

MONTHLY NEWS



Editorial

Hi Everyone,
 Many thanks for your feedback during the last month. It has been another busy time this month. Like so many of you, I too, have had the dreaded 'flu. Please accept my apologies for the late edition of this newsletter. I must admit, it has almost been worthwhile to hear so many of you ask me what has happened. I now know just how many people wait on their newsletter! My apologies and I will try not to let it happen again. This month there is feedback from our meeting with Kevin Rudd's office, the OWN meeting last Tuesday and several other important events. Happy reading and keep the suggestions for articles coming in.
 My love and best wishes as always,
 Maree



Media Awards

Last month, those of you who receive newsletters by mail, also received an entry form for the Peoples Choice Media Awards. I forgot, however, to mention it in the newsletter. Every year OPSO presents awards to media people who portray seniors in a realistic light. It is a National competition open to all sections of the media.
 The people's choice section is where you get to enter something you have seen that you really like. There are also prizes to be one for nominating the best entry.
 The full details are available on the OPSO website.

www.opso.com.au

As they say; You've got to be in it to win it!



Kevin Rudd's Office

Last week a group from OPSO met with a fellow from Kevin Rudd's office to let the opposition know what our hopes and thoughts were for inclusion in their policies for the upcoming election. (We also put ideas to other parties. Please see later article.)

I was included as OPSO's grandparenting issues representative and also represented KinKare.

As you know, KinKare firmly believes that grandparents should be entitled to receive the Carer's Payment and Allowance from the Federal Government. Unfortunately the cost of such a measure was put to us as being the main reason for objection. This was not surprising given the pressures the opposition is under for their economic management.

However, we were given a very fair hearing on the whole and left feeling their may be some positive outcomes to be announced as policies are rolled out.

Some of the other ideas we presented for grandparents are outlined below. If anyone wishes to see a copy of the whole outline, please drop me a line.

- **Legal Aid:**
- **Awareness:** Centrelink has great workers and support programmes, but they are not well advertised.
- **The ability for Support groups to gain access to funding:** We need to be able to let those in need know that we are there for them.
- **Education of those administering the new laws:** The uptake on the behalf of judges and magistrates of the new laws and the research which underpins them has been very slow.
- **A fairer system of funding:** At present, the government states the place where they want to put money and community groups, who are doing the work that government should be doing, are developing programmes to suit. Common sense dictates that those at the coal face should be able to assess the need and develop a programme to suit, then, put a case to government for funds.



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

Restarting August 8th @ 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

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

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Speak Out

Older People Speak Out and OWN (Older Women's Network) held a combined "Speak Out" last week at the Arana Hills Leagues Club. It was attended by Senator Jan McLucas (Federal Shadow Minister for Ageing) and candidates from the Liberal Party, Democrats and Labour as well as members and interested parties.

The politicians were invited to come along to hear the views of seniors on their issues for the federal election. There were many issues raised and, of course, grandparenting was one of them.

Once again, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren was brought up. It seems we will have to fight a long battle to force those in power to jump the financial hurdle. The positive thing to come out of this meeting is that the level of awareness of our plight is growing rapidly. None of the politicians were able to make promises, but they are certainly listening and I feel there is bound to be some improvement announced.

Channel 10 was there and they covered the meeting in their news report that night. Although I was interviewed, I must have hit the cutting room floor. The presenter did mention grandparents in the lead up to the story!

Keep watching Channel 10 news as Val French (OPSO) is a guest reporter and tries to bring up our issues whenever she can. There may be an item which you could nominate for the Media Awards.

Today Tonight

Some time ago people from this show contacted me asking for grandparents who would talk to them on air. Last month, two of our members were on the show and put their case very well. Unfortunately, it went to air much later than they had hoped and they missed seeing it. If anyone taped it, could you please let me know so we can arrange to get a copy to them?

Radio 4BC

Tonight I was asked to speak on Radio 4BC. I know I don't usually mention these activities in the newsletter, but there are some circumstances surrounding this that I want to bring to your attention.

Firstly this is such an important way of raising awareness of grandparenting especially in an election year. It is free, but not easy or comfortable for me in particular! This month nearly all the articles in the newsletter have had a connection to the media. If this doesn't make governments start to take note, I don't know what will. Obviously there are many people, voters, out there who are becoming savvy to the plight of our grandchildren and wanting to assist.

KinKare is fortunate to have so many respected organizations behind us that the media calls so often.

The second point I want to make is that the worth of these interviews is directly related to the quality of the research done before going to air.

Tonight's episode was very informative and mostly due to the information on our website. We are particularly lucky to have such a great webmaster, a volunteer, and the sponsorship which pays the associated fees.



If you have time, please get on the site and send a thankyou email to the webmaster. I'll thank my husband – our sponsor.

Please use the website and keep me up to speed when it needs adjusting.

A Note about Using the Media

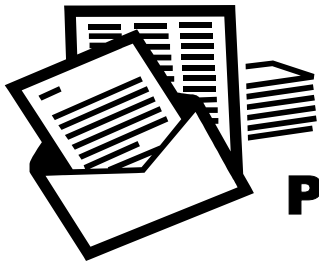
I know that many of you are tempted to use the media to highlight injustices.

Much like Family Law, this can be filled with unexpected side effects. Please use it wisely or not at all. You can make reference to support groups, but not represent KinKare as such without training and clearance from us. One poorly chosen remark can bring all the hard work undone.

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Our Personal Page

Many thanks for your feedback again this month. Danni and I will be seeing **Minister Desley Boyle** early next month (8th) so if you have particular problems you wish us to raise, please let us know ASAP.

I have already heard from quite a few of you who attend meetings, but I know some are in regional areas and unable to do so.

This month we also put in a submission to the **Senate enquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians**.

It was pleasing to see that one of the terms of reference specifically mentioned raising grandchildren. This is the sort of recognition we need in order to have a voice and make a difference. The wheels of government move slowly, but we are getting there.

Unfortunately, **we missed the House of Reps enquiry into Seniors and the Law**. We don't usually miss many, so if you become aware of one, let us know.

Putting in submissions to these enquiries is what keeps government focussed on our issues and works toward them changing laws for the better. It is very important that we keep the pressure on in this way.

Another way we can keep government aware is by each of you **letting your State and Federal members of parliament** know about your own situation. Despite your hectic life, this can be of great advantage to you.

I am still waiting for an official reply to my query into **payments to grandparents in other States** and will publish the details as they come to hand.

Today I was very stressed to have a call from a grandparent who was told by the **Dept of Child Safety** that a **condition of her getting placement of her grandchild** was that she went to **Family Law Courts** and sought residency of the child.

The parents have drug related problems and the child was previously taken from them. I have heard many reports that the Dept was suggesting this course of action, but this is the first time I have been told it was making it a condition for placement.

If anyone has further knowledge of this practice, I would really love to hear about it before Danni and I get our notes together for Minister Boyle.

OPSO is looking into **the issue of elder abuse**. This may be by family members or others and may be financial, emotional or something else. It is my opinion that the different levels of government are abusing grandparents as are many of their children. Any contribution to this debate is strongly sought.



Laughter is the Best Medicine!

Turntable

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband.

Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen.

"Careful," he said, "CAREFUL!"

Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW!

We need more butter. Oh my GOD! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They're going to STICK! Careful...CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!!! THE SALT!!!"

The wife stared at him. "What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?"

The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving."

UNDERSTANDING WOMEN (A MAN'S PERSPECTIVE)

I know I'm not going to understand women.
I'll never understand how you can take boiling hot wax,
pour it onto your upper thigh, rip the hair out by the root,
and still be afraid of a spider.

WOMEN'S REVENGE

"Cash, check or charge?" I asked, after folding items the woman wished to purchase.
As she fumbled for her wallet, I noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse.
"So, do you always carry your TV remote?" I asked.
"No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come shopping with me,
and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa, taking her faithful aged poodle named Cuddles, along for the company.

One day the poodle starts chasing butterflies and before long, Cuddles discovers that he's lost.

Wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old poodle thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the leopard is about to leap the old poodle exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young leopard halts his attack in mid-

