive Anne Howe said the *Learning for Life* scholarships delivered by The Smith Family will build on SA Water's already strong partnership with the charity

"Through the cooperation and assistance of The Smith Family, SA Water has been able to provide support to a number of children in local and rural South Australian communities," Ms Howe said.

"The partnership we have established allows us to help young children to pursue their school education where otherwise this may not have been a possibility.

"As well as continuing our school-based program, we are now extending this support with four new *Learning for Life* scholarships which will still be aimed at offering education assistance, but for the tertiary study level.

"Through the new program we will be able to support university students undertaking varied levels of education, providing the basic necessities required for tertiary study by helping to purchase items such as text books, stationery and also give them access to mentoring support, resources which they may have otherwise missed out on..

"We already have a great relationship with the Smith Family and the scholarship participants, with all feedback from the 2008-09 program remaining very positive.

"During 2010, the four new scholarships we are offering, as well as building on the current work we do, will see our overall scholarships funding increase to \$500,000."

The SA Water Scholarships program offers education opportunities to young South Australians in a range of categories including disadvantaged youth, Aboriginal peoples, academic excellence, professionals from non-English speaking backgrounds and young women pursuing study in non-traditional roles.

During 2008-09 SA Water rolled out a \$400,000 program of scholarships with more than 150 recipients through our ongoing scholarship partners: The Smith Family, University of South Australia, University of Adelaide, Flinders University, TAFESA and Tauondi College.

The Smith Family's Corporate Partnership Manager Paul Morton said the partnership with SA Water has already produced many student success stories.

"SA Water is making an important investment in the lives of financially disadvantaged children and their families. Their support has already enabled hundreds of SA children to access vital education and learning opportunities that will allow them to create brighter futures for themselves," Mr Morton said.