

Further Information

Grandparents Taking Care of the Future

**National Congress for Grandparents & Kin carers and those denied access.
Bond University Gold Coast 4th 5th and 6th of November 2009**

With just 3 months to go our plans are coming together nicely and we are all confident that it will be a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience for everyone. Although aimed at highlighting the unique circumstances that grandparents and other relative carers experience every day, it will present some solutions to make their lives a little easier.

COGs is delighted that **Debra Byrne**, originally from Young Talent Time fame, has graciously agreed to become our patron. Since her childhood stardom with Johnny Young, Debra has gone on to many dizzy heights in show business. She is now raising 2 grandchildren of her own. I am sure everyone will be fascinated to hear her speak. Debra will remain at conference for the two days.



Professor Margaret Sims is highly regarded for her knowledge on the attachment of children to their parents/carers. Her work has huge implications for those rearing grandchildren as well as those denied access. There are also legal implications to the attachment theory which will be further investigated by distinguished law professionals.

“Grandma you make me want to touch the sky” is a *must have* book written by **Dr Sally Frye** after her many close experiences working with grandparents raising grandchildren. Sally has spoken at State conferences before and is admired and loved for her deep compassion and skill in helping grandparents.



Queensland is in celebration this year its 150th birthday and grandparents have not been forgotten. Our own **Tracey Douglas**, Chair of COGs, has written a book on grandparents through the 150 years which she will be launching at conference.

Wednesday will hopefully see many grandparents and relative carers show up for a meeting to establish a **National Body** to represent them. A title for this body is needed soon and we are asking all you talented people to put on your thinking cap and come up with something really catchy and appropriate. Following this meeting a short celebration is planned. This will give everyone an opportunity to meet others going through the same experiences on a social level.

Information will be presented by many different **Service Providers** on how their agencies can best assist you. You can ask any questions of these people during morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. These breaks will be **catered** as part of the conference.

Workshops sessions are also included. At these sessions you will have the opportunity to discuss your situation and opinions with experts in the particular topic areas they represent. More details of all of this will be sent to you with your registration forms closer to the time.

Don't work too hard during the day though as it is Thursday night **shopping** on the **GOLD COAST**. Girls, Robina Shopping Town is just a stones throw away from the uni and is one of the biggest shopping centres on the Coast! You are bound to find that special something to take home. For the guys there are plenty of watering holes if shopping doesn't turn you on.

Come along everybody and join us. There is information to be gained, skills to be learnt, good fun to be had and wonderful new friends to meet.

