



www.grandparentsqld.com.au

Time for Grandparents

GRAND MATTERS NEWSLETTER

December 2013



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THOUGHTS OF THE DAY

To show a child what has once delighted you, to find the child's delight added to your own, so that there is now a double delight seen in the glow of trust and affection...this is happiness.

- J.B. PRIESTLEY

Contact Details

Time for Grandparents Program

PO Box 2376

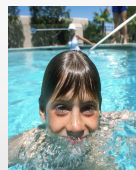
Chermside Central QLD 4032

Ph: 1300 135 500

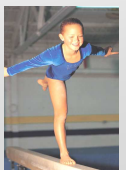
E: grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au

W: www.grandparentsqld.com.au

GRANDKID'S ACTIVITIES: Starting Back in 2014 Term 1



If your grandchild is resuming an activity next year that we have been funding in 2013, please remember to phone us prior to the start of Term 1 to discuss your grandchild's continuing attendance and availability of funding. You can phone us on 1300 135 500.



The Child Dental Benefits Schedule

From 1 January 2014 the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) will replace the existing Medicare Teen Dental Plan. The CDBS provides access to benefits for basic dental services to children aged 2-17 years.

The total benefit entitlement will be capped at \$1,000 per child over a two calendar year period. The CDBS will provide individual benefits for a range of services including examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. Benefits will not be available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and will not be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

Who is eligible?

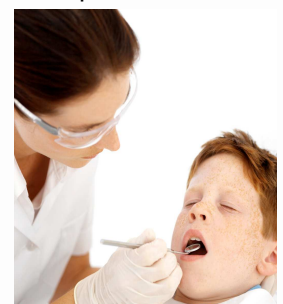
The CDBS will have a means test, which requires receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) or a relevant Australian Government payment. The Australian Government will send a

notification of eligibility to eligible children or their families in early 2014. If you are a FTB-A lump sum recipient you should submit your lump sum claim promptly to ensure that you will be able to receive benefits under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Updating your details:

As the payment of benefits will be administered through Medicare, using details held by Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs, you should ensure that your details are up to date.

- To update your details with Medicare, phone the patient helpline on 132 011.
- For FTB-A matters, phone Centrelink on 136 150.
- To contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs, phone 133 254.



Events for the Grandchildren

If you would like to find child and family-friendly events occurring throughout Queensland each month, click [here](#) or visit the upcoming events section on our website.

Contribute to the Newsletter

If there is information on a particular topic that you would like to see included in our newsletter, or you would like to share your story with others then please send your thoughts or ideas to our contact details to the left. All ideas are welcome.



UnitingCare Community Values Compassion | Respect | Justice | Working Together | Leading through Learning

UnitingCare Community Services Lifeline | Child and Family Care | Counselling | Crisis Support | Disability Support | Social Inclusion

CHILD SAFETY SERVICES

Information Kit on Child Protection - for Parents



This information is for those of you who have grandchildren **in addition to those registered on our program**, who are in the care of Department of Communities Child Safety Services, or those being investigated by Child Safety Services in Queensland. If this applies to you, you may find this information booklet, produced by

South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre, about the rights and obligations for carers of children to be helpful.

The booklet provides comprehensive information and an overview of Child Safety investigations, intervention with care agreements, court involvement and court orders, child protection orders, court decisions, placing a child in care, family group meetings, and complaints and appeal options.

The booklet is written in language which is easy to understand and helps to demystify the Child Protection processes. The booklet is intended to provide information only, and is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should seek legal advice from a lawyer.

You can download the kit for free from the website below. We can also advise you of contact details for your closest community legal centre if you would like to access free legal advice.

More Information:

Web: www.communitylegal.org.au

Email: admin@communitylegal.org.au

Phone: (07) 3372 7677

A CHILD'S VIEW

The Tea Set



One day my Grandma was out, and my Grandpa was in charge of me. I was maybe two and a half years old. Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift, and it was one of my favourite toys. Grandpa was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought

him a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Grandma came home. My Grandpa made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because (as he put it) it was 'just the cutest thing!'.

Grandma waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Grandpa, and she watched him drink it up. Then she said (as only a Grandma would know), "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water, is the toilet?"

Sourced from www.brisbanecircle.com.au

SCHOOLKIDS BONUS PAYMENTS

Likely to be Discontinued

The current Australian Government has committed to abolishing the Schoolkids Bonus. Legislation to abolish the Schoolkids Bonus was introduced into Parliament on 13 November 2013. If the legislation is passed before the end of this year, the Schoolkids Bonus will not be paid from January 2014.



Finalising Schoolkids Bonus Payments for 2012-13:

You have a limited amount of time to finalise your affairs and ensure you receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment for 2012-13. If you were eligible for Schoolkids Bonus this year but you have not yet been paid, this may have occurred for the following reasons:

- If you usually claim Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum and you haven't done this yet for the 2012-13 financial year, any Schoolkids Bonus you are entitled to will only be paid once your claim for Family Tax Benefit has been lodged with Centrelink and assessed.
- If your grandchild is a primary or secondary student who receives certain government payments and you have not yet updated your or your child's study details with Centrelink for this year, you have until 31 December 2013 to update these details with Centrelink.

More Information:

For updated information on the abolition of the Schoolkids Bonus see the Centrelink website at www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids-bonus, phone them on Ph. 136 150, or visit their nearest service centre. Alternatively, you can phone Time for Grandparents on Ph. 1300 135 500.

'MY TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS'

Gold Coast Support Group

Are you caring for grand children? Would you like to meet with others in the same situation?



My Time is for Grandparents and kinship carers who are full time carers of grandchildren aged up to 18 years. At the group, you can find

out about available community support. Discuss issues that affect you. Socialise and share ideas with others who understand the challenges and issues of your caring role. There is no cost to attend and morning tea is provided. The Gold Coast My Time group meets every two weeks during school term.

Where: Grand Hotel (coffee lounge area), 360 Marine Parade, Labrador. New venue to be announced for 2014

When: Every second Monday 9.30am – 11.30am during school term.

For more information please contact:

Marjorie Graham, Facilitator

Phone: 07 5527 3034 mob: 0409933462

Email: marjieg1@gmail.com



CHRISTMAS CRAFT TIME FOR KIDS: Paper Snowflakes



Warning: The Kidspot website we sourced this activity from warned this could get addictive and they weren't kidding! The 'single trial' we undertook to check this activity was suitable, soon turned into 23 beautiful and unique snowflakes adorning our office window!

These are great fun to make, especially as each one is different! They look fabulous stuck on a wall, strung together in front of a window or placed over contrasting coloured gift wrap as present toppers. You could also glue a small one on a dark-coloured card to make handmade Christmas cards or you could laminate a huge A3-sized snowflake as a placemat - the uses are endless.

To make paper snowflakes you'll need:

- Paper (plain white A4, coloured or patterned - it's up to you)
- Scissors

Step one

Cut an A4 size sheet into a square by folding a corner into a triangle and cutting off the excess rectangle. You can use the leftover strip to make smaller snowflakes.

Step two

Fold the triangle in half to make a smaller triangle.

Step three

Keep the 'open' end of the triangle to the left and the main fold on your right. Then visually divide the triangle into thirds. Fold the right-hand side down so the bottom right corner is poking down below the bottom of the triangle.

Step four

Fold the left hand side over on top of the other side so it resembles an arrow head.

Step five

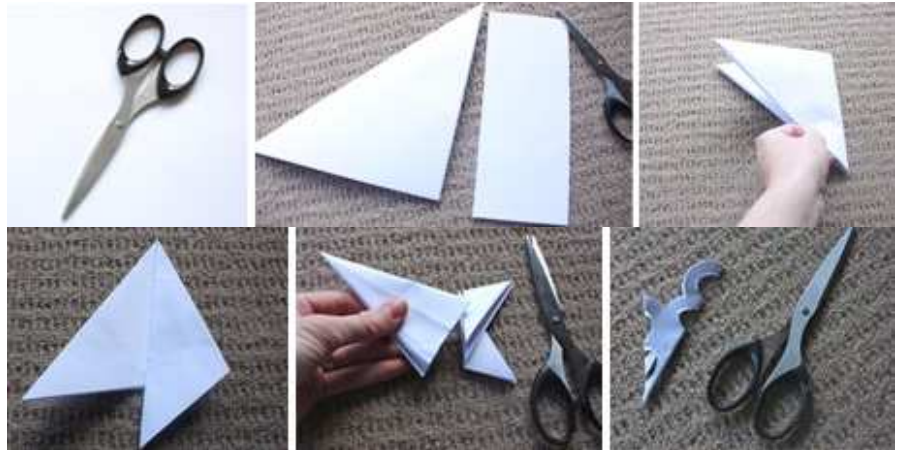
Turn over to reveal a straight line across the top of the smaller triangles. Cut along this line to even it off.

Step six

Cut shapes into both sides of the triangle and unfold to reveal your shape!

Note: This cut pictured below (with the main fold on the right-hand side and the 'open' side on the left) makes the large six-pointed star in the centre of the main image.

** Activity sourced from Kidspot website at www.kidspot.com.au*



RECIPE: Easy Christmas Pudding Ice-Cream

Living in Queensland as we do, this festive pudding ice-cream is the perfect frozen dessert when it's too hot for traditional Christmas pudding. Combining dried fruit, brandy, spice and vanilla ice-cream, it's an easy yet yummy alternative to pud that the kids can help you make. And you've got to love that! You can make a child-friendly portion by just omitting the brandy.

Ingredients:

- 150g mixed dried fruit
- 1/2 cup brandy
- 1/2 teaspoon mixed spice
- 1 litre good quality vanilla ice-cream
- 1 orange, zested, juiced



Method:

Place the dried fruit, brandy, orange zest and juice in a large bowl and allow to soak for an hour or overnight.

Remove the icecream from the freezer and allow to soften slightly.

Add icecream to the fruit, add the mixed spice and stir to combine.

Cover with plastic wrap and re-freeze.

Serve with some raspberries.

Notes:

Make individual serves by placing the ice-cream mix into individual half-cup moulds.

To serve, dip the bottom of each mould in warm water for 10 seconds, then invert onto serving plates. If they don't come out of the moulds, dip the base in water again. If they have melted too much (!), put plate back in freezer until set.

This recipe was created by Melissa Hughes for Kidspot.

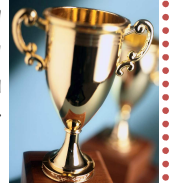
(sourced from www.kidspot.com.au)

A GRANDPARENT'S LETTER

Thank you to one of the grandparents on our program who has kindly shared this feedback with us after having attended one of our Grandfamily Camps. We have decided to share this with all of you in case we can entice those of you who have not yet taken up the opportunity to attend a camp, or utilised support for the kids to attend after school activities....

Dear Time for Grandparents,

It is with much pleasure that I contact you today. Over the past year it has been quite challenging financially for us caring for our grandson Robert. A big thank you to your organization for assisting with payment of our grandson's gymnastics. Robert sends his thanks too, he also wished to let you know that he is taking advantage of your support by working hard at his sport. This last term, Robert achieved many performance certificates, most recently he won overall third in his MAG 2/3 competition.



About four weeks ago, the family had the pleasure of attending the Grandparent Camp at Mt. Cotton. What a great weekend it proved to be, the organizers were excellent and the accommodation was first class. There was plenty of fun for the children, interaction with other families, and making new friendships and support amongst grandparents and children alike. My wife and I enjoyed the whole weekend giving us a well earned rest as well. During the weekend, my wife and I took photos of the families enjoying the activities, and these photos have now been sent on to those families who attended the camp. Once again, many thanks, and we look forward to supporting the grandparents group in future activities.

Greg & Joanne

* Please note - names have been changed to protect privacy



CHRISTMAS FINANCES

Easing the Burden this Christmas



Christmas can be a time of year filled with joy and happiness but it can also be a very challenging time of year for families finding it tough to make ends meet. There can be a lot of added expenses trying to provide presents and a Christmas meal for the kids. If your family is struggling to make ends meet this year, it may be possible that our Time for Grandparents program can assist you to link in with welfare agencies who can provide some Christmas relief, often by providing a community Christmas lunch or a Christmas hamper. Do not hesitate to call us if you are struggling to make ends meet this year. Please note that we cannot guarantee we will be able to find an appropriate service in your area, but we will certainly do our best to help you. **Phone us on 1300 135 500.**

You could also research online for some budget holiday ideas for the family, as it is usually the place and the people that create the best Christmas memories - not the presents!



Try QLD Holidays, the official tourism website for Queensland at www.queenslandholidays.com.au/things-to-see-and-do/events/ and type "Christmas" in the search menu, or if you do not have internet access you can phone us on 1300 135 500 and we can search for you.

You could also contact your local council for ideas on free and cheap events happening in your local region. If you don't know your council's contact details phone us on the number above and we will find them for you!

SCHOOL LEAVERS' FEE-FREE TRAINING

Starts 2014 for Yr. 12 Graduates

Year 12 graduates will be able to access fee-free training in high priority areas from January 2014 under the Queensland Government's "Great skills. Real opportunities" action plan to improve further education and training. To be eligible for fee-free training, Year 12 graduates need to commence training in a high priority qualification with a pre-approved training provider within the calendar year following the completion of Year 12.



The 11 certificate III qualifications available fee-free under the 'Certificate 3 Guarantee' from 1 January for Year 12 graduates of 2013 are Manufacturing Technology, Laboratory Skills, Drilling Oil/Gas (On Shore), Arboriculture, Landscape Construction, Parks & Gardens, Water Operations, Aged Care, Home & Community Care, Children's Services, and Disability.

For additional fee-free workplace-based apprenticeship and traineeships available under the 'User Choice' program, see the website at www.training.qld.gov.au/training-organisations/user-choice/

More Information:

For further advice contact the Training Queensland Customer Centre on 1300 369 935, email them at training@detq.qld.gov.au, or view the frequently asked questions page at www.training.qld.gov.au/information/investing-in-skills/fee-free/faq.html.

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 groups, please phone us on Ph. 1300 135 500 or email us at GrandparentsInfo@ucommunity.org.au

NORTH QLD

Atherton - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:

Phone Megan Payne on Ph. (07) 4091 3850
Email: fshadmin@cst.org.au
Monthly support meetings for grandparents raising their grandchildren

Cairns - Cairns & District Grandparents Support Group:

Phone John or Janet on Ph. (07) 4055 5161
Monthly support meetings for information & companionship

Cairns - MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

Mareeba - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren:

Phone Megan Payne on Ph. (07) 4091 3850
Email: fshadmin@cst.org.au
Monthly support meetings for grandparents raising their grandchildren

Townsville - Grandparents in Need of Support (GINOS):

Phone Nev on Ph. (07) 4779 0190
Email: trcota@bigpond.net.au
Regular meetings and support for grandparent carers

Townsville - Indigenous MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

CENTRAL QLD & WIDE BAY

Hervey Bay - Grandparents United:

Phone Family Connect Ph. (07) 4194 3050 - ask for Grandparents United, Email: familyconnect@hbnc.com.au
Fortnightly informal support meetings for grandparent carers

Rockhampton - Grandparents Support Group:

Phone Louise on Ph. (07) 4926 5007,
Email: ronje1@optusnet.com.au
Weekly meetings for information, support & companionship

SUNSHINE COAST

Bokarina - Grandparents as Parents:

Phone Donna on Ph. (07) 5413 1555
Fortnightly meetings for support, information and companionship

Buderim - Grandparents Raising Children Playgroup:

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

Caboolture - Grandparents and Grandchildren:

Phone Margaret on Ph. 0427 516 696
Regular meetings for information, support, referrals and advocacy. Annual membership fee: \$30 couples/ \$20 singles

Gympie - Grandparents and Grandchildren Society:

Phone (07) 5482 9012
Regular meetings and support for grandparent carers



SUNSHINE COAST (continued)

Maroochydore- Children in Grandparents' Care Inc.:

Phone 0457 864 001 or 0478 789 395
Helps meet the needs of children raised by their grandparents.
Occasional material support available. Please ring to register

BRISBANE & WEST MORETON

Deception Bay - MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

Eagleby - KinKare:

Phone (07) 3287 1664, Web: www.kinkare.com.au
Regular meetings for grandparents and kin carers for information and social support

Ipswich - MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

Logan - MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

Zillmere - Indigenous MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised. Transport may be available –please enquire if you require transport

Zillmere - Murri Connections:

Phone Tess Rowley at Centacare on Ph. (07) 3252 4371
Regular meetings for all Indigenous carers, including grandparent carers

TOOWOOMBA & SOUTH WEST QLD

Toowoomba - MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

GOLD COAST

Broadbeach Waters – Grandparents & Grandkids Support:

Phone (07) 5504 6178
Information and support for grandparent carers, regular meetings if in demand

Labrador - MyTime for Grandparents:

Phone Anne Gooley on Ph. 1800 171 882
Fortnightly meetings for support, care and advice whilst children supervised

Studio Village/Oxenford - Grandparents Raising Children Playgroup:

Phone Nikki or Belinda on Ph. (07) 5529 8253
Email: family@studiovillage.com.au
Weekly playgroup for grandparents raising their grandchildren to build social connections and support your child's development.
Transport may be available –please enquire

Disclaimer:

The materials and information included in this edition of the "Grand Matters" 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 promoted 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.

Merry Christmas!

*Wishing each of you a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from all
of us at Time for
Grandparents – Chris,
Julie, Joanne, Peggy,
Barbara, Maddy, Dulcie,
Deanne, Sharlene and
Molly!*

Seniors Enquiry Line and 'Time for Grandparents' program would like to take this opportunity to let you know that this office will be closed from **Wednesday 25th December 2013 and will re-open Thursday 2nd January 2014**. Please remember that should you require any urgent assistance over the Xmas and New Year period please call

**Lifeline on 13 11 14 or
Parentline on 1300 30-1300**