

## ***KinKare.....Caring for relative carers and those denied access to grandchildren***

### **Background:**

Changes in our modern society are causing more and more relatives to take on the responsibility of looking after or even raising children for their kin.

The same family circumstances which can lead to this may sometimes lead to contact with these loved ones being denied.

In both cases, there are a number of similar difficulties and challenges to be faced by the children and adults concerned.

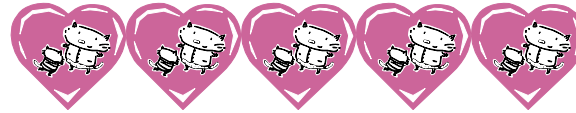
Across Australia there are groups being established to provide assistance for relative carers and those denied access.

***KinKare*** .....is one of these groups.



### ***KinKare***

was established by three grandparents. One raising two grandchildren; one denied access and the third constantly bounced between the two situations. The comfort they found by sharing their problems and solutions was the reason for founding.....***KinKare***.



### **What is *KinKare* ?**

***KinKare*** is a not for profit organization. We had our first meeting in October 2002 at Eagleby in the Brisbane-Gold Coast corridor to provide mutual support as well as give an opportunity to raise issues of concern, seek solutions and to keep abreast of current legislation and family assistance.

We are auspiced through Connect the Coast Association Inc. and have representation on the Council of Grandparents. There are groups at Eagleby, Nerang and the Sunshine Coast.

Many relative carers in other suburban and rural areas keep informed through our monthly newsletter and our family social activities.

All relative carers and their families are welcome to attend meetings and receive newsletters. There is no subscription fee. Donations are always welcome.

The aim of ***KinKare*** is to assist relatives and their loved ones meet their everyday needs, to promote community awareness and government understanding of this new family phenomenon.

***KinKare*** is an independent community group supported and auspiced by Connect the Coast Assoc Inc.

### **Our Objectives:**

#### **Support:**

***KinKare*** provides a welcoming, understanding atmosphere where concerns and views can be raised and solutions sought in a non-threatening environment. Members bring a small plate to share and tea and coffee is provided. Social family days are held throughout the year.

#### **Information:**

Relevant services and their providers are made available at meetings and in the newsletter. Issues raised at the Council of Grandparents or other organizations/parties, current events and rulings, and their progress or possible impact on KinKarers are addressed.



#### **Advocacy:**

***KinKare*** actively works to enlighten government and community organizations of the needs of our carers and their children. We are closely associated with Older People Speak Out Inc. as it has proven its dedication to those in our special circumstances. We also liaise with authorities ourselves to make them aware of and reactive to the plight of our children.

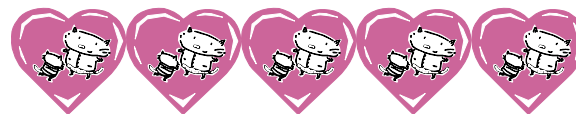
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### **Some things we have done so far...**

- *KinKare* has been invited to give evidence to both Federal and State enquiries into the plight of children in special circumstances.
- *KinKare* has assisted members receive rightful entitlements.
- *KinKare* has given radio and newspaper interviews and stories.
- *KinKare* has been active on the Council of Grandparents and in many other groups in its local communities.
- *KinKare* attends and organizes special events with guest speakers delivering up to date information.
- *KinKare* has spoken to Federal, State and local politicians alerting them of our special needs.

### **Some issues we are working on...**

- Recognition of carers with informal family agreements
- Financial assistance for all relative carers
- Better access to professional services
- Research into the special challenges faced by our families and understanding of their situation
- Providing local, quality support groups
- Raising community and government awareness of the contribution our silent volunteers make
- Encouraging our carers to come forward and receive assistance.



### **KinKare Meetings:**

**Eagleby:** The second Friday of the month @ Eagleby Community Ctr Cowper Ave, Eagleby 10:30 am

**Ph Maree 3287 1664**

**Nerang:** The fourth Wednesday of the month @ Nerang Neighbourhood Centre, Martin St, Nerang 12:30 am

**Ph Maree 3287 1664**

**Sunshine Coast:** The first Tuesday of the month @ the Salvation Army Hall, cnr Broadmeadows and Maroochydore Rds. Maroochydore 9:30 am

**Ph Lynne 5444 6270 Anne 5477 6151**

**Inala:** Second Tuesday of the month @ 10:30 am. Inala Hub, Corsair Ave.

**Ph Maree 3287 1664**

Please bring your ideas and a small plate to share. Coffee and Tea provided.

Enquiries: Maree Lubach Ph (07) 3287 1664

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Organizational Enquiries should be directed to

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## **KinKare**

**aims to provide real  
assistance to kin carers  
and  
those who do not have  
access to their  
grandchildren**

**[www.kinkare.com.au](http://www.kinkare.com.au)**