

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,
I can hardly believe we are nearly halfway through the year already. As always things are happening at full speed and I am struggling to keep up. (That seems to be the story of my life these days!)

You may notice a few changes to the newsletter as I lost quite a lot when my old computer bit the dust and have had to improvise. I hope it improves as we go along.

Coming up to **the elections**, several organizations are preparing their **wish lists** and we are no different. We can only hope there will be a reward.

The **Seniors Enquiry Line** is approaching the end of gathering information about grandparents needs and the document makes good reading.

Unlike the "Time for Grandparents" project, this one is for ALL grandparents. They have also increased the list of activities available.

Hope you find the newsletter an interesting read and many thanks for the feedback you give.

My love and best wishes as always,

Maree



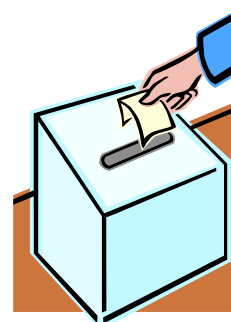
Email and Website

Don't forget our website. There is a lot of information on it and we would love you input to keep improving. It is especially valuable when I experience computer problems!

www.kinkare.com.au

Newsletters

As always, we try to keep our lists up to date. If you have not been receiving your copy regularly, if you wish to unsubscribe or you know of someone who wants a copy, just drop us a line and it should be fixed within the month.



Election Time

At this time it is essential we make sure all political parties are aware and focused on the needs and the plight of grandparents.

To do this effectively, **we must have large numbers of voices.** Luckily, KinKare works closely with many other organizations who are passionate about grandparents.

We still need each and everyone of you to also make your needs known to your local member.

Remember he/she needs to know the circumstances to be able to assist draft policies.

For relevant points you may wish to outline to your local MP, please see the type of problems outlined in the SEL information later in the newsletter.

KinKare has always split the responsibilities between levels of government in the following way:

KinKare believes the **Federal Government** is responsible for an **Australia wide payment to grandparents.**

We believe that adding grandparenting to the eligibility criteria for access to the Carers Payment and Allowance is the fairest and easiest way.

We also believe that asset and income tests for carers should be assessed on a case by case basis. It is essential for the government to understand that at the end of the grandparenting, carers are often at the end of their working life and have therefore no means of recuperating the funds spent which were earmarked for their retirement.

The **State Government also has responsibilities** to assist carers who willingly take on such a huge undertaking, saving them squillions of dollars.

KinKare believes that the State government has the responsibility of **proving much needed services** to grandparents. They have majority control over the **Health, Education, Housing, Transport and Child Protection** portfolios. All of these need to wake up to the plight of those who are grandparenting and have them on their priority lists



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 @10:30am
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 @ the Inala Hub
from 10:30am
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

LOWOOD

KinKare assisted

Meets the second Monday of the month 9:30am @
Lowood & District Comm. Ctr.
Ph The Hub 5426 2864.

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 Donna 5477 5955

CAIRNS & DISTRICT

G'parents Support Group

Meets the first Wednesday of each month
@9:30am, Hambleton House Community Centre,
Edmonton

Ph Janet or John (07) 40 555 161

Email johnjan@cairns.net.au

TOWNSVILLE region

G'parents Support Group

For details of this group, please contact

Ph. Nev (07) 4774 0742

Email trcota@primus.com.au

Group Meetings

As you can see our list of meeting places is growing rapidly. 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

Many of our groups will have changed details. Please forward them to me ASAP so I can keep our notices up to date. Changes that have been notified to me are in **bold type** for easier recognition.

I have to suspend my activities with nearly all groups temporarily until my computer problems are sorted.

It is essential that our newsletter gets out to all and I have no choice but to make this commitment to our remote members.



The report the SEL did throughout Q'ld. has been ratified and sent to all participants, so I can, **very briefly**, discuss its contents. The report, in my opinion, has been very professionally conducted and collated.

There were **14 areas** identified as concerns for grandparents. Obviously space doesn't allow for a complete run down so I will just mention the most important points as I see them.

Finances: There is a lack of knowledge of benefits available and a fear of applying because of possible repercussions.

Housing: Often grandparents need to relocate to accommodate their new situation. This can be very problematic.

Child Development: Grandparents report feeling "out of touch" with the milestones and especially with children who may have been born to addicted parents.

Parenting: Grandparents reported on difficulties combining both the roles; parents and grandparents.

Grandparent Support Groups: Grandparents related the value they found in having contact with others in the same situation.

Social Activities: Being in between peers and parents was a problem identified.

Counselling: Limited knowledge of how to access this and the great need as so many family relationships were involved.

Legal: There are so many different issues here it is mind blowing. Grandparents need specific advice.

Dept. of Child Safety: Apart from the Mackay area, lack of explanation of rights, feelings of intimidation and an inability to complain without reprisal were found.

Transport: This seemed to underpin ability to access both information and services.

Education: A general feeling of being "out of touch" and helplessness came across.

Health: A wide variety of issues identified for both grandparents and grandchildren. Many covered in other areas as well.

Child Care: This is a new area for many grandparents and much more information needs to be available.

The outcome of this study is the compilation of a resource kit for grandparents. As the team at SEL have found there are so many different situations grandparents might be in that it would be impossible to have one kit that "suits all sizes".

I have a little chuckle to myself when I hear about professional people, such as the psychologists who attend the camps, suddenly **realizing the complex needs of our grandparents**.

It's great, though, that they are now "onboard" and helping. They will be preparing one of the many guides to assist grandparents for the SEL kits.

Medicare News

All Registered Psychologists can Provide Services

Despite my best efforts, I cannot download the leaflet on this in a manner that will allow me to reproduce it for our newsletter, so I will have to do my best to copy the useful stuff from it. PLEASE, therefore, **check all this info with your Doctor first.**

The info I have is dated October 2006 and it announces that some services provided by Psychologists are now eligible for Medicare rebates.

Referral Requirements: Must be referred by GP, psychiatrist or paediatrician.

Eligibility: People with assessed mental disorder, excluding dementia, delirium, tobacco use disorder (imagine that!!!), and mental retardation that is being currently managed under given conditions too involved to repeat here.

Sessions provided: Up to 12 individual sessions in a calendar year and also 12 group sessions.

Rebate example: Scheduled fee \$62.50, rebate \$53.15

All of this is necessarily brief. For more info call

APS National Office 1800 333 497

www.psychology.org.au

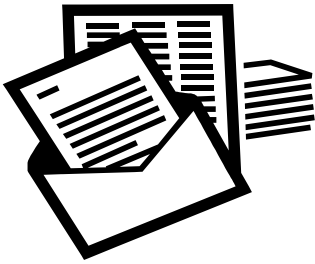


I must admit to some trouble accessing this website, but did eventually download the info so you can get it from me if you need it.

There are also many other conditions and payment schedule etc., but none that I can see that preclude children or most grandparents.

Remember that you too, need to be looked after so that you can give your best to your grandchildren.

The children are not the only ones who are suffering in these circumstances.



Our Personal Page

Many thanks; once again, for all the **feedback** you have given me on previous editions of our newsletter. I just hope I can continue to publish meaningful articles for you. This, of course, depends on your willingness to assist. So, whenever you feel I am losing it, please keep me on track by submitting thoughts or articles for general distribution.

As part of the SEL kit for grandparents I have offered to collate a set of scenarios to be distributed.

This will be a set of "made up" situations complying with the stories I get everyday. They will be a compilation, if you like, of what grandparents face. Therefore there will be no "real" situations, names etc., exposed.

These will be much like the current domestic violence/rape ads. The common situation is revealed but no particular person etc. is identified just the circumstance.

At the end of each scenario there will be a resource given where that grandparent may have sought help.

If you think there is any particular situation that you have had a problem with, that I may not think to address, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE get it to me ASAP.

The sooner I get this together the sooner we can help those who don't have the ability to come to meetings,

We have it on good authority that within the next week or so we will hear whether or not **our submission for a paid worker** has been successful. Scuttlebutt has it that Lifeline in North Queensland believes they have been successful. Still we will keep marching on!!

Over the period of about 12 months, I have been hearing reports that **other states are giving a payment to grandparents** over and above the Foster Carers Allowance. There are several people trying to get to the bottom of this and it seems that all roads have lead to a dead end. If you are aware of any such payment, I would love to hear of it including all details of it.

Lastly, I want to mention to you that, despite the "so called" changes to **Federal Family Law**, our grandparents are still coming up on the wrong end of things. **It is essential that we all work together to help all our fellow grandparents.**



Laughter is the Best Medicine!

KIDS IN CHURCH

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

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One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

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A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

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A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

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A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

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A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

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Hope you enjoyed this newsletter,
Love,
Maree