

# MONTHLY NEWS

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## Editorial

Hi Everyone,  
 It seems I was no sooner complaining about the cold when summer has come! Guess there is no pleasing me.  
 I especially wish to thank those of you who go out of your way each month to tell me about your favourite article. It makes such a difference to me to know that the effort is appreciated.  
 Wow there have been some political changes and, I guess, more surprises on the way as our new Premier forms her ministry. We will just have to wait and see what the future holds. The good thing is that with every change a Minister who knows about KinKare spreads the news to a new portfolio. How's that for positive thinking!  
 Heaps of new things again this month; so happy reading.  
 My love and best wishes as always,  
 Maree



## Picnic Time

Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup>

Our previous date had to be changed as there was some sort of gala affair happening at Southbank and we would have been swallowed in the crowd.  
 The good news is that this date is set in concrete and the Seniors Enquiry Line are going to celebrate with us by providing a sausage sizzle and assisting with transport for all who use the City Transport Passes.  
 Please RSVP to me, details at the foot of the page, by October 7<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of the free travel.  
 We will meet as planned at the Southbank Beach from 10:30 am onwards.



## Inclusions in this newsletter

Please find included in this newsletter a survey form from a group of final year students at QUT.  
 As part of our attempt to raise awareness amongst professional people OPSO offers to guide students in areas of research for their assessment and Connect the Coast has given two of them a topic in the grandparenting area.  
 The students are working on the health issues facing grandparents. It is our hope that some of the myths relating to the poor health of grandparents will be busted. It takes quite a lot of effort to oversee such an assessment project, but we feel it will have long term benefits for grandparents and I ask for your assistance.

Another inclusion is a flyer for the upcoming Grandparent Congress. After all this time, we have finally been successful in gaining funding for this very special event. The Council of Grandparents has been trying to get this off the ground for many, many months and it is finally on the way.

It is our hope that we will also be able to have another next year with a really big event during 2009 when Queensland turns 150. These future plans, of course, all depend on the support we receive for the first one.

We are expecting we will be joined by our fellow grandparents from around the state to make it a significant function with both media and government. There are provisions included in our funding submission for transport, child minding and accommodation especially for those travelling distances to attend. So please contact Tracey for full details.

The funding for this has come from the Pam Bye Foundation. Pam was a member of OPSO. When she died she set up the foundation to assist people to make a difference in social structure.

We are so lucky to have such caring people and organizations behind the KinKare effort.  
 Many thanks to all who contributed to this great event.





## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Donna 5477 5955



## 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) 4623 3520

Email [trcota@bigpond.net.au](mailto:trcota@bigpond.net.au)



## 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





Last month I mentioned the opening of more Centres around the State. This month I thought I would give a quick outline of their **policy re grandparents**.

The following comes from the website where there is more information if you wish. ([www.familyrelationships.gov.au](http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au))

Family relationship Centres provide help to try to avoid lengthy and adversarial **Family Law Court** proceedings.

Grandparents play an important role in family life and can be a crucial support to both grandchildren and children at times of separation or divorce.

Children's needs and best interests should be the first consideration in any separation or family breakdown. With this in mind Australian family law has now been amended to allow courts to consider the relationship with grandparents and other members of extended families and to consult them in determining what is in a child's best interests.

Courts can take into account:

- the nature of the relationship between a child and a grandparent
- the likely effect on the child of separation from a grandparent
- the capacity of the grandparent to provide for the needs of the child.

Parents and courts are encouraged to make provision for a child to continue a relationship with grandparents by ensuring that appropriate time is built into the parenting plan or order.

These changes make it easier for grandparents to remain involved in the lives of their grandchildren if they wish.

### Family Dispute Resolution

Family Relationship Centres provide dispute resolution for all the family. They are not just for separating parents.

There are three steps to the process.

- **Intake:** to determine if the process will be helpful and appropriate
- **Group Session:** to learn how to make the most of dispute resolution.
- **FDR Session:** Parties and the practitioner try to select suitable solutions

**The first two steps and 3 hours of FDR are free.**

For more information ph 1800 050 321

## Standards of Care (Q'ld)

All State carers in Q'ld are expected to comply with the following Standards. I took this article from the Child Safety website ([www.childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au)) and have had to delete things such as reference to sections of the Act to fit the page. The intent remains intact.

**The standards are interpreted with consideration to the needs of each individual child.**

The Act outlines the following standards:

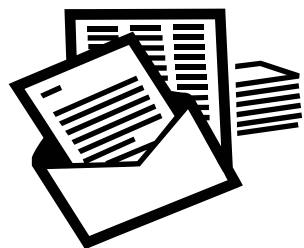
- the child's dignity and rights will be respected at all times
- the child's needs for physical care will be met, including adequate food, clothing and shelter
- the child will receive emotional care that allows him or her to experience being cared about and valued and that contributes to the child's positive self-regard
- the child's needs relating to his or her culture and ethnic grouping will be met
- the child's material needs relating to his or her schooling, physical and mental stimulation, recreation and general living will be met
- the child will receive education, training or employment opportunities relevant to the child's age and ability
- the child will receive positive guidance when necessary to help him or her to change inappropriate behaviour
- the child will receive dental, medical and therapeutic services necessary to meet his or her needs
- the child will be given the opportunity to participate in positive social and recreational activities appropriate to his or her developmental level and age
- the child will be encouraged to maintain family and other significant personal relationships
- if the child has a disability - the child will receive care and help appropriate to the child's special needs

**Techniques for managing the child's behaviour** must not include corporal punishment or punishment that humiliates, frightens or threatens the child in a way that is likely to cause emotional harm.

**If the chief executive has custody or guardianship of the child, the child's carer must act in accordance with the chief executive's reasonable directions.**

The application of the standards to the child's care must take into account what is reasonable having regard to the length of time the child is in the care of the carer or care service and the child's age and development.

Last updated 3 August 2007



## Our Personal Page

The previous article was included as I have had a few calls from carers through the **Department** who did not have a copy of the **Carer Kit**. These can and should be given to any carer by the Department on request. They are supposed to be given as a matter of procedure, but I am always being told that they aren't.

It is very important that you go through the kit in depth as there are many **rights and responsibilities** outlined in it which you may need to rely on later.

We have just had the news that we have lost Desley Boyle as Minister and Keith Blake with her. KinKare is sorry to see such a caring person leave and will now have to see the views our new Minister has in order to know how much of the work she started will be continued.

**Our new Minister is Margaret Keech MP.** Ms Keech is my local member and we have had many contacts with her. On all occasions, Margaret has shown great compassion for grandparents and has demonstrated that she acts on her word. With this in mind, I am looking forward to further dealings with her.

Former Minister, Warren Pitt **of the Department of Communities** (Queensland) oversaw the beginnings of assistance to grandparents from the State Government. These projects started with the Time for Grandparents respite programme managed by the Seniors Enquiry Line and some new ones yet to become operational. The current projects will continue for the time being and we will need to see the new Minister, Lindy Nelson-Carr, to see her views on future projects.

I feel relatively confident that both new Ministers will treat our grandparents kindly as there has been substantial raising of awareness in both State and Federal politics.

The upcoming Federal election will most certainly also hold changes of faces in Canberra as members change. **We know we will lose Kay Elson MP, Member for Forde, as she is retiring.**

Kay has been a strong supporter of KinKare since we first began. She has raised our concerns in the party room where she had considerable influence, assisted us in gaining funding and kept us up to date with Federal Enquiries and the like. This enabled us to put our concerns straight to Parliamentary Committees.

Dear Kay,

**Congratulations on your retirement from a very successful career. We will miss you.**

**Many thanks from KinKare**



## Laughter is the Best Medicine!

### Broken Mower!

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the truck, the car, playing golf - always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

Moral to this story: Marriage is a relationship in which one person is always right, and the other is the husband.

### Where 4 U 2 P?

I went looking for a rest room and found two doors with pictures of Dogs on them. I was completely baffled, so I searched out the Manager and admitted that I couldn't tell the difference between the Male dog and the Female dog.

"That's not the idea," the manager smiled and said.

"One dog is a pointer, and the other is a setter."

### The Other Man's Grass?

Our church was looking for a new minister, and the selection Committee finally recommended a young man just out of the seminary.

Many older church members protested that a more experienced man would have been preferable.

Committee members retaliated with the argument That a younger minister might breathe fresh life into the Congregation. At the end of the meeting, I commented to an older man that this marked the beginning of better things for our church.

"Yes," he said with a wry smile. "Moving on to greener Pastors."