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Time for Grandparents

GRAND MATTERS NEWSLETTER

December 2016 

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THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The future depends on what we do
in the present.

- MAHATMA GANDHI

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

Grandchildren's Activities

Term 1 Renewal Reminder

Are we funding term-based activities for your grandchildren? If so, please remember you need to contact us 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, activity start and finish date; and the cost of the activity. You can phone us on **1300 135 500**.

ThinkUKnow

App & Website Factsheets

Do your Grandchildren use these apps or websites?

Instagram | YouTube | Facebook | Kik Messenger | Twitter

Minecraft | Askfm | Snapchat



ThinkUKnow is a free internet safety program that provides accessible cyber safety education. This organisation has developed factsheets on the above apps and websites which are commonly accessed by children and youth. Learning about how your Grandchildren use certain apps and websites, can help protect their privacy as well as identify and prevent inappropriate behaviour.

What do the factsheets cover?

- The purpose of the app or website
- Age restrictions
- Potential problems
- Recommended privacy settings
- Blocking offensive users
- Limiting or turning off location settings
- Deleting accounts
- Disabling certain functions

If you would like a factsheet on any of the above apps or websites, phone the Time for Grandparents Program on **1300 135 500** and we will send you one in the mail.

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 Events section on our website.

Tell us what you think

UnitingCare Community values all compliments, complaints and feedback. To provide a compliment, make a complaint or offer feedback you can call us on **1300 135 500**.

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

Get Started Vouchers Round 9

Round 9 applications open 25 January 2017:

Get Started is a program funded by the Queensland Government that assists young people to participate in sport and recreation activities. This funding is separate from (and in addition to) funding available through our own Time for Grandparents program. Families of eligible children can apply for vouchers valued at up to \$150 for use at a sport or recreation club registered with *Get Started*. The next round of voucher applications will open on the 25 January 2017. The vouchers must be presented to a registered club by 12 May 2017. There is a limit of one voucher per child per calendar year. If your voucher expires you will not be able to apply for another one until the next calendar year.

As it is a web based application, if you do not have access to a computer please contact Time for Grandparents as we may be able to assist. Please call prior to the open date so we can organise a permission form to apply on your behalf. Our number is 1300 135 500.

Who is eligible?

Children aged 5 - 17 years (inclusive) who are Queensland residents and hold, or whose parent, carer or guardian holds a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card with the children listed as dependants.

Need More Information?

Phone: Smart Service Queensland on 13QGOV (13 74 68)

Email: getstarted@nprsr.qld.gov.au

Web: www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/getinthegame



Smoke Alarms New Law Changes

The Queensland Government passed new smoke alarm legislation that specifies that every Queensland residence will need to be fitted with photoelectric, interconnected smoke alarms in all bedrooms and hallways.

These photoelectric smoke alarms can be hardwired by an electrician or there is an option to install alarms that can be interconnected wirelessly and contain a 10 year lithium battery.

There will be a 10 year phased rollout of the legislation, but any significantly renovated or new houses completed after 1 January 2017 will need to comply. All houses leased or sold will also need to meet compliance after 5 years and all owner-occupied private dwellings will need to be compliant within 10 years.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services have information sheets on photoelectric alarms, selecting, placing and maintaining smoke alarms. These information sheets can be obtained from their [website](#) or by phoning Time for Grandparents on **1300 135 500**.



Department of Human Services Reminders

Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY

If your grandchild receives a Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY payment, this is a reminder to complete your annual parental income test reassessment. If this is not done by

the 1 January 2017 your

grandchild's payments may cease until this information is provided.

You should have received a letter in the mail if you are required to complete the reassessment. This letter is normally sent between late September and early October each year.

School Kids Bonus

This is a reminder that the School Kids Bonus was discontinued in July 2016. This means that, unlike previous years there will be no payment in January 2017 .



Message Stick

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

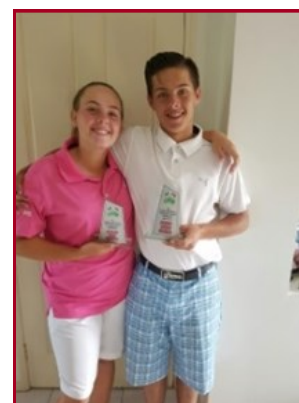
News, Articles & Information

🎄 **Murri Christmas to all you deadly Grandparents and Grannies** 🎄

Hope you all stay safe, stay well and enjoy the festive (silly) season. In this Christmas edition of Grand Matters, I thought I would include information and news that might interest you.

Our Grandchildren Excelling in Sporting Achievements

Many Murri and Islander grandchildren participate in sports and recreational activities and not only enjoy playing, but they excel in their chosen sport. Pictured are grandchildren siblings Chloe & William of Brisbane, who were Winners at the 2016 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander National Golf Championship. Chloe is the 2016 Junior Nett Winner and William is the 2016 Junior Gross Winner. The 2016 National Golf Championships were held at Nudgee & Virginia Golf Clubs on 18-21 October. We would love to hear from other Grandparents when their grandchildren have “made them proud” perhaps by the child winning his/her first race at school or doing a sport where they seem to be a natural. Our children are Champions...



The Pathfinders National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program

About 1/3 of all Aboriginal children born in Australia each year (6,000) do not register their births or obtain birth certificates in their first year of life. This makes them particularly vulnerable to missing out later in life. Birth certificates are required to enrol your grandchild/grandchildren in school. Birth certificates are also required by sporting clubs if children are to participate in sporting activities.

Pathfinders is a not-for-profit organisation and is funded by the Australian Government to provide free birth certificates for young Aboriginal people aged 0-21 years. Pathfinders collaborate with community groups and organisations to provide sign-up days. Sign-up days are held in accessible and friendly community venues, where people feel comfortable and if necessary, can obtain confidential and culturally appropriate help when applying for birth certificates. Don't be caught out when you start your grandchildren at school, be prepared and have your child's birth certificate ready.

Contact the Time for Grandparents program on **1300 135 500** if your grandchild/grandchildren (0-18 years) needs a birth certificate and we will assist you. You can ask to speak to our Aboriginal worker Dulcie to help you through the process of applying for a birth certificate.

(Please provide 3 documents listed below in order to apply for your free birth certificate)

Category 1 (You need one from here)	Category 2 (You need two from here)	Proof of Guardianship (You need one from here)
Driver's License	Medicare card	Child's name on Medicare card
Passport	Credit or Debit card	Child's name on Centrelink card
Firearm's License	Proof of Age card	Letter from your GP
RTA or RMS Photo card		Letter from Centrelink

What's On Across Queensland Christmas Events

Sunshine Coast

- ◆ Treehouse Initiative Christmas Party - Bokarina (10 Dec) Phone: 07 5437 7666
- ◆ Nambour Community Carols (9 Dec) Phone: 07 5441 1028
 - ◆ Christmas in Cooroy (3 Dec) Phone: 0403 023 802

Gold Coast

- ◆ Elanora Carols in the Park (3 Dec) Phone: 07 5522 4488
- ◆ Coolangatta Christmas Carols (11 Dec) Phone: 07 5534 3500
- ◆ Surfers Paradise Carols on the Beach (18 Dec) Phone: 07 5584 3700

Central QLD & Wide Bay

- ◆ Pageant of Lights - Bundaberg (1 Dec) Phone: 1300 883 699
- ◆ Carols in the park - Maryborough (11 Dec) Phone: 07 4196 9600
- ◆ New Year's Eve - Hervey Bay (31 Dec) Phone: 07 4196 9600

Toowoomba & South West QLD

- ◆ Carols by Candlelight - Toowoomba (4 Dec) Phone: 07 4528 2073
- ◆ Gatton Christmas Carnival (16 Dec) Phone: 1300 005 872
- ◆ Christmas Carols - Withcott (17 Dec) Phone: 0458 732 791

Brisbane

- ◆ Christmas Parade - Brisbane City (16-24 Dec) Phone: 07 3403 8888
- ◆ Christmas Carols - Caboolture (18 Dec) Phone: 07 38974903
- ◆ Christmas Express - Ipswich (18 Dec) Phone: 07 3432 5100

North QLD

- ◆ Carols by Candlelight - Cairns (11 Dec) Phone: 07 4044 3044
- ◆ Babinda Christmas Wonderland Experience (10 Dec) Phone: 0413 132 173
- ◆ Carols By Candlelight - Townsville (4 Dec) Phone: 07 4775 4722

White Christmas Tree Pops

- 550g white chocolate, chopped
- 100g coha
- 1/3 cup pistachio kernels, toasted, chopped
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries, finely chopped
- 3/4 cup desiccated coconut
- 2 1/2 cups puffed rice cereal
- 160g packet M&M's Minis to decorate



Step 1 Grease a 6cm-deep, 22cm round (base) spring form pan. Line base and side with baking paper.

Step 2 Place 500g chocolate and coha in a large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH, stirring with a metal spoon halfway through, for 2 minutes or until melted and smooth. Add pistachios, cranberries, coconut and puffed rice cereal. Stir until well combined. Press mixture firmly and evenly into prepared pan. Smooth surface. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until set.

Step 3 Trim lollipop sticks to 11cm long. Remove White Christmas from pan and place on a chopping board. Using a sharp knife, cut into 10 wedges. Carefully insert 1 white and 1 blue lollipop stick into rounded edge of each wedge to resemble Christmas trees.

Step 4 Place remaining chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH for 1 minute or until melted. Spoon into a snap-lock bag. Snip off 1 corner. Using picture as a guide, decorate Christmas trees, using melted chocolate to attach M&M's. Stand for 20 minutes or until set. Serve.

www.taste.com.au/recipes/42543/white-christmas-tree-pops?ref=collections.christmas-kids-gifts

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 expense involved in trying to provide presents and a Christmas meal for the kids.



If your family is struggling, it may be possible that our Time for Grandparents program can assist you with linking in with support 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. You can phone the Time for Grandparents program on **1300 135 500**.

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S	T	H	G	I	L	Y	R	I	A	F	O	R	W	L	S
K	R	T	S	E	K	O	E	A	X	A	R	A	X	E	H
B	A	E	N	R	R	P	A	T	E	R	T	C	S	B	T
D	A	D	O	T	E	A	C	N	A	C	Y	K	B	T	A
V	X	S	W	Y	N	B	V	A	N	P	P	E	E	J	E
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O	T	N	T	K	Y	N	E	W	X	C	B	D	T	Y	N
S	R	O	I	N	U	C	A	R	O	L	S	W	D	O	I



Snowman

Santa

Roast

Carols

Stocking

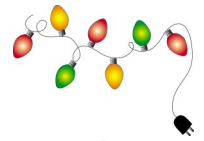
Reindeer

Giving

Wreath

Cracker

Fairy lights



**Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from all of us at Time for Grandparents**

Julie, Joanne, Christine, Dulcie, Sharlene, Anna, Susan & Sarah!

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 **Friday, 23 December 2016 and will re-open Tuesday, 3 January 2017.**

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**

Grandparent Useful Contacts

Time for Grandparents Program - 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 651 192

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 1300 135 500 or email us at grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au

GOLD COAST

Broadbeach Waters - Grandparents & Grandkids Support

Phone: (07) 5504 6178

Information and support for grandparent carers, regular meetings if in demand.

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

Rockhampton - Grandparents Support Group

Phone: Louise (07) 4926 5007

Email: ronje1@optusnet.com.au

Weekly meetings for information, support & companionship.

NORTH QLD

Mackay - Grandparent Support Group

Phone: Debbie 0423 749 552 or Kellie 0434 035 124

Meets 4th Wed of the month to share issues and concerns and connect with other grandparents.

TOOWOOMBA & SOUTH WEST QLD

Toowoomba - Grandparent Support Group

Phone: May Benstead 0439 717 586

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

SUNSHINE COAST

Bokarina - Grandparents as Parents

Phone: Melissa Evans (07) 5413 1500

As needed meetings for support, information and companionship.

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 and support for grandparent carers.

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.

Deception Bay - Grandparents Support Group

Phone: (07) 3204 2022

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

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 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. If you know of a support group that is not listed, please let us know.