

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,

This year has really thrown me out. I knew Easter was close, then it was here; I thought school holidays were over now they are here!

Remember to check meeting times this month as most groups don't get together over the holidays.

The **Senate Enquiry** has published its report and made recommendations re grandparents which I have reprinted for you. (Full report available at www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca Instructions follow after the article.)

KinKare was also invited to meet with the executive of **Centrelink** this month and a report follows.

COTA (NSW), Council on the Ageing, is holding a **grandparenting forum** in Sydney and we will be represented many thanks to Connect the Coast Inc.

Also, don't forget the **OPSO Speakout** on grandparent's legal issues @ Tricare, Logan Rd Mt Gravatt, on April 14th 10:00am – 2:00pm. RSVP to Tracey Douglas on 5596 5523 or Val French Ph 3219 2572 Mob 0419020924. (Bookings essential.)

Hope you find this edition informative. I love hearing from you with both suggestions and feedback.

My love and best wishes as always,
Maree



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Grandparents Information

Again this month, I have had people saying that they don't think they are entitled to use this service as they are too young.

Please note the new title as the wonderful people here can do so much to help you and they are really approachable.

You will be impressed!



The Senate Enquiry.

Into the cost of living pressures on older Australians "A decent quality of life"

Just this week I received a copy of the report from this inquiry. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I felt the senators were very understanding and caring towards the plight of our grandparents. I feel that their report has shown this.

I also received a copy of the speeches made to the report by three of the senators involved. Two of the three of them mentioned the need to assist grandparents.

Below I have copied the recommendations of the inquiry about grandparents. Many of you would also be interested in other parts of the report as they relate to different, but equally important, areas of your life. (E.g. the problems of a single pensioner as opposed to those married couples on the joint pension.)

Kinship care

Recommendation 15

8.49 The committee recommends that:

- i. the Government investigate the circumstances of grandparent carers, with particular concern for the type and level of support available to those taking on the role of primary carer though both formal adoption and informal kinship care.
- ii. governments at all levels increase the level of support and respite available to older Australians undertaking kinship care, particularly for those taking on the role of primary carer to younger children. (Chapter 6)

The full report, as titled above can be found on www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca and looking at completed inquiries under the headings of this article.

For those not on the net, your local Federal politician should be contacted if you would like a copy.

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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 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

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.

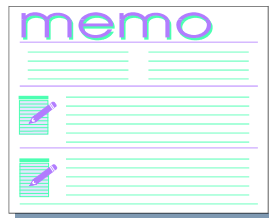
Please email them to me for transfer to the newsletter.

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.

Centrelink



Last Tuesday night Centrelink had a meeting of the community organizations that they deal with in the Brisbane area. I believe that it was the first one they have had here.

The CEO, Jeff Whalan, made a very short speech. In it he said Centrelink wanted to know what they were doing well and what we felt could be improved. He also said that he could take suggestions back to government on our behalf.

Most of the meeting was spent talking to the Centrelink people about what we do and how they can help.

My suggestions for the CEO to take back were that grandparents raising grandchildren full time should be entitled to the **carers benefits** and that services to assist in the home, already provided by **HACC** to the elderly, could be **extended to grandparents** raising/caring for grandchildren full time .

One of the things that Centrelink does very well is the provision of social workers and the associated guidance they give.

If you are new to grandparenting, one of your first steps is to make an appointment to see a Centrelink social worker. These people will be able to assist you in many ways not just in explaining the benefits you are **entitled** to.

I found the Centrelink people very concerned about grandparents and eager to help. Many even understood that grandparents are often wary of asking for "handouts". Please feel comfortable in talking to their people as you are not seen as "bludging" by them.

The fellow in charge of the social workers locally said he would look into us speaking to them at seminar again. This means we can keep them aware of the problems we face and they can make sure they investigate the solutions both through payments and community services.

Centrelink is well aware of the difficulty in grandparents claiming Family Tax Benefit as they have to then take it from the parents resulting in many addicted parents trying to reclaim the children. There are ways of handling this, so again, consult the social worker and weigh up the advice given for your personal situation.

I also heard that the current government is taking the issue on board with the possibility of some more help in the budget after next. This has been my opinion as well, so it came as no surprise and I believe it is inevitable if we keep working on it.

Jeff Whalan has asked me to email him with our case for him to put it to the Government. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated.

This is a fabulous opportunity for us to get our message across so please make your voice heard.



Last month I mentioned the Speakouts proposed by OPSO for grandparents.

They are being held on the 14th of both April and July at the Tricare Facility, Logan Rd Mt Gravatt 10:00am. (UBD Map no 201 E7.) Please try to attend as this is another way to have your voice heard.

RSVP to Val (Ph 3219 2572 Mob 0419020924), Tracey (Ph 5596 5523) or to me Contact details on the footer of this page.

Val has also secured a place on the Government's upcoming consultation with the Australian public for visions re 2020. The summit, on April 19th & 20th with 1,000 Australians, is to enlighten government on issues close to the population.

Again, to have your say, please contact me so that I can pass on the information to Val.

COTA [NSW] FORUM

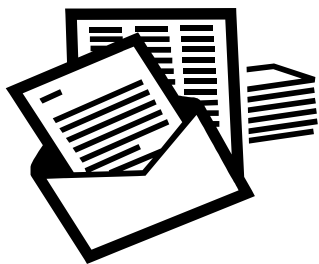
The Council on the Ageing (NSW) is running a forum in Sydney on April 7th & 8th to examine issues of policies, service provision, needs and stories re grandparents rearing grandchildren, denied access, and providing childcare.

This is a very important event aiming at raising awareness of grandparenting in the community and with those able to make a difference for grandparents.

I would have loved to be there but could not make it, so one of our grandparents, Marjie, from the Nerang group is representing us.

KinKare thanks to Connect the Coast Inc for assisting by sponsoring of the trip.

A report will be in next month's newsletter.



Our Personal Page

This note was given to me some time ago and I have been trying to include it in a newsletter ever since.
I hope you love it as much as I do.

Grand

I don't know where the name originated from **GRAND** parent
But I do know it was a popular word used in the north of England.
My Dad, from Manchester UK, used the word in all his sentences.

GRAND day

GRAND time etc

So it's appropriate that we are **GRAND**parents and hopefully we
raise the children to be;

GRAND too – in whatever they choose to do;

So they turn out to be our

GRAND grandchildren.

That's all we ask of them

Be proud
Be **GRAND**



Laughter is the Best Medicine!

Banking Crisis in Japan

Following the problems in the lending market in America and the run
on Northern Rock in the UK, uncertainty has now hit Japan.

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...

It takes a brave man to write this!

Son asked his mother the following question:

'Mom, why are wedding dresses white?' The mother looks
at her son and replies,

'Son, this shows your friends and relatives that your bride
is pure.'

The son thanks his Mom and goes off to double-check this
with his father.

'Dad why are wedding dresses white?'

The father looks at his son in surprise and says,

'Son, all household appliances come in white.'

Roses and Hanging Baskets

A teenage granddaughter comes downstairs for her date
with this see-through blouse on and no bra.

Her grandmother just pitched a fit, telling her not to dare
go out like that!

The teenager tells her 'Loosen up Grams. These are
modern times. You gotta let your rose buds show!' and
out she goes.

The next day the teenager comes down stairs, and the
grandmother is sitting there with no top on.

The teenager wants to die. She explains to her
grandmother that she has friends coming over and that it
is just not appropriate....

The grandmother says, 'Loosen up, Sweetie. If you can
show off your rose buds, then I can display my hanging
baskets.'

Three Men on a Hike

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came
upon a large raging, violent river. Needing to get to the
other side, the first man prayed:

'God, please give me the strength to cross the river.

'Poof! ... God gave him big arms and strong legs and he
was able to swim a cross in about 2 hours, having almost
drowned twice. After witnessing that, the second man
prayed: '

God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the
river' Poof! ... God gave him a rowboat and strong arms
and strong legs and he was able to row across in about
an hour after almost capsizing once.

Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man
prayed: 'God, please give me the strength, the tools and
the intelligence to cross the river'

Poof! . He was turned into a woman. She checked the
map, hiked one hundred yards up stream and walked
across the bridge.