

**JUNE 2021****IN THIS ISSUE**

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**Contact Details****Time for Grandparents Program**

PO Box 2376

Chermside Central QLD 4032

Ph: 1300 135 500

E: [grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au)W: [www.grandparentsqld.com.au](http://www.grandparentsqld.com.au)

In recognition of the importance of supporting families where children are being raised by their grandparents, Seniors Enquiry Line, in partnership with the Queensland Government, operates the “Time for Grandparents Program”.

This program funded by the Department of Communities is designed to provide the children of these families with fun and interesting activities and give grandparents the opportunity to have some well-earned time out. Alternatively, grandparents may also enjoy attending these activities with their children. Combined grandparent and grandchildren camps are also available.

Grandparents who are the primary carers of grandchildren and who are not receiving the fostering allowance and not approved relative/ kinship carers with the Department of Child Safety are eligible for the program.

For all bookings and enquiries please contact Seniors Enquiry Line 1300 135 500 from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. All enquires are welcome and confidential. If grandparents are unsure about eligibility they are encouraged to get in contact.

**Disclaimer:** The materials and information included in this edition of Grandmatters newsletter are provided as a service to you and do not necessarily reflect endorsement by the Time for Grandparents Program. The Time for Grandparents Program is not responsible for the accuracy of information provided from outside sources. Groups and workshops detailed in this flyer are for your information and are not coordinated by or connected to Seniors Enquiry Line or the Time for Grandparents Program in any way unless specified.

## Term 3 – 2021 Activity Renewal Reminder

Are we funding term-based activities for your grandchildren? If so, please remember you need to contact **Time for Grandparents** on **1300 135 500** prior to the commencement of each term to discuss continuing your grandchild's choice of activity and the availability of funding. **We need the following information from you in order to process the payment as quickly as possible:**

- 1) Name of the activity provider or club
- 2) Contact person's name and phone number / email
- 3) Sign-on date, or activity start and finish date
- 4) Cost of the activity.



## Grandfamily Camps – Emails from Time for Grandparents

As we move into the digital age, please be aware to check your inbox for emails from Time for Grandparents offering the opportunity to express interest in attending one of our Grandfamily camps. Our email addresses are: [grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au) and [tfg.camps@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:tfg.camps@ucommunity.org.au). Remember to also check your

junk/spam mail. If you do not have an email address, Time for Grandparents will still contact you by telephone.

***Please bear in mind that expressing interest in attending a camp does not guarantee a place*** – TFG need to balance a range of considerations when choosing families to participate.

## School Holiday Activities

The **Time for Grandparents** Program may be able to help with ideas to keep your grandchildren engaged over the school holidays. Ideas include:

- Your local library - free daily activities are provided for children of all ages
- PCYC - Police Citizens Youth Club Qld have vacation care programs in Queensland  
<https://www.pcyq.org.au/find-your-pcyq/>
- YMCA provide vacation care programs at various locations in Queensland.  
<https://www.ymcachildcare.com.au/outside-school-hours-care/vacation-care>
- Scripture Union Camps Qld run close to 100 camps across Qld for primary and high school students  
<http://sucamps.org.au/>
- School Holiday Directory has a list of activities including camps, art, craft, outdoor activities and vacation care.  
<http://www.schoolholidaydirectory.com.au/categories>

Please give us a call on **1300 135 500** if you would like further assistance in finding an activity for your grandchild over the school holidays.

## Fair Play Vouchers

Parents, carers or guardians can apply for a voucher valued up to \$150 for their child, which can be used towards sport and active recreation membership, registration or participation fees with registered activity providers. There is a limit of 1 voucher per child per calendar year.

### Who is eligible?

You can apply for a Fair Play voucher if your child:

- is a Queensland resident aged from 5 to 17 years (inclusive) at the time of application.
- did not receive a Fair Play voucher this calendar year.
- holds, or whose parent, carer or guardian holds, a valid Department of Human Services Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card with the child's name on it.



### How to apply for a Fair Play Voucher

**Please be advised that from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2020 the Time for Grandparents Program is no longer applying for Fair Play vouchers on behalf of grandparents.** If you do not have access to a computer or the internet, perhaps another family member or friend may be able to assist. You may also be able to access a computer at your local library or community centre.

The Queensland Government website <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay/apply> has a very user friendly "How to" video explaining how to apply online. Two important tips to remember when applying online are:

1. You will be asked to enter your valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card number. This number has to be linked to the child's name or you will need to enter the child's own Health Care Card number.

2. When entering the child's birth date, it is a requirement that you use the calendar drop down box and not just type the date of birth into the box.

### Key Dates

**Round 4 is now closed – Applications closed 17 March 2021**

**12 May 2021:** Vouchers expire and must have been presented to an activity provider.

### Need more information?

**Phone:** Smart Service Qld on **137 468**

**Email:**  
[fairplayvouchers@npsr.qld.gov.au](mailto:fairplayvouchers@npsr.qld.gov.au)

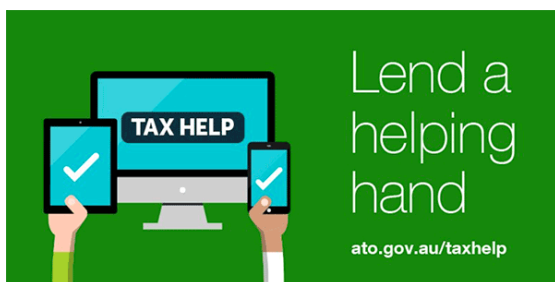
**Web:**  
<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay>





WEAAD, designated by the UN, is held on June 15 each year and is an opportunity for all to speak out against elder abuse. WEAAD is represented by the colour purple, denoting wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity. Elder Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.

If you would like further information about WEAAD, or are concerned about an elder abuse situation call **The Elder Abuse Helpline** on **1300 651 192**.



## TAX HELP PROGRAM

The free Tax Help program helps eligible low-income earners to lodge their tax return online. If you need help lodging your tax return, you may be eligible for the Tax Help Program.

Tax Help is a network of ATO-trained community volunteers who can help you prepare your tax return using myTax. From July to October each year, our accredited volunteers help people lodge their tax returns online. Tax Help volunteers can also help you:

- lodge amendments
- claim a refund of franking credits
- create a myGov account
- tell the ATO if you don't need to lodge a return.

You can receive Tax Help online or over the phone from the comfort of your home. You can also get help face to face from Tax Help centres across Australia.

For more information about the Tax Help Program go to: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Your-tax-return/Tax-Help-program/>

## GRANDPARENT ADVISORS

Grandparent Advisers can tell you about payments and support services based on your needs. **They can give you information about Centrelink, Medicare or Child Support.** They can also refer you to federal, state and community services in your area.

Grandparent Advisers can help you and your family while you adjust to your change in circumstances. If you need additional support they can book your appointments with:

- Social Workers
- Indigenous Service Officers or Multicultural Service Officers
- Financial Information Service Officers.

**Grandparent Advisers** can be contacted on **1800 245 965**.

## FAMILY AND CHILD CONNECT



Family and Child Connect is a local, community-based service that helps families to care for and protect their children at home, by connecting them to the right services at the right time. The service is confidential and free. You can use this service as often as you need. There is no limit and no cost.

The service can connect you to local services that can help with:

- managing your child's behaviour (e.g. skipping school, running away from home, homework, tantrums)
- building better family relationships
- stopping any violence at home
- budgeting and managing money
- alcohol, drug or gambling problems
- housing, health care or access to other community or government services

When you contact Family and Child Connect you'll speak with an experienced family support worker who will listen to your concerns and undertake a full assessment of your family's situation.

The service may be able to help in just one phone call – either by providing advice or referral to a support service –

or they may arrange to visit you at home or a safe place to talk. You can also work with a domestic violence support worker.

In some areas, there are family support services run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. Most family support services can offer families the choice of working with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family support worker.

You can contact Family and Child Connect by calling **13 FAMILY (13 32 64)**.



## USEFUL CONTACTS

Time for Grandparents - **1300 135 500**

ARAFMI - **1300 554 660**

Beyond Blue - **1300 224 636**

Bravehearts - **1800 272 831**

Centrelink Grandparent Advisor  
- **1800 245 965**

Centrelink Social Workers - **132 850**

DV & Sexual Assault National Helpline  
– **1800 737 732**

DVConnect Womensline –  
- **1800 811 811**

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit  
- **1300 651 192**

Family Relationship Advice Line  
- **1800 050 321**

Financial First Aid - **1800 007 007**  
Headspace - **1800 650 890**  
Kids Helpline - **1800 551 800**  
Legal Aid Advice Line - **1300 651 188**  
Lifeline Crisis Line - **13 11 14**  
MensLine Australia – **1800 737 732**  
My Aged Care – **1800 200 422**  
NILS – No Interest Loan Scheme  
– **136 457**  
Parentline - **1300 301 300**  
Relationships Australia - **1300 364 277**  
Salvation Army – **137 258**  
Seniors Enquiry Line – **1300 135 500**  
St Vincent de Paul - **1800 846 643**  
Suicide Call Back Service  
- **1300 659 467**

## GRANDPARENT SUPPORT GROUPS IN QLD

In an effort to keep information current, if you find any of these details to be incorrect or if you know of any additional support groups that are not listed, please phone us on 1300 135 500 or email us at [grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au)

### Central QLD & Wide Bay

#### Hervey Bay - Wide Bay Support 4 Grandparents & Carers

**Phone:** Karen Rogers 0457 857 457  
**Email:** kazzarogers\_6439@msn.com  
Fortnightly meetings at Hervey Bay RSL for support, care and advice whilst children are being supervised.

#### Bundaberg - Grandparents as Carers Support & Playgroup

**Phone:** 0468 855 449  
Weekly meetings for you to socialise with other grandparents and for your

grandchildren to enjoy spending time with other children.

#### Mackay - Kin Carers Group

**Phone:** Sharon 0400 683 517 or Chris 0497 698 732

### Sunshine Coast

#### Caloundra - Grandparents as Parents Program

**Phone:** (07) 5491 4000  
Peer support and connection, workshops, information sessions, socialising for children and practical support.

#### Buderim – Grandparents Raising Children Playgroup

**Phone:** Michelle Poole (07) 5453 4938  
**Email:** mpoole@playgroupqld.com.au  
Weekly playgroup for any grandparent providing care for their grandchildren under school age to obtain support and interaction from like-minded people.

#### Gympie - Grandparents and Grandchildren Society

**Phone:** (07) 5482 9012  
Regular meetings for grandparent carers.

#### Noosaville State School - Grandparents as Parents Support Group

**Phone:** Michelle Gameiro (07) 5440 3222  
Monthly meetings for grandparents raising grandchildren who attend schools in the local vicinity.



## Brisbane and West Moreton

### Ascot - Grandparent Playgroup

Phone: 1800 171 882

Weekly meetings for you to socialise with other grandparents and for your grandchildren to enjoy spending time with other children. More details are available via the Playgroup Qld website:

<https://www.playgroupqld.com.au/>.

### Deception Bay - Grandparents Support Group

Phone: (07) 3204 2022

Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children are being supervised.

## North Queensland

### Innisfail – Grandparent Peer Support Group

Phone: 0427 406 246

Fortnightly meetings, Wednesday 9.30am. Join other grandparent carers for conversation and peer support. No children in attendance, grandparents only. Social meetings including grandchildren are held at separate times on occasion.

### Townsville – Grandparents Connect

Phone: 07 4775 9115

Email:

[fsp.townsville@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:fsp.townsville@uccommunity.org.au)

Come and meet other grandparents who are also full time carers of their grandchildren. Morning tea provided.

## Message Stick

### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

#### NEWS



Hello you Mob

Hope your all keeping well in the winds of changing weather. Winter is here so please having plenty of oranges and lemons to help combat winter flus. My morning drinks are green teas with quarter lemon juice, half orange juice, tea-spoon apple-cider vinegar and honey - yummm

**What's ahead...** June and July are huge months on the Indigenous calendar with national events for Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day in June and July will be packed with events and activities around NAIDOC Week. If you would like information about NAIDOC activities in your community, please be in contact and I can find out for you. Torres Strait Islander communities will also celebrate "The Coming of the Light" festival on the 1 July. Hope some of you are able to attend some of the community events.

**The national NAIDOC** theme for 2021 is ‘**Heal Country**’. Only two words, yet so powerful. There needs to be a common thread to touch our hearts and that is Love – love for country and the environment. Love is healing and there are many ways to help heal country that we can do. Plant or rescue a tree, shrub or plant a new one to give new growth on country or if you are able, walk and feel the environment around you – go bush and connect to country.

**First Nations-owned coffee brand DHUWA Coffee** is now sitting on the shelves of select Woolworths stores across the country.

DHUWA, pronounced ‘*Dee-Wah*’ and meaning ‘to feel alive’ in Bidjara language, is 100 per cent Indigenous-owned and roasted in partnership with Australian roaster, Griffiths Bros. Coffee Roasters.

DHUWA co-founder, Supply Aus Director, and proud Mununjali Palawa man [Shawn Andrews](#) says the brand aims to create connection through coffee.

“As a modern Indigenous-owned, managed, and controlled business, we believe a great cup of coffee connects us as we share stories, build bonds, and nourish relationships,” We call it reconciliation in a cup”

DHUWA is a celebration of First Peoples culture, and features eye-catching artwork from Bidjara man and Brisbane Indigenous Media Association chief executive, [Jyi Lawton](#).

“DHUWA celebrates Indigenous people and their cultures, including the 300-plus languages they speak,” said Andrews.

“It’s a Reconciliation ecosystem in itself, from the coffee we create, the people we celebrate and the opportunities we bring to other Indigenous people.”

Part of a bigger plan, the DHUWA brand aims to become a self-sustained coffee enterprise, offering training and employment to Indigenous people. Dhuwa coffee is a perfect brew in any language.

Each packet of DHUWA Coffee sold in [Woolworth stores](#) sees three per cent of earnings donated to Dreaming Futures, a charity which supports Indigenous youth in [out-of-home care](#) connect to Country, community and culture. Look out for Dhuwa coffee in select Woolworths stores.

(National Indigenous Times June 2021)



**HEAL  
COUNTRY!**  
4-11 JULY 2021