



"The Kinkare Committee"
Our brave Treasure's opinion

Kinkare..... *Caring for relative carers and those denied access*

MONTHLY NEWS



Kinkare Founders
Maree, Danni, Miriam

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www.kinkare.com.au



Editorial

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Hello Everyone,

Another month has passed and we are getting so close to Christmas it is scary. Kinkare will again have a lunch at the Beenleigh Tavern this year and we hope all those who tried to make it last year but got lost will actually get there this time.

As usual, we will extend our invites to QCOGs people and all other associated NGOs as well as grandparents support groups.

The day is fast becoming a much anticipated one for all and we continue to enjoy a get together without the small ones.

I think the most likely day for it this year will be December 9th. So pencil it into your diary and the official flyer will come out next month to confirm. The venue will again be the Beenleigh Tavern.

We are also getting close to Grandparents Day on November 6th. There are several small events planned and I have managed to persuade QCOGS to allocate a small amount of money to assist you in your plans. See the QCOGs article for details.

Time has once again been an issue as has the lack of people wanting to make the effort in reaction to untimely/limited support from government. If we don't make the effort government never will and the whole concept will die. C'mon **GET WITH THE DAY**. I am very pleased that some of our Eagleby people are willing to put themselves out to make a difference.

Kinkare is working very closely with the new My Time grandparents groups and look forward to a close liaison which will strengthen our voice and spread the support to grandparents. Look for their meeting times



**Queensland Grandparents Day
first birthday!**

Sunday November 6th 2011

What are YOU doing?



Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres

How can a Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre help me?

There are a wide range of services to support independent living in the community, but finding out about them or accessing them can be time consuming, difficult and confusing. Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres provide a single point of contact for the general public, service providers, general practitioners and other health professionals for information on community, aged and disability services and carer support. The Centres can also assist with information about costs for services, assessment processes and eligibility criteria.

Each Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre has

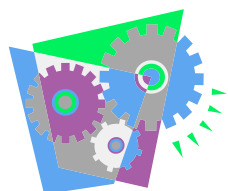
extensive regional networks and maintains a comprehensive database containing community aged care, disability and other support services. Shopfronts are operated by organisations that already provide established services within their region. Their extensive local knowledge ensures they provide a quality service. This regional focus enables each Centre to develop an awareness of the entire range of services available, to establish networks with local providers and ensure information is up to date.

The Centres can also help arrange respite, when carers need to take a break from caring. They do this by acting as a single contact point for information need by carers and by organising, purchasing, or managing respite care assistance packages for carers. Examples of respite care assistance include in-home respite care; support workers to assist you when you are taking a break away from home; and residential respite care

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Kinkare is auspiced by Connect the Coast Assoc. Inc



QCOGs

Queensland Council
of Grandparents

Grandparents Day

This was the main topic of our October meeting. Several people have contacted us with plans to hold events on the day. QCOGs may be able to assist you with some small amount of funding if you are organizing an event. Please contact Maree for details using the information at the bottom of the page.

OPSO is again holding its very popular school competition and organizing a presentation on the day and assisting in the promotion of the Day through the media. A small group will form and look at taking the preparations for next year in hand as well.

KinKare Eagleby is having an event as is our Nev Abbey in Townsville.. Other events are still in the initial planning stages and details are not yet at hand.

Information

Anne and Heidi joined us from the My Time and Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Ctrs respectively and each of them outlined their services to us. Last month and this month's editions have a brief run down on the agencies. Anne and Heidi will be regular members of QCOGs allowing our organizations to work collaboratively. Be watching for dates of the new support groups starting in the Meeting Notices on page 5.

Many thanks also to Tony Townsend from National Seniors who had a fabulous article about grandparents denied a relationship with their grandchildren printed in the Pathways newsletter this month.

Ministerial Meetings

QCOGs next meeting will be with Minister of Child Safety and Sport the honourable Phil Reeves MP. Minister Reeves has been a long term supporter of QCOGs and we will be discussing matters relating to Child Safety, Grandparents Day and Kinship Carers being recognised as Carers in Queensland. QCOGs has regular meetings with 3 Q'ld ministers; Minister of Community Services, Housing and Women, Honourable Karen Struthers MP; Minister of Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Partnerships, the honourable Curtis Pitt. These meetings are held on a regular basis during the year and the agenda is sent to the Ministers well before each meeting.

QCOGs is always wanting to hear from grandparents and agencies if they have suggestions or issues of a general nature (Not individual cases) which you feel needs to be considered at that level.



This month I have copied some information from the Department's website about handling complaints.

There are 4 sections, this is the first one; Intake and Assessment. (Chapter 10.13 of the Child Safety Practice Manual)

Complaints management: Intake and assessment

A complaint may be raised about the following:

- determinations made by the department and funded services
- services provided (or not provided) by the department and funded services
- the behaviour of departmental employees
- the behaviour of employees of departmentally Funded Non Government Service Providers (FNGSPs) or staff.


A complaint may relate to a region, CSSC, RIS, CSAHSC or another Child Safety workgroup, for example, Adoption Services Queensland, the Court Services Unit or the Central Screening Unit.

Complaints made to Child Safety may be accepted verbally and in writing through a variety of channels, including:

- in person
- by telephone (including SMS)
- by letter
- by fax
- by email
- by audio CD or tape.

Child Safety staff will assist people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those with visual or hearing impairment or learning disability and those who cannot read or write to make a complaint.

All complaint matters are to be recorded according to the

[Recordkeeping](#)  policy, and as outlined in the [Complaints Management](#) policy, [Complaints Management](#) procedure and the [Complaints Management Procedural Manual](#).

Exceptions to complaints management

All concerns received by the Child Safety Complaints Unit (CSCU) about harm or risk of harm to a child are **immediately referred** to the relevant RIS or CSSC. Departmental officers from the CSCU or client relations officers (CRO) are not authorised officers under the *Child Protection Act 1999* and therefore are not authorised to receive, record and assess child protection concerns.

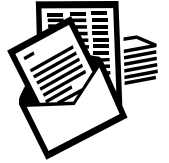
Under the complaints management process, a request will be sent to the relevant intake officer to confirm that they have spoken with the notifier to gather the information and have recorded the information on the department's recordkeeping database (ICMS).

Responses to some types of matters are covered by Child Safety policies and procedures **other than** the Complaints Management policy. For these matters please refer to the [Complaints Management](#) policy and the [Complaints Management](#) procedure.

While these matters are not subject to the complaints management process, it may be appropriate to provide complainants with information about current Child Safety policies and procedures that relate to their complaint.



We Should Write a Book!



This is the old "Our Personal Page". It is very important that readers send in their stories to be published on this page to inform others in the community just how different our lives are. This page may also contain comments on calls, or answers to queries raised from time to time.

A Case Study

For Barbara Snodgrass and her husband, Jim, it was a team effort when their four grandchildren (and sometimes their son and his wife) lived with the couple in Elephant Head for seven years.

"My husband was actually more involved with the grandchildren than our (three) children. We share the responsibilities such as laundry and cooking. We also share homework duties," says Snodgrass, 58, a teacher and preschool director.

"The one thing that was nice is that we've already raised our children and so we really understand what is important to us and what to let go. Hopefully, we make a difference in their lives," she says.

Her grandchildren are now ages 6 to 13 and live with their mother while their dad serves in Afghanistan with the Army.

When the youngsters resided with their grandparents, Snodgrass also brought her 90-year-old mother to live with them.

"This was a great intergenerational experience for all of us, but sometimes it was tough balancing everybody's needs over such an age span," she notes.

Snodgrass loves all the time she was able to spend with her grandkids, but also points out the difficulty of providing emotional stability and working with the children to understand their lives.

It also was difficult at time because the couple was "technically supporting three families on our income with just a little help from the others," she says.

And, Snodgrass says, "we didn't have the authority to make decisions for the children that we would have liked. It's also hard to balance being the grandparent and yet acting like the parent. Sometimes we just wanted to spoil them!"

Looking ahead, Pfeider is interested in joining the KARE support group for grandparents raising grandchildren that meets monthly in Green Valley.

For her part, Chambers hopes that a local caregivers' support group for grandparents who still work could start meeting occasionally in the evening or on a Saturday morning.

Even in a retirement community like Green Valley, more grandparents than one might think are raising grandchildren. Snodgrass has learned that a lot of those grandparents "stay kind of underground because they live in age-restricted areas... and they know that they probably won't have the children indefinitely."

She and her husband took their grandkids in when the parents needed support getting their lives back on track.

Garcia says she still is sad that she can't help her son change his ways, but she now realizes he has to want to change.

But, she adds with a smile, "I still believe in miracles."

In the last six months, she has been feeling more peaceful and quiet. She can see through her young grandchildren's eyes the delight of spotting a butterfly or admiring a beautiful flower.

Her KARE meetings and church groups are a refreshing break from her caregiving duties.

"I'm enjoying myself," Garcia says. "I'm doing good and so are the children."

BY THE NUMBERS

- 6.7 million U.S. grandparents had grandchildren younger than 18 living with them in 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

- 7.5 million children were living with a grandparent in 2010, 10 percent of all U.S. children. Of those, 4.9 million lived in the grandparent's home, the Census Bureau reports.

- 2.7 million grandparents in this country are responsible for most of the basic needs (food, shelter, clothing) of at least one grandchild who lived with them in 2009. Of these caregivers, 1.7 million were grandmothers and 1 million were grandfathers.

- 1 million U.S. grandparents who in 2009 were responsible for caring for their grandchildren had done so for at least the past five years.

- 3.2 million children lived with both a grandmother and grandfather in 2010.

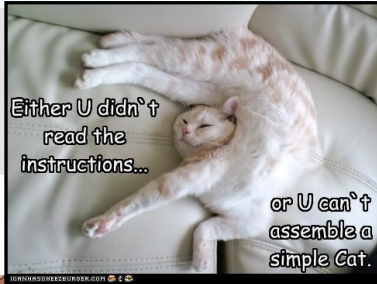
- 1,056 new families were served in 2009 by Tucson-based KARE Family Center, including 559 grandparents, 12 great-grandparents and one great-great-grandparent, plus 235 aunts and uncles. Also served were 200 caregiver families from the previous year.

Laughter is the best Medicine



I CAN'T
RESPOND TO
ANY EMAILS
TODAY,

SOMETHING HAS CRASHED ON
MY COMPUTER AND THE
MOUSE IS MISSING



Either U didn't
read the
instructions...

or U can't
assemble a
Simple Cat.

These fit so well they should be in a dictionary.

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

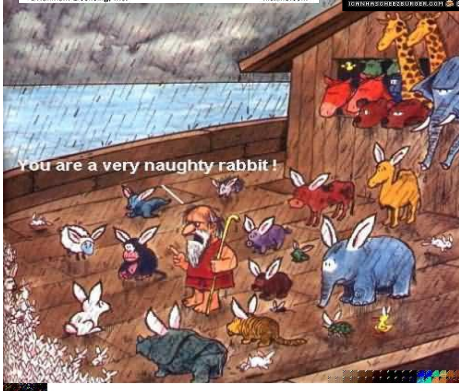
YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

And MY Personal Favorite!!

WRINKLES: Something other people have, Similar to my character lines.



6-20-07



You are a very naughty rabbit!

Dad took off when he found out about Mum and the Panda



The fundamental job
of a toddler is to
rule
the universe.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



There should be support
groups for women who
can't put their
dishes in the
dishwasher
dirty.



I try not to limit
my madness
to March.

Life is short.
Smile while you
still have teeth.

A couple had been married for 50 years.

They were sitting at the breakfast table one morning when the wife says, 'Just think, fifty years ago we were sitting here at this breakfast table together.'

'I know,' the old man said. 'We were probably sitting here naked as a jaybird fifty years ago.'

'Well,' Granny snickered. 'Let's relive some old times.'

Where upon, the two stripped to the buff and sat down at the table.

'You know, honey,' the little old lady breathlessly replied, 'My nipples are as hot for you today as they were fifty years ago.'

'I wouldn't be surprised,' replied Gramps. 'One's in your coffee and the other is in your oatmeal'



Meeting Notices



Please always ring first as there maybe changes for special purposes.

Kinkare Groups:

Beaudesert:

Place: Beaucare 44 Tina St
Day/Time: 4th Friday of the month 10:30am
Contact: Maree ☎ 3287 1664

Cleveland:

Place: Donald Simpson Ctr, 172 Bloomfield St
Day/Time: 3rd Friday of the month 10:30am
Contact: Maged ☎ 3207 7200

Eagleby:

Place: Eagleby Community Ctr, Cowper Ave
Day/Time: 2nd Friday of the month 10:30am
Contact: Maree ☎ 3287 1664 or Danni ☎ 3299 1764

Stafford

My Time Stafford:

Place: Community Place Stafford, 33 Teevan St
For more details contact: Anne Gooley Ph: 3855 9600 Mobile: 0417 712 688 Email: agooley@playgroupqld.com.au

Nerang:

Place: Nerang Neighbourhood Ctr, Martens St
Day/Time: 4th Wednesday of the month 12:30pm
Contact: Marjie ☎ 5527 3034

GAGS Inc

Place: Energex House , Cnr Wallace Nth & Tallon St Caboolture
Day/Time: 2nd Wednesday of the month 10:00am
Contact: Helen ☎ (07) 5498 9333
☎ gagsinc@hotmail.com

Western Australia:

Granpower:

Email: info@granpower.org.au
Ph 0409 294 231

South Australia:

Grandparents for Grand-children SA Inc:

Ph Denise (08) 8410 6642
Email: denise.gfgsainc@bigpond.com

Grandparents as Parents

Sunshine Coast:

Place: Comm. Capital Ctr, Sportsmans Pde, Bokarina
Day/Time: 2nd Friday 10am-12noon
Contact: Donna ☎ 5413 1514

Indigenous G'parent Support Group:

Place: Centacare
Day/Time: Weekly
Contact: Tess Rowley ☎ 3252 4371

North Queensland:

Cairns and District Grandparents Support Group:

Place: Hambledon House Community Ctr, Edmonton
Day/Time: 1st Wednesday of the month 9:30am
Contact: John or Janet ☎ 4055 5161

Grandparents in need of Support (GINOS)

Contact: Nev ☎ (07) 4723 3520
☎ trcota@bigpond.net.au

The Townsville G'parents Social Support Group:

Place: Dan Gleeson Memorial Gardens
Day/Time: Last Friday of the month 10:30am-12 noon
Contact: Nev ☎ (07) 4723 3520

G'parents Raising Grandchildren – Atherton Tablelands:

Place: Family Support House, 38 Mabel St
Day/Time: 1st Monday of the month 9:30am-11:30am
Contact: Jane Buschkens ☎ (07) 4091 3850

Always room for more!

Please send in details that you would like published on this page.

(To ensure publication, send written information to Maree as per the footer contact details.)



Seniors Enquiry Line – 1300 135 500

This is not just for the old and frail! Ask about the **Time for Grandparents Programme** while you are there.

Centrelink (Parent or Guardian Line) – 13 61 50

www.centrelink.gov.au

Centrelink social workers know about most of the community organisations in the area, not just money matters.

Please make an appointment. It is worth your while.

Child Support Agency – www.csa.gov.au The CSA is a Federal Government organisation which helps support separated parents – and grandparents who are primary carers – with the transfer of payments for the benefit of their grandchildren.

Community Legal Centres

The national website is www.naccl.org.au

or for Queensland, see www.qails.org.au

Usually these centres can provide free legal services, short of actually representing you.

Legal Aid – www.nla.aust.net.au (the national website)

and **Legal Aid Queensland** – 1300 651 188

www.legalaid.qld.gov.au

Family Law Court Australia (Queensland) – 3248 2200

www.familycourt.gov.au (national website)

Parentline – 1300 301 300

www.parentline.com.au

This is for all types of parents and you are not excluded!

Kids' Help Line – 1800 551 800

www.kidshelp.com.au

This is for your kids. They often need a place to talk privately and so far I have had only good reports.

Commission for Children Young People and Child Guardian

1800 688 275

3224 4225 (Queensland office)

www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au

Relationships Australia – 1300 364 277

www.relationships.com.au

Don't forget to look after yourself and your relationships with other family members and spouse!

Child Safety After Hours Service Centre (Queensland)

1800 177 135

3235 9999

Foster and Kinship Care Support Line

1300 729 309

Mon—Fri 5pm—11:30pm

Sat and Sun 7am—11:30pm

www.childsafety.qld.gov.au

Keep a Diary:

The diary should include day, date and time of any contact and notes regarding the event. This might simply be that you sent a birthday card or email.

For those denied access, there could well come a time when the children ask why you were not there when they were growing up. As adults, they can see that you wanted to be and tried hard to be there for them. For those raising, the day may come that you are accused of stopping their parents from seeing them and the above applies again.

In either situation, the diary may well be helpful if ever the matter does go to a court.

Ask Questions of any Professional:

No matter if you are speaking to a lawyer, medical person or a Child Safety Officer, you are entitled to be fully briefed on their role and what they can and can't do for you as well as their qualifications.

Ask legal people how many grandparent cases like yours they have handled and what their success rate is. Ask medical, or similar, people if they are prepared to sign a report that you can give to your solicitor or Child Safety.

Never attend a Child Safety Meeting without someone else with you and make sure you are given a Carer Handbook. In Queensland it is permissible to tape the session as long as you declare your intention.

Make an appointment for a Centrelink Social Worker:

If you need to deal with Centrelink, don't just do so over the phone or even the counter. The social workers are much more knowledgeable. Tell them your basic situation at the time of making the appointment to give them time to look into the subject.

Seek Free Legal Opinion first:

There are many places where you can get free legal opinion other than Legal Aid. The Community Legal Centres have nothing to gain by misleading you as they are not funded by your wallet.

Look after YOURSELF!!!

No matter if you are denied access, raising or somewhere in between, the pressures are huge. Even young grandparents can be worn down by the constant anxiety and frustration.

Your grandchildren need you to be at your best!

Make sure you attend your doctor regularly and mention your situation. It is also very important for you to have someone outside the situation to talk freely to.

This is where support groups are at their best.

You can talk to others who understand your concerns and may even be able to tell you how they coped in a similar situation.

You will find there are other very good parents who have had the same thing happen to their family.

You will find you are not alone.