

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,

By the time you get this newsletter, Easter will be just around the corner! The year is already flying by.

We have just received news that Connect the Coast has managed to gain **funding for their project of setting up support groups in Q'ld.**

The details are still being worked on but **we would love to hear from groups who need a hand** in this area. The idea is to assist groups to set up or to stabilize. It is a very exciting prospect for us.

We also have news following re **the Senate Enquiry** we addressed earlier this month. KinKare was given a very encouraging hearing.

Older People Speak Out is holding two "speakouts" on grandparenting issues in April and July. More about this in the article following. There is also an article researched by Tracey re our Family Law. Many thanks Tracey.

Hope you all enjoy the read.

My love and best wishes as always,
Maree



Please don't forget our very good friends at SEL. They really are committed and dedicated to helping grandparents. When you ring you will notice that they now include grandparent enquiries in their introduction.

SEL administers the Dept of Communities "Time for Grandparents" programme of respite.

They are able to help with **afterschool activities, school camps Grandcamps** and much more so give them a call when you need help.

As it is a government initiation there is of course a set of procedures etc. The folk at SEL deal with all that for you.

So please, **before you make any arrangements for such activities**, ring them first. If you do it on your own they may not be able to fund you.



The Senate Enquiry.

Earlier this year, we put in a submission to the Senate Enquiry into the cost of living for older Australians. Once again, KinKare was called to give evidence.

(For those who may not know the procedure, individuals/organizations put in a submission re the problems they face and if the politicians are specially interested in hearing more they ask you to "give evidence" to them in person. Here they can ask questions re your submission or anything else they want clarification about. It is all recorded officially and later their findings and recommendations are reported back to you.)

The particular group of senators who were at this meeting were VERY supportive of grandparents. One of them actually said that grandparenting didn't stop at State borders so this is a federal issue. I was over the moon that Federal politicians were finally acknowledging some responsibility.

There were many issues discussed but some highlights follow.

The senators were of the opinion that our grandparents were mostly eligible for HACC services. (This is the Federal scheme to assist older people stay in their own homes longer by providing things like cleaning services, rails in bathrooms, ramps etc.) I pointed out that our grandparents were often too young or fit to qualify but, should they extend this programme, it could give our carers much needed support. As the idea came from them, I am hopeful of a positive result.

The question of legal aid came up. I had only mentioned the writing of wills as I had written the submission from the perspective of grandparents who were already rearing their grandchildren and it was about their costs, but the Senators wanted to know the whole story. This caught me on the hop a bit, but was so encouraging.

After about an hour or more, we were dismissed for others to have their say. Two senators followed us out to ask more questions and give some very welcome and supportive advice.

I will be following up on this soon so stay "watching this space" as they say.



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

Contact: Maree Lubach 15 Mimi Crt, Mt Warren Pk Qld 4207 www.kinkare.com.au

Ph. (07) 3287 1664 Email mlubach@optusnet.com.au

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MEETING DATES

Please call first as many groups do not meet in school holidays

KinKare EAGLEBY

Meets the second Friday of each month @10:30am, Eagleby Community Centre
Ph Maree 3287 1664

KinKare NERANG

Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month @12:00
Nerang Neighbourhood Ctr
Ph Maree 3287 1664

SUNSHINE COAST KinKare

Meets the Second Wednesday of the month 9:30am@ the Salvation Army Hall Maroochydore
Phone: Lynne: 5444 6270

KinKare INALA

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 10:30am
We are trying to get this meeting happening again so please let us know if you are planning to attend. It is quite expensive for me to go only to find no-one there.
Ph Maree 3287 1664.

KinKare GLADSTONE

Please contact Pauline
Ph (07) 4978 0501

KinKare WARWICK

Meets 2nd Friday of the month 10 am
Ring Jo at Mercy Services 4635 8600

ZILLMERE & SOUTHBANK

Indigenous Grandparent Support Group

Meets twice monthly
Please ring Tess Ph 3252 4371

Grandparents As Parents

Community Solutions Inc.

Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

Please phone Sharon 5437 9399

CAIRNS & DISTRICT

G'parents Support Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month @9:30am,
Hambledon House Community Centre, Edmonton
Ph Janet or John (07) 40 555 161
Email johnjan@cairns.net.au

TOWNSVILLE region

Nth Q'ld G'parents in Need of Support

(GINOS)

For details of this group, please contact
Ph. Nev (07) 4723 3520
Email trcota@bigpond.net.au

Please Note: Updated phone number

Group Meetings

For those who would like their meetings placed in this column, just drop me an email or letter and I would be only too pleased to spread the word.

There is no requirement to be a KinKare group.

Newsletter Items

Just another reminder to all groups, the **newsletter articles are for distribution** to any relative carers.

Don't hesitate to pass on the newsletter in its entirety or relevant articles as you see fit.

The only thing we ask is that the intent/content of the article is not compromised.

Please Note

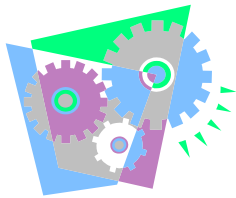
All contributions to the newsletter are gratefully accepted.

Please email them to me for transfer to the newsletter.

If you need someone to chat to, we are always happy to hear from you.

Phone Danni 3299 1764

or Maree 3287 1664, or your local support group leader.



COGs

Family Law: Comment

We often jump up and down and carry on about the situation in family law in Australia but we are actually quite ahead in world terms. Very hard to believe but as far back as 2002 at the 10th Australian National Family Law Conference in Melbourne lawyer David Truex did a presentation on differences in family law between some of the major countries and Australia.

It was a part of a session on shifting "responsibility" from parental to family which is what we are seeing more of today some six years later. Grandparents in particular are adversely treated in many countries. In the previous Family Law Act of Australia, grandparents were given special recognition. In the United Kingdom grandparents have to apply for a parenting order even for contact under the Children's Act of 1989. Fortunately for many British grandies, the laws are slowly being amended to give them similar status and rights as those in Australia even though our are certainly still far from perfect.

Many of the European countries have been working on their family laws for quite some time and in some cases have some interesting areas such as the German law that makes children legally obliged to financially support their ageing parents! Alternatively the same system proposes that a young person should not be entitled to welfare benefits if the family can afford to provide support. This is the same in Spain; France and Sweden disallow a father from disinheriting a prodigal son. Truex says that rights should carry responsibilities.

So while we consider we are not well served by our system it may be very interesting to look at what is occurring in other countries in terms of grandparenting and family law.

[Taken from a Conference paper presented to the 10th Australian National Family Law Conference Melbourne, 16-20 March 2002, David Truex, International Family Law Chambers.]

Please don't forget this ongoing plea from Tracey as it will really highlight our plight so well in the 2009 celebrations.

During 2007 the Council of Grandparents received some **funding to undertake a study into the history of grandparents** and grandparenting in Queensland over the past 150 years. It will be made into a book for release in June 2009 as part of the Q150 celebrations. Tracey is particularly looking for stories about grandparents' grandparents. Please Ph Tracey on 07 5596 5523



OLDER PEOPLE SPEAK OUT

"Speakouts" for US !!!!

In both April and July OPSO is organizing "Speakouts" Especially designed to assist grandparents. I want to urge all of you to make special arrangements to attend these as they will deliver both information and a chance to voice your problems to a variety of specialists who can help.

The first one is currently planned for April 14th at the Tricare facility in Mt Gravatt (9:30am for a 10:00am start) and it will address legal issues grandparents and other relative carers face. These issues may vary from being able to be in court when decisions are made re your grandchildren right through to how you can set up a will to best protect your grandchildren

The second, planned for the same time and venue on July 14th is geared more to the problems facing relative carers through the Department of Child Safety.

These were issues raised at the congress last year and are our way of addressing them positively.

Anyone who feels they want to raise points at these meetings, but either can't make it or are frightened of possible repercussions, is more than welcome to put their views in writing to me and I will raise them anonymously on your behalf. If anyone needs assistance getting to the events, please call me. If there are any problems you need help on in making your voice heard, let me know as I will move heaven and earth to assist you.

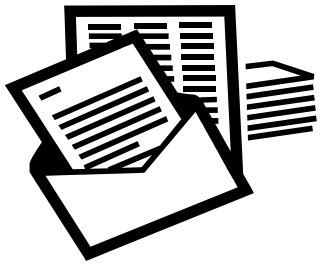
As you reply with needs and wishes OPSO will respond by inviting the correct people. We therefore need you to contact us as soon as possible in order to have the right people available.

Please bear in mind that many are booked up for an extremely long time ahead. We have, of course, already approached those who are obvious invitees.

RSVPs are currently being received.

You can reply directly to OPSO by contacting Val French (PH 3219 2572 Mob 0419020924) or to KinKare on details in the footer.

Either way, please take advantage of having this opportunity of getting your needs across.



Our Personal Page

This month I am going to voice an appeal through this page.

As I have previously notified you, we have funding to employ a person part-time to assist grandparents. (We are looking at 25 hrs/week.)

The total amount at this stage is only \$25,000. This means a short length of time as we prefer to have a good person for a short time rather than a lesser person for longer.

In my opinion the very first characteristic that we are looking for is a passion for grandparents.

We will also need a person who has the qualifications to work in this area, has basic computer skills and would be able to travel within Queensland.

Combined, these are very hard criteria to fulfill.

We do have a person in mind, but it is extremely unlikely that she will still be available. If you know of someone who is likely to be able to do this job well, I would be very happy to hear from you.

I am thinking a retired teacher, someone with community development qualifications or perhaps a social worker.

Please send out this call to all of those who may possibly fill the bill.

We need someone grandparents can relate to, someone who has experience in the area and also someone who is not so directly involved that they cannot see and understand all the other possible scenarios.

I guess I am going to be a bit hard to satisfy because this person will have to a very similar commitment to relative carers as I do.

It's a hard task, but if anyone can do it you folks can!!!

I also want to notify you that I have taken up the position of president of the Soroptimist club in Beenleigh.

Through them we have extended many benefits to grandparents in our local area and will be able to assist many more in other areas soon.

Some of you may well have seen an article in the Dept newsletter outlining a project we have initiated to provide life diaries.

It is a very exciting time for me, but I want to assure all grandparents that I will not be neglecting them due to my new duties.

These new duties will actually assist me to provide more for grandparents.



Laughter is the Best Medicine!

A man feared his wife Peg wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid.

Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family Doctor to discuss the problem. The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the Doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. Here's what you do,' said the Doctor, 'stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response.'

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, 'I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens.' Then in a normal tone he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?'

No response.

So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, 'Peg, what's for dinner?'

Still no response .Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?'

Again he gets no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. 'Honey, what's for dinner?'

Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. 'Peg, what's for dinner?'

(I just love this)

'Frank, for the FIFTH time, CHICKEN!'



In the last 7 days the famous Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up & the Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches.

Yesterday, it was announced that Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song, Today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived & 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop.

Analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal...

