



**THINKING OF HELPING SOMEONE SPECIAL  
RECEIVE THE GIFT OF A SMART PUP?  
WE INVITE YOU TO HELP US**

Positive Social Interactions | Calming Presence | Behaviour Disruption | Independence | Safety

Companionship | Tracking | Social Inclusion | Assist in Post Episode Recovery | Reduce Anxiety

**What is a Smart Pup?**

On the Sunshine Coast in Queensland there is a dedicated group of people who raise and train special dogs to assist young children with special needs and their families.

Smart Pups Assistance Dogs for Special Needs Children Inc. train golden retriever and labrador puppies to provide early intervention support and therapy for children from 3 to 18 years old. This makes the work of Smart Pups very unique, as most other organisations only place service dogs certified for full public access with people over 18 years of age.

A Smart Pup looks out for the health and wellbeing of the child, keeping them safe and out of harms way. Trained to assist a child with specific daily routines, a Smart Pup can help reduce anxiety and increase daily successes in a variety of ways. A Smart Pup also acts as a bridge between the child and the rest of the world, easing feelings of isolation and fostering opportunities for social inclusion, friendship and belonging.



**How qualified are they?**

Each Smart Pup is professionally trained to master a unique set of skills that will help their recipient child. In the first 6 months the training focus is on socialisation and general obedience training and includes house training, on and off leash obedience and environmental stability training. Stability training will later help the child navigate through social situations, from shopping malls to classrooms to outdoor parks.

Our Smart Pups are trained on a reward and game based training program, so to them this job is fun!!! The program consists of a unique series of training and assessment modules developed by Smart Pups trainers. Training also includes 120 hours of socialisation and public access training to ensure each pup meets Government Full Public Access Certification standards.



Advanced "task specific" training is where the maturing Smart Pup is trained to master a special set of tasks that will best support the needs of a recipient child. In the final 3 months each Smart Pup must successfully complete this training before they can graduate and be placed with the family. A Smart Pups trainer spends the first week of the placement with the family, settling the pup into its new environment, helping it bond with the child and teaching the new handlers how to work with their new Smart Pup for the greatest benefit. A support, coaching and mentoring service is provided for the remainder of each Smart Pups working life.

**How Much do they cost?**  
At Smart Pups it costs about \$25,000 to train and place a service dog with a special needs child. It costs about \$1,200 to maintain a service dog each year... about \$100 a month.

As Smart Pups receive no official funding, to cover costs we pursue partnerships, sponsorships and donations. Our families also agree to engage in fundraising activities as volunteers for Smart Pups and donate the funds raised to help cover the costs of training a Smart Pup for their child.

**EACH SMART PUPS IS ASSESSED AND CERTIFIED FOR FULL PUBLIC ACCESS EVERY 12 MONTHS.**



**HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISING DRIVE?**

We are so excited that our family is going to have one of these fantastic dogs to assist us. Your donations will not only be helping Caleb get a Smart Pup sooner, but will be going to a great cause and one that is close to our hearts.

Smart Pups is a Not-For-Profit and Tax Deductable Recipient under ABN 47059432193.

**All donations over \$2.00 are Tax Deductable.**

*A receipt will be issued where a return email address is provided.*

**When you make your donation to Smart Pups you can reference Caleb at the time you make the transaction so we know you are supporting our family.**

You can donate via the Smart Pups Westpac account  
| BSB: 034198 | Account: 415185 | Transaction Reference: **Caleb Grant**

Or donate via the Smart Pups website at [www.smartpups.org.au](http://www.smartpups.org.au). and reference **Caleb Grant** in the PayPal notes to seller box.

**THANK YOU**

YOU CAN FIND SMART PUPS ON THE WEB @ <http://www.smartpups.org.au>

&

FOLLOW THE PUPPIES AND FAMILIES STORIES ON FACEBOOK @ <https://www.facebook.com/SmartPups>