

# MONTHLY NEWS



## Editorial



### Denied Contact

This last month or so, I have received a large number of calls from grandparents who have been denied contact with their grandchildren and are looking for information about their legal rights. This situation is far more common than most would think. One family relationship centre has found about 8% of their clients are grandparents looking to see their grandchildren.

**The Federal Family Law gives GRANDCHILDREN the right to contact with the grandparents** not the other way around as many people believe.

Finally, the Federal government is beginning to realise that there is an issue here.

If you are denied access, it is possible to make application to the Courts for a decision, but I know of very few grandparents who have had a favourable outcome going this way.

Before you even consider the first steps along this path, please take time to let yourself grieve and then think about what it is that you **really** are looking for. Most grandparents really want **the happy "normal" family life** where they can regularly see, and develop a relationship with, grandchildren.

**Taking legal proceedings against the parents does not achieve this outcome most of the time.**

The whole procedure takes a long time, is very upsetting as usually accusations are made against each other, can cost a great deal of money. Even if the final order is satisfactory there is no easy way to enforce it or stop demonising of one of the parties about the other to the child.

These days before you go to court a mediation attempt is required. Often the other party will refuse. However, there may be reasons why you want to go this way, but **don't let anyone tell you this is a permanent solution.** You can contact your local Family Relationship Centre as their first steps at mediation are **free.** Alternatively **call Family Relationships Advice Line**

**1800 050 3219** am to 8pm Mon-Fri and 10am to 4pm Sat

Hi Everyone,

Thank you so much for supporting another grandparent support group by sending in completed petitions. There is apparently no real time limit here so keep them coming. Marilyn has suggested that to avoid double handling she can accept these personally, Mail to her at:

**Marilyn Rudd**  
**Post Office Box 1577**  
**Wollongong NSW 2500**

Unfortunately were not successful in gaining Q150 funding for our National Conference, but we have not stopped trying. Please see the new date claimer later in the newsletter.

Many thanks to all who attended the Paradise Kids forum last month. It was very heartening to see so many there particularly from the Nerang group.

Attending these functions is what is needed to make those who can help take notice. Arranging activities is a time consuming and difficult job and your attendance is so important. Many thanks again.

Unfortunately the picnic organised for you last weekend was not so well attended. I apologise to those who came to the park and missed us. Next time we will have the KinKare signs out as well.

There are thoughts of putting it on again after Easter at Margaret Keech's suggestion. She made a special effort to be there and we thank her very much for that.. Keep reading the newsletter for a date claimer as the time gets near.

Most group meetings have had guest speakers, organised by Lisa, so please come along and ask the questions you need answered. I will look forward to seeing you again this year

Happy reading.....



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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 @12:30pm  
Nerang Neighbourhood Ctr  
Ph Maree 3287 1664

### SUNSHINE COAST KinKare

This group now meets with Community Solutions.  
Please see below

### KinKare INALA

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month @ 10:30am,  
The Hub, Corsair Ave  
Ph Maree 3287 1664.

### KinKare CLEVELAND

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month @ 10:30am  
The Donald Simpson Centre  
Ph Maree 3287 1664 or Maged 3207 7200

### KinKare BEAUDESERT

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month @10:30am  
Beaucare, 44 Tina St  
Ph Michelle 5541 3290

### KinKare GOODNA

Starts on November 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30am  
Neighbourhood House 33 Queens St  
PH Maree 3287 1664

### 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 9499



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:trcota@bigpond.net.au)

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### Granpower

[www.granpower.org.au](http://www.granpower.org.au)

For details Ph Suz 0409 294 231  
PO Box 172 Cannington WA 6987



### 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

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.

***We are considering going to a PDF format. Please advise if this will not suit you.***

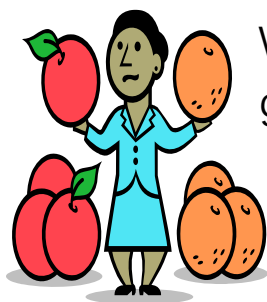


### Please Note

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.





What do grandparents denied access have in common with those raising?

This is a question I once asked myself of the grandparent support group leader before I attended my first meeting. She wisely replied, "Come along and see for yourself."

There are a lot of differences, but **the main thing we have in common is the absolute devastation of our situation.** The breakdown of the special relationship between parent and child, no matter the cause, brings loss and a lot of grief.

Many grandparents are in a stage where they don't recognise this loss and grief thing, but eventually, in order to become sane again, it has to be faced.

Catching up with old friends at the supermarket can be a dreaded experience because you know they will ask how your son/daughter is.

You will have to say either; "they are not with us any more", or "they are so addicted/incapable, we are raising their children" or "they have decided I am so terrible they won't let me see my grandchildren."

**The hurt is the same.**

The thought of facing this conversation every time you go out can lead to staying at home and becoming reclusive. **Please don't let this happen to you.**

Grandparents have to reach out and meet others in the same position. There are so many out there who won't look at you with accusing eyes because they have had a very similar experience.

The lucky ones who haven't been touched with either experience can often be cruel, unwittingly, and either tell you to get over it or say you must have done something to have caused the situation.

**Don't listen to people who are not wise. If you are new to this situation, get help.**

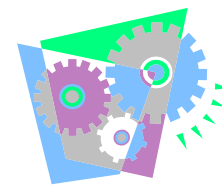
This help may be from others who understand by having gone through it or from professionals who know the circumstances you are going through.

Remember to always think carefully about what is being said to you and get a second opinion where possible. Not all professional people understand as much as we expect them to.



**NEWS FLASH!!!!!!**

The Council of Grandparents (COGs)



Conference

Date Claimer

National Grandparent Conference

**November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

**NEW Dates**

COGs has had to change the expected dates for our conference as the funding we had originally hoped for didn't come through.

We are still madly chasing funding for our new times. There is a possibility we may have to raise the money in more than one lot.

The possibility of setting up a National Grandparent Alliance of some sort is still on the addenda and there have been talks to interstate people already. This is something most of us value highly so keep your fingers crossed and watch for more news as the year progresses.

As always, COGs will attempt to make attendance to the conference free to grandparent participants.

Organisations interested in supporting the conference in any way are asked to notify Tracey Douglas 5596 5523.

**Watch this space!!!**



## Child Support Programme

The Child Support people came to our last Inala meeting to explain some changes in the way this is now calculated. It is a lengthy process, but basically the income of both parents is assessed, a living expense amount then deducted and the remainder split between those who have care of the children in proportion to the number of hours of care.

I have several booklets which explain this as well as other helpful information left by the team.

**Don't forget grandparents raising their grandchildren are entitled to child support depending on the number of hours they have care of their grandchildren.**





## Laughter is the Best Medicine

Last month we missed out on this section as we had such a great story from one of our grandparents. So this month I am including as many of the jokes you have sent as possible. Hope you get a good laugh.

**A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, 'Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, But they only know how to say one thing.' 'What do they say?' the priest inquired. They say, 'Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'**

That's obscene! the priest exclaimed,  
Then he thought for a moment.

'You know,' he said,

'I may have a solution to your problem.!

I have two male talking parrots,

Which I have taught to pray and read the Bible.

Bring your two parrots over to my house,

And we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter.

My parrots can teach your parrots to praise and worship,

And your parrots are sure to stop saying . . .

That phrase . . . In no time.'

Thank you,' the woman responded,  
this may very well be the solution.'

The next day,

She brought her female parrots to the priest's house.

As he ushered her in,

She saw that his two male parrots

Were inside their cage holding rosary beads and praying.

Impressed, she walked over and placed her parrots in with them.

After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison:

Hi, we're hookers!

Do you want to have some fun?'

There was stunned silence.

Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot

And exclaimed,

'Put the beads away, Frank.

Our prayers have been answered!'



### Two Ladies Talking in Heaven

1st woman: Hi! My name is Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! I'm Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

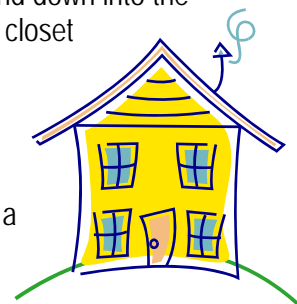
2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking.

I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds.

I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.



1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer---we'd both still be alive.

**PRICELESS!**

### **Paddy phones an ambulance because his mate's been hit by a car.**

Paddy: 'Get an ambulance here quick, he's bleeding from his nose and ears and I tink both his legs are broken.'

Operator: 'What is your location sir?'

Paddy: 'Outside number 28 Eucalyptus Street .'

Operator: 'How do you spell that sir?'

Silence and after a minute.

Operator: 'Sir, please answer me. Can you still hear me?'

Paddy: 'Yes, sorry bout dat. I just dragged him round to number 3 Oak Street

