

Grand Matters

TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS



Time for Grandparents Message Service

If you have called Time for Grandparents recently you may have reached our new answering service during times when our staff are busy on other calls. If you do reach our answering service, please be sure to leave a message, including your full name and phone number, and one of our friendly Time for Grandparents staff will call you back as soon as possible.

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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 may also attend peer support groups, either online or 'face to face', depending on availability in their area.

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 enquiries please contact Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500 from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. All enquiries are welcome and confidential. If grandparents are unsure about eligibility, they are encouraged to contact the Time for Grandparents Program.

Term 3 2022 - 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 ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM YOU BEFORE WE CAN PROCESS THE PAYMENT:**

- 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.

Time for Grandparents Program

M PO Box 2376
Chermside Central QLD 4032
T 1300 135 500
E grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au
W www.grandparentsqld.com.au

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.

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 and 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 – the Time for Grandparent Program needs to balance a range of considerations when choosing families to participate.

FairPlay Vouchers

Round 6

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 FairPlay 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 1st 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 birthdate, 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 6 is now closed
- 11 May 2022: Vouchers expire and must have been presented to an activity provider.
- 25 May 2022: Vouchers must be redeemed by activity providers.

Need more information?

Phone: Smart Service Qld on 137 468

Email: fairplayvouchers@npsr.qld.gov.au

Web:

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



Time For Grandparents – Online Video Peer Support Group



Fortnightly free online Zoom meetings held on Monday from 10am – 12noon.

Join other grandparents who care for grandchildren fulltime to share lived experience and practical advice about your caring role, as well as receive information, encouragement, peer support and connection. If you would like to join the 'Time for Grandparents Online Video Peer Support Group', you must register your interest to participate in order to receive an invitation including the meeting link and passcode to access the group. Please contact Kym at the Time for Grandparents Program on Monday, Thursday or Friday, 9am – 5pm, on 1300 135 500, or by email at grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au, if you would like further information.

Community Resource Unit (CRU)

CRU believes that people with disabilities should belong to and participate in community life - that their interests are best served when they are supported to grow up in a family, go to school at their local neighbourhood school, participate in community activities with their peers, have a home of their own, maintain strong relationships with friends, parents and siblings, work and participate in community life and have their rights as citizens protected.

CRU offers a range of webinars, workshops and support for students with disability and their families in areas such as the 'Families for Inclusive Education Project' and the 'From School to Work Program'. For details of upcoming workshops and webinars go to: <https://cru.org.au/events/>

Website: <https://cru.org.au/>

Phone: 07 3844 2211

Free School Holiday Activity Packs



'Bush Heritage' is an independent not-for-profit that buys and manages land, and partners with Aboriginal people, to better protect our irreplaceable landscapes and our magnificent native species forever.

'Bush Heritage' sends out '**Bush Buddies**', a free, printable Kids' Activity Booklet by email before each school holidays.

The booklets are full of fun facts, puzzles, games, activities and science experiments. Designed to engage primary school kids in learning about nature and Aussie animals. To sign up to get your free copy emailed at the end of each school term, as well as access to past editions go to

<https://www.bushheritage.org.au/news/bush-buddies>



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.pcyc.org.au/find-your-pcyc/>

- YMCA provide vacation care 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 Queensland for primary and high school students.
<http://sucamps.org.au/>
- School Holiday Directory has a list of activities including camps, art, craft, outdoor activities.
<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.



Annual Brokerage Limits

Hi everyone. Time for Grandparents has seen a growth in its support services over the past 12 months. There has been a review and revamp of the Grandfamily camps which has seen each camp now running up to 5 days over the vacation period. We are also now working hard in establishing both online and face to face peer support groups across different regions of QLD. We have also had a chance to review the brokerage support we provide to families that enable grandchildren to attend extra curricular activities. We feel that this support goes some way in easing the financial constraints for many families while providing opportunity for grandchildren to partake in recreational activities.

We have made a concerted effort to reach out to rural and remote Grandfamilies which has seen an increase in requests for brokerage and attendance to the Grandfamily camps. As such we have limited the brokerage support to \$500 per grandchild per year from each family. This is separate to the cost covered in attending a camp.

As you can appreciate, there are limited funds provided to the Time for Grandparents program. If you wish to have your Grandchildren attend activities that exceed the \$500 limit Time For Grandparents program will contribute up to \$500 toward the activities.

We will continue to review these costings each year to ensure that all families receive the support they need.

Thanks for your support.

E-Safety

E-Safety provides a wide variety of resources to help you start the chat about online safety issues and strategies with your grandchild of any age, including:

- webinars
- videos
- books
- information sheets
- audio files
- family tech agreements
- activities.

For these resources go to:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources>

E-Safety also offers free webinars for parents and carers. These live webinars give parents and carers the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe online experiences. Their 2022 webinars include a broad range of topics that will be delivered by their expert education and training team. The June webinar topic is 'Safer Online Gaming'.

To download the webinar schedule or to register your attendance at a webinar go to: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

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.

Website:

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

Tax Help Program



The free Tax Help program helps eligible low-income earners to lodge their tax return online.

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, their 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/Help-and-support-to-lodge-your-tax-return/tax-help-program/>



Useful Contacts



Time for Grandparents		1300 135 500	
13 Yarn	13 92 76	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld)	1800 012 255
ADIS Alcohol and Drug Support	1800 177 833	ARAFMI	1300 554 660
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636	Blue Knot	1300 657 380
Bravehearts	1800 272 831	Centrelink Grandparent Advisor	1800 245 965
Centrelink Social Workers	132 850	Child Health Phone Support	13 43 25 84
Disability Gateway	1800 643 787	DV & Sexual Assault National Helpline	1800 737 732
DVConnect Womensline	1800 811 811	Elder Abuse Prevention Unit	1300 651 192
Family Drug Support	1300 386 186	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	NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme	1800 800 110
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 659 467
Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467	Wellways Carer Gateway	1800 422 737

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

STATE-WIDE

Time for Grandparents Online Video Peer Support Group

Phone: Kym on 1300 135 500

Email:

grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au

Fortnightly free online Zoom meetings held on Monday from 10am – 12noon. Join other grandparents to share lived experience and practical advice about your caring role, as well as receive information, encouragement, peer support and connection.



CENTRAL QLD & WIDE BAY

Urangan - Grandparents Support Group

Phone: Anglicare 1300 114 397

Come join us for a cuppa and a chat. We can discuss issues you may be having with your grandkids. Some topics we cover are safe internet use, behavioural issues, diet, and any suggestions and concerns welcome.

SUNSHINE COAST

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.

Caloundra - GAP Peer Support Program

Phone: (07) 5491 4000

The GAP peer support program encourages grandparents who are the primary carer of their grandchildren to meet regularly for peer support activities including guest speakers, coffee catch ups, monthly BBQs and school holiday activities for the grandparent families. All activities are attended and supported by a Family Worker.

BRISBANE & WEST MORETON

Hendra - Grandparents Playgroup

Phone: Susanna 0404 176 726

Ages 0-5 years. \$5 per session. Monday 9.30am. Come along to our grandparents playgroup. Playgroup is a wonderful way for you to socialise with other grandparents and for your grandchildren to enjoy spending time with other children. Susanna is the first point of contact but if you do not get a response please call Barbara: 0420 617 274.

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@ucommunity.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

I couldn't ignore these two articles in this edition of Message Stick. One is of hard-ache and the other of jubilation. Both hold significant impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – one *bitter*, one *sweet* Youpla Group (formerly Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund)

It is with a heavy heart to acknowledge those families affected by the Youpla Group collapse and liquidation and the financial stress, burden, and hardship it's causing families across states. Families may wish to contact a financial counsellor to discuss their options or try [Mob Strong Debt Help](#) on 1800 808 488. ASIC is aware that Mob Strong may be receiving many calls at this stage. If your call is not answered immediately, please be patient and wait for a call back.

If you haven't already, please refer to ASIC government website below to get the latest News and information and seek help and guidance if you or someone you know were affected by Youpla Group collapse (website includes a link to Mob Strong Debt Help).

<https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/key-matters/youpla-group-formerly-aboriginal-community-benefit-fund/>.



13 YARN

13YARN is the first national service of its kind for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in crisis. They offer a confidential one-on-one over the phone yarning opportunity and support with a trained Lifeline Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. If you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN on 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

- 13YARN is run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Free and confidential service available 24/7 from any mobile or pay phone
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporters to yarn to

This is your story, your journey and they will take the time to listen. No shame, no judgement, a safe place to yarn.

Phone: 13 92 76

Website: <https://www.13yarn.org.au/>

Message Stick

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander News

Congratulations you mob

Wakka Wakka people reclaim their Country

Wakka Wakka people are traditional owners of their country in southern Queensland's South Burnett region including 1,180 square kilometres of land from the Bunya Mountains in southern Queensland to Gayndah in the South Burnett River catchment, encompassing the town of Cherbourg.

Justice Darryl Rangiah, pictured here during the federal court decision in April in Cherbourg, said *"the court is simply recognising that which the Wakka Wakka people have always known – that this has always been and will always be your land."* *"It is a great pity that so many of you who lived through those dark times are not here today – those people should not be forgotten,"* Rangiah said. *"Despite dispossession of their land, frontier violence, segregations, assimilation attempts ... you are still a strong and vibrant traditional community."*

see full story here: <https://amp.abc.net.au/article/100989260>



Justice Rangiah humbled in his delivery



Wakka Wakka dancers celebrate, Cherbourg April 2022

NAIDOC 2022

Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! 3-10 July 2022



This year's NAIDOC theme "Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!" is a call for action to bring about “systemic change and keep rallying around our mob, our Elders, our communities.” This includes seeking proper environmental, cultural and heritage protection, Constitutional change, a comprehensive process of truth-telling and continuing to work towards treaties

This impactful theme is about the desire to change the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non Indigenous Australians to one that is “based on justice, equity, and the proper recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights”

This year is a time to celebrate the many people who have driven and led change within Indigenous communities, and for everyone to show up and start being a part of this change. Whether you are Indigenous or non-Indigenous now is the time for everyone to come together and ‘Stand Up’ for the rights and equity of First Nation Australians

Visit [Our Brands – Yarn Marketplace](#) for your NAIDOC 2022 merchandise

