



## Sanofi joins forces with The Smith Family to help bridge Australia's STEM divide

**Sydney, Australia – 19 October 2017** - [Sanofi](#) has joined forces with The Smith Family to help bridge the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education divide in Australia.

The Smith Family is the country's largest national education-oriented charity. They help disadvantaged Australian children to participate fully in their education, giving them the best chance at breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

Sanofi Australia and New Zealand Country Chair, Karen Hood, said she was proud to see Sanofi partner with The Smith Family, particularly with a shared focus on STEM education.

"STEM education underpins the skills our young people will need for future roles in healthcare along with other industries," Karen said.

"While it's well known that Australia needs to increase STEM participation rates it's less known that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are even further behind their peers.

"By 15 years of age students from low socio-economic backgrounds are, on average, two and a half years behind their peers in math, science and information technology\*.

"At Sanofi we understand that research and design skills, which are integral to STEM subjects, open doors to new ways of thinking. Increasing STEM education participation rates is key to our young people's future career prospects.

"That's why we're proud to be working with The Smith Family to support STEM focused students in Australian communities. Together we will open avenues for our local team members to mentor students in need, create opportunities for students to visit and learn in our offices and more."

Judy Barraclough, Head of Strategy and Philanthropy at The Smith Family, said, "We are delighted to be welcoming Sanofi as a new partner to help provide tertiary scholarships and career inspiration for young Australians who've faced some pretty tough challenges in their lives. These students are often the first in their family to finish Year 12 and continue on to further education. Sanofi's valued contribution will open the door for these students to help them into their chosen STEM-related field."

Karen said the partnership was a long term commitment. "Our work with The Smith Family reflects our commitment to our company signature, Empowering Life. We look forward to working with The Smith Family, to help young Australian's grow in their STEM studies."

\* Thomson et al. 2013

### About Sanofi

Sanofi, a global healthcare leader, discovers, develops and distributes therapeutic solutions focused on patients' needs. Sanofi is organized into five global business units: Diabetes and Cardiovascular, General Medicines and Emerging Markets, Sanofi Genzyme, Sanofi Pasteur and Consumer Healthcare. Sanofi is listed in Paris (EURONEXT: [SAN](#)) and in New York (NYSE: [SNY](#)).



## About The Smith Family

The Smith Family is a children's education charity that helps disadvantaged young Australians to succeed at school, so they can create better futures for themselves. Visit [www.thesmithfamily.com.au](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au)

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