

October 2020

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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

W: www.grandparentsqld.com.au

Time for Grandparents Grandparents Day!

Grandparents Day will be celebrated on the last Sunday in October.

This is a special day to acknowledge the unique and irreplaceable role grandparents play in our communities and families.

Grandparents Day is extra special for all of our grandparents on the Time for Grandparents Program and across Australia who provide a safe and loving home for their grandchildren.

This day is a chance for grandchildren, children and the community to thank grandparents for their love and support.

How will you celebrate Grandparents Day?

- Cook a family recipe
- Look through old family albums
- Create a family portrait
- Plan a family picnic or BBQ in the park
- Play a game from your childhood
- Spend the day at the beach
- Go out for breakfast
- Plant a family garden bed



Term 4 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.



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
- **YMCA camping** provide vacation care camps at various locations in Queensland
- **Scripture Union Camps Qld**
<http://sucamps.org.au/> run close to 100 camps across Queensland for primary and high school students.
- **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.

Grandfamily Camps temporarily suspended

To help minimise the transmission of COVID-19 in the community, at the time of publication, many recreation facilities throughout Queensland have been directed to temporarily close. Due to these significant changes, our monthly Time for Grandparents Grandfamily camps have temporarily ceased until further notice.

We would like to assure grandparents that Time for Grandparents is still available to support you during this time, and should you need to ask us any questions we would encourage you to contact us on 1300 135 500 at any time, Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm.

FairPlay Vouchers

FairPlay is a program funded by the Queensland Government that assists young people to participate in sport and recreation activities.

Families with eligible children can apply for vouchers valued at up to \$150 per child for use at a sport or recreation club registered with FairPlay.

TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS WILL NO LONGER BE APPLYING ON BEHALF OF GRANDPARENTS

Please be advised that from 1 July 2020, Time for Grandparents will no longer be 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 **needs** 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.



Parenting Orders Program

What is the Parenting Orders Program?

The Parenting Orders Program services help families who are in high conflict to work out parenting arrangements in a manner that considers a child's best interests in establishing or maintaining relationships, while ensuring the safety of all parties.

The services help families manage their conflict and understand the effect their conflict is having on their children. They can then develop strategies to deal more constructively with each other and manage parenting arrangements.

The Parenting Orders Program offers support in managing cooperative family arrangements for separated parents, carers and extended family members such as grandparents. Clients can attend voluntarily or be mandated by the Federal Circuit Court of Australia or the Family Court.



What happens at a Parenting Orders Program?

There are many things that happen as part of the Parenting Orders Program. These include:

- Individual assessment and sessions to achieve goals
- Educational group sessions
- Counselling and individual support for different family members
- Children's counselling and group work
- Specialised practitioners to work with parents and sometimes the children.



UnitingCare's Parenting Orders Program services are free of charge, and are available at the following locations:

Sunshine Coast Family Relationship Centre

Address: 43-45 Primary School Court,
Maroochydore

Phone: 07 5452 9700

Email:

pop.sunshinecoast@ucommunity.org.au

UnitingCare – Gympie

Address: 35 Excelsior Road, Gympie

Phone: 07 5480 3400

Email:

pop.sunshinecoast@ucommunity.org.au

UnitingCare Ipswich & West Moreton

Address: Level 1, Limestone St,
Centre-Opposite Coles

Phone: 07 3816 9611

UnitingCare Logan

Address: 25 Ewing Road, Woodridge, Logan
Central

Phone: 07 3442 1500

UnitingCare Caboolture

Address: 344 King Street, Caboolture

Phone: 07 5452 9790

UnitingCare Wide Bay-Burnett

Address: 5 Bingera Street, Bundaberg,
& 94 Old Maryborough Road, Pialba

Phone: 1300 885 373

UnitingCare Mackay

Address: 287 Shakespeare Street, Mackay

Phone: 1300 096 203

Email:

pscp.mackay-whitsunday@ucommunity.org.au

What can I do to support myself when my family member is using alcohol or drugs?

Having a family member who uses drugs can cause stress, conflict, worry and despair. It is normal to feel helpless, frustrated, worried and upset by someone's drug use. People who use drugs can behave very erratically, and it can be difficult to know how to act around them. Their drug use may contribute to them acting in distressing ways. They may become aggressive, angry and violent, or withdrawn and detached. All members of the family can be affected, and while there are no simple answers, the following may help.

Looking after yourself

When someone you know is using alcohol or other drugs, it can be overwhelming. To help you support your loved one, it's important for you to look after yourself.

- ◆ Connect with people who support you
- ◆ Ensure all other family members are safe, particularly young children
- ◆ Set consistent boundaries and expectations around their behaviour
- ◆ Do things that bring you pleasure and help you feel connected, healthy and positive
- ◆ Stay connected to your family and friends
- ◆ Monitor your own substance use



It is important to remember that you can encourage someone to change but you can't make them do things they don't want to do. But there are things you can do to stay on top of how you feel.

You could think about:

- ◆ Talking with a trusted friend or family member
- ◆ Talking to your local doctor
- ◆ Joining a support group
- ◆ Doing activities that you enjoy.

For support on dealing with a family member using drugs contact:

Family Drug Support

Support Line: 1300 368 186 (available 24 hours 7 days a week)

Website: <https://www.fds.org.au/>

ADIS Queensland

Support Line: 1800 177 833 (available 24 hours 7 days a week)

Website: www.adis.health.qld.gov.au

MESSAGE STICK



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

Hello you mob,

In this edition of Grandmatters, we would like to pay tribute to our Torres Strait Islander peoples for their long struggle to recognise Torres Strait Island child adoption law.

Torres Strait Islanders take historical steps in keeping children with family and community

On 17 July 2020, Cynthia Lui (State Member for Cook) introduced a bill into Queensland Parliament recognising Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice in law.

It's the first bill of its kind in Australia – an ancient Torres Strait Islander adoption practice that could be legally recognised in Queensland after a bill was introduced into state parliament recently.

Named Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (*for our children's children*), the bill allows children to be adopted by a relative or community member to benefit the child culturally, among other factors. State member for Cook and lamalaig woman from the Torres Strait, Cynthia Lui, fought back tears as she introduced the bill in parliament.

"This has been an incredibly long journey for Torres Strait Islander peoples to see this traditional practice be legally recognised in Queensland law, and the introduction of this bill puts us one step closer to realising this long-fought recognition," Ms Lui said.

(Source: NITV News 16/7/2020)



The first round of community consultations for the Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Bill 2020 began 3 August in Townsville, with the historic legislation aimed at bringing traditional Torres Strait Islander adoption practices into law.



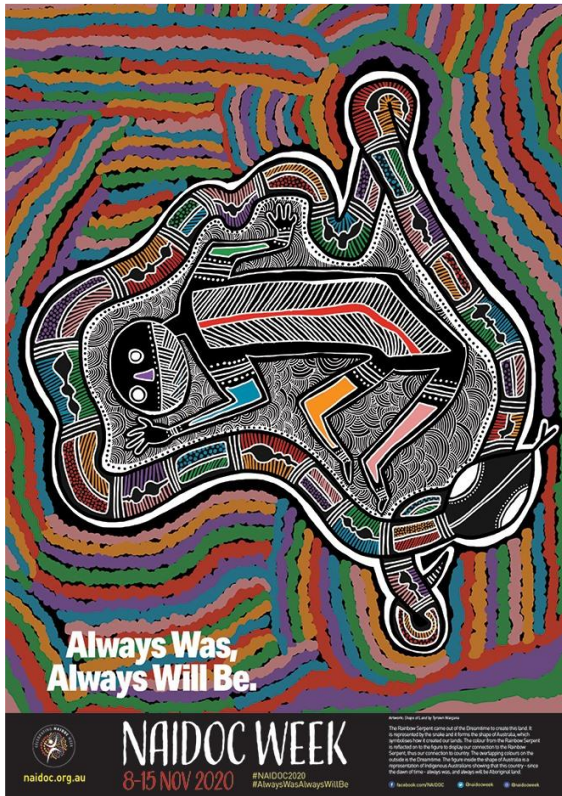
The Bill, also known as the Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice Bill 2020, was introduced in the Queensland parliament last month.

“The committee will place a great importance on hearing the views of Torres Strait said Mr Harper.

If passed, the Bill will give cultural parents the full rights to make decisions about their child, as well as giving the child the same legal rights as other children of the cultural parents, including inheritance rights.

The legislation will also introduce a commissioner with the authority to approve or decline traditional adoptions.

(Source: NITV News 3/8/2020)



NAIDOC IN NOVEMBER

This year's NAIDOC celebrations will now happen on 8-15 November 2020 across Australia. The NAIDOC theme this year is "Always Was, Always will be".

Please contact our office on 1300 135 500 if you would like to visit one of our NAIDOC stalls that UnitingCare provide for community across Queensland.

Please continue to take care of yourselves as COVID-19 pandemic has not yet left our shores. Stay safe Grandparents.

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

Sunshine Coast - Grandparents as Parents Program

Phone: 1300 621 499

Case management, counselling and peer support available in the Sunshine Coast region.

Buderim - Grandparents Raising Children Playgroup

USEFUL CONTACTS

Time for Grandparents - 1300 135 500

Centrelink Grandparent Advisor - 1800 245 965

Centrelink Social Workers - 132 850

Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800

Bravehearts - 1800 272 831

Lifeline Crisis Line - 13 11 14

Parentline - 1300 301 300

Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636

ARAFMI - 1800 351 881

Relationships Australia - 1300 364 277

Legal Aid Advice Line - 1300 651 188

Financial First Aid - 1800 007 007

Family Relationships Advice Line - 1800 050 321

Elder Abuse Prevention Unit - 1300 651



Central QLD & Wide Bay

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 & 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.

Lawnton - Grandparent Playgroup

Phone: 07 3889 0063

Encircle, Neighbourhood Centre

Meets 9:30am to 11:30am each Tuesday.

Information, support and a grandchildren's playgroup. Gold coin donation. Playgroup does not run during school holidays.

Gold Coast

Nerang - Carers Qld Grandparent Support Group

Phone: Max (07) 5617 1600

Meetings from 10am to 12pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.