



www.grandparentsqld.com.au

## Time for Grandparents

# GRAND MATTERS NEWSLETTER

March 2019

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### Page 1

- Term 2 Activity Renewal Reminder
- School Holiday Activities

#### Page 2

- 5 Questions to Ask at Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Queensland Women's Week

#### Page 3

- Message Stick

#### Page 4

- Get Started Round 13 - Use by 15th May
- National Families Week
- Unpaid Medicare Rebates

#### Page 5

- Free Books for Kids - Big W
- New Grandparent Support Group
- Upcoming Events

#### Page 6

- Useful Contacts & Support Groups

How delightful to see life through the eyes of our grandchildren.

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

### 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)

## Grandchildren's Activities

### Term 2 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

### Do you have activities planned over the school holidays?

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 e.g. 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.

### 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 values all compliments, complaints and feedback. To provide a compliment, make a complaint or offer feedback you can call **1800 008 993**.

### 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

## 5 Questions to Ask at Parent -Teacher Interviews

As the school year is now underway, the end of Term 1 and the accompanying parent-teacher interviews will be here before we know it!



Most caregivers don't know the right questions to ask at parent-teacher interviews or how to interpret the answers, says a former education minister who is on a mission to change things.

Adrian Piccoli was the NSW education minister from 2011-2017 before quitting politics to become the director of the Gonski Institute for Education.

He said while the interviews could be daunting for some caregivers, they were also incredibly useful if people did a bit of pre-planning and took notes during the meetings. To help caregivers navigate the experience, Mr. Piccoli has suggested 5 questions to ask:

### 1. How has my child's education improved during the year?

"This is the 'where have they come from?' question. This question focuses on how much your child's learning has improved during the year and sets the scene for your child's next steps in learning."

### 2. Where should my child be now?

"Where should my child's learning be for their year group and age, not just compared to other students in their class, but compared to the expected national standards. Are they ahead, at the required level, or are they behind?"

### 3. What does my child need to learn next?

"The more accurately your child's teacher can answer the question of where your child sits with respect to other children around Australia, the more useful the answer to this question will be."

### 4. Is my child engaged in class and enjoying the learning?

"Ask the teacher or teachers about your child's attitude towards learning in general and especially their effort level. The answer to these questions can help you understand if you need to play a part in improving your child's attitude to learning."

### 5. Is my child happy?

"Ask about your child's socialisation skills. Do they make friends easily? Do they have a variety of friendship groups? Do they behave appropriately?"

## 5 Questions to Ask at Parent -Teacher Interviews

Mr. Piccoli has never worked as a teacher, but said his list was just about focusing on the things that matter most for parents. "The really critical question is what's the next step. As caregivers, we all want to help our children in their schooling. Often, we don't quite know how. It's important to know where they're up to so you can actually help and coordinate with what the school's doing when they're at home," he said.

This article and further insights from both primary and secondary school teachers about parent-teacher interviews is available via the ABC website:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-01-31/five-questions-you-should-ask-at-parent-teacher-interviews/10745992>

## Queensland Women's Week

Queensland Women's Week recognises and celebrates the achievements of Queensland's women and girls. Everyone has a role to play in creating a Queensland community that respects women, embraces gender equality, and promotes and protects the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls. In 2019 Queensland Women's Week will be held from 2nd to 10th March.

The theme for 2019 is Invest in women. Invest in the future. There will be a number of events being held throughout Queensland to celebrate Women's Week, with a large number listed on the Queensland Women's Week events website:

<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/campaign/queensland-womens-week/events>

If you don't have access to the internet and would like information about events in your area, please phone

**Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500.**





## Message Stick Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander NEWS

Hello You Mob

Welcome to the first Message Stick for 2019. I hope you all made it through the festive season safely.

### ***North Qld battered by extreme weather***

I want to acknowledge the extreme weather events in far north Queensland recently, particularly the Townsville region and those communities affected by the floods. UnitingCare has an emergency recovery team when extreme events occur. You can call the Community Recovery Team on 1300 986 547 or after hours on 0404895483.

### ***Visiting rural /regional /remote communities***

The Time for Grandparents (TFG) Program would like to reach out and visit rural and remote Queensland over the next 12 months to offer support and where possible respite options for those Grandparents who have informal fulltime care of their grandchildren. If you know of any Grandparent who is informally caring for their grandchild or grandchildren, please let them know of our service. Please give me a call on 1300 135 500 (and ask for Dulcie, the Murri worker for the Time for Grandparents Program).

### ***Women's Legal Service Qld - Rural, Regional and Remote Priority Advice Line***

Call **1800 457 117** 9.30am-1.30pm, every Tuesday

Free legal advice by telephone for women from rural, regional and remote areas of Queensland on domestic violence, child protection, child support and complex family law matters.

Rural regional and remote callers to this line do not have to compete with metropolitan callers and can receive on-the-spot legal advice over the phone. Please note this service only operates on Tuesdays.

Women are also welcome to contact the Women's Legal Service Statewide Helpline by calling **1800 957 957** between 9am-3pm, Monday to Friday.

If you would like to contact a Community Legal Centre in your local area, a directory of Queensland Community Legal Centres is available from [Community Legal Centres Queensland](#).

### ***Indigenous Kin Carers Forum to be held in far north Queensland later this year***

Whilst attending a national conference in Cairns last November, I met an Indigenous Family Liaison Officer who is assisting to organise an Indigenous forum to be held in Cairns later this year.

The upcoming Indigenous Kin Carers forum will be aimed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grandparents/ Kin Carers who are raising their grandchildren. I will keep you informed about the upcoming forum in the next Grand Matters as the forum takes shape.

Watch this space...



## Get Started Vouchers Round 13 - Use by May 15



### Round 13 Vouchers (opened 6 February 2019)

**Get Started** 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 *Get Started*.

#### How to redeem your Round 13 Voucher

Round 13 applications opened on the 6 February 2019. **These Round 13 Vouchers must be presented for use to a registered club by 15 May 2019. A list of registered clubs is available online at: <https://recreation.npsr.qld.gov.au/club-locator/>**

If you do not have access to a computer please contact Time for Grandparents on **1300 135 500** as we may be able to assist you to locate a registered club in your area. **There is a limit of one voucher per child per calendar year.**

#### How to apply for a Get Started Voucher

You need to apply for a Get Started Voucher online, so if you do not have access to a computer please contact Time for Grandparents as we may be able to assist. We will need to organise a permission form to apply on your behalf, so please call early so we can organise a permission form. The next voucher application round will open in July 2019.

**Who is eligible?** Children aged 5-17 years (inclusive) who are Queensland residents and hold, or whose parent/carer/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 **137 468**.

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

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



## National Families Week



National Families Week is held every year between 15 and 21 May. The enduring theme is '*Stronger Families, Stronger Communities*'.

Each year, tens of thousands of people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week – Australia's annual celebration of the vital role of families. Annually, more than 130,000 people participate in events across Australia. Participating organisations undertake a wide range of National Families Week activities such as morning teas, barbeques, sausage sizzles, playgroup visits, family picnics, artwork displays, family information days, drawing competitions, dances, art displays, photo competitions, seminars and workshops, breakfast gatherings, story-telling events, services displays, and movie nights.

You can also use the Week to celebrate within your family. You could, for example, take an extra 15 minutes a day to talk, listen and connect within your family. Maybe talk as a family about things that make your family strong and things that can be worked on.

More information about National Families Week events can be found on their [website](#).

## Unpaid Medicare Rebates



More than half a million Australians are missing out on Medicare rebates worth about \$110 million because they have not provided their bank account details to Medicare, according to the Federal Government. Medicare has been writing to 670,000 customers who have missed out rebates for doctors' visits and other services.

Information about how to register or update your bank details with Medicare can be found [here](#).

Should you require further assistance you can contact **Medicare** by phone on **132 011** or by visiting Medicare at one of their service centres.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-07/110-million-in-unpaid-medicare-rebates/10787606>

## Free Books for Kids

**BIG W**

BIG W is committed to making books more accessible to all Australian families by giving every child the chance to take home a classic storybook for free when they visit their local BIG W store. A new title will be given away each week for 12 weeks starting Thursday 21 February.

Meredith Drake, BIG W's Category Manager for Books and passionate advocate for reading to kids, says "The connection between access to books and the child's future success and wellbeing is very well established. Research indicates that just 10 minutes of reading time a day can expose a young child to over 600,000 words in just one year, positively impacting childhood literacy."

Publishers of the 12-book titles, Scholastic Australia, also revealed in its 2015 Australian Kids & Family Reading Report\* that 86% of Aussie kids enjoy being read books aloud at home, with the main reason being because it is a special time shared with care givers. More information about free books for kids at Big W can be found [here](#).



**Collect all 12 books in store at Big W.  
No purchase necessary.  
While stocks last.  
1 book per child.**

Source: [Big W Website](#)

## New Grandparent Support Group Bundaberg

### **Grandparents as Carers Support & Playgroup** (Starts 6th February, 2019)

**Wednesday mornings  
9.30am to 11.30am**



**Ymazing Play Centre  
7 Quinn Street, Kepnock  
Phone: 0468 855 449**

**(Free entry to Ymazing for the kids)**

**Grandparents raising Grandchildren  
Our communities super heroes.**

## WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA?

### Upcoming events happening across Queensland

#### Sunshine Coast

- ◆ Noosa Festival of Surfing  
March 9 - 16
- ◆ Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival  
March 17
- ◆ Australia Body Art Festival  
April 6 - 7

#### Central QLD & Wide Bay

- ◆ Slade Point Mackay - Busking by the Beach  
March 30
- ◆ Rockhampton Luna Markets  
April 13
- ◆ Gladstone Harbour Festival  
April 17 - 18

#### Gold Coast

- ◆ Chinatown Street Markets Southport  
March 2
- ◆ Tamborine Mountain Show  
March 16
- ◆ Bleach Gold Coast Festival  
April 17 - 28

#### Toowoomba & South West QLD

- ◆ Easter Vintage Festival—Highfields  
April 20 -22
- ◆ QAGOMA APT9 Kids on Tour Workshop  
Wondai - April 13

#### North QLD

- ◆ Barcaldine Race Day  
March 16
- ◆ Normanton Barra Classica  
April 20 - 21

#### Brisbane

- ◆ Saint Patricks Day Parade  
March 16
- ◆ Multicultural Taste of the World Festival -  
Chermside - March 16
- ◆ Street Science Ipswich Workshops Rail  
Museum - March 17

# 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 support groups that are not listed, please phone us on 1300 135 500 or email us at [grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.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](mailto: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.

### SUNSHINE COAST

#### Bokarina - Grandparents as Parents

Phone: Family Well Being Caseworker (07) 5413 1555

Fortnightly meetings for support, information and companionship.

#### Buderim - Grandparents Raising Children Playgroup

Phone: Michelle Poole (07) 5453 4938

Email: [mpoole@playgroupqld.com.au](mailto: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.

#### 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.

#### 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 Wednesday. Information, support and a grandchildren's playgroup. Gold coin donation.

### GOLD COAST

#### Broadbeach Waters - Grandparents & Grandkids Support

Phone: Maree Newman (07) 5504 6178

Information and support for grandparent carers, regular meetings on 3rd Tuesday every month.

#### Nerang - Grandparent Carers Support Group

Phone: Maree Newman (07) 5504 6178

Meetings from 9.30am to 12pm on 3rd Tuesday each month.

### 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.