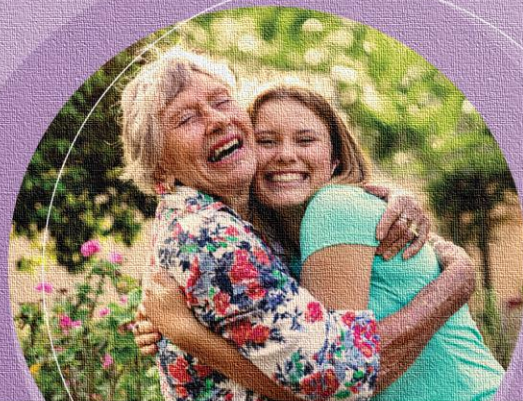


Grand Matters

TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS



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 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 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.



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

IN THIS ISSUE – DECEMBER 2023

- Term 1 2024 Activity Renewal Reminder
- FairPlay Vouchers
- Grandfamily Camps
- Information Sessions Online
- School Holiday Activities
- SwimStart Vouchers
- First 5 Forever
- Skilling Queenslanders for Work
- Online Safety for MOB
- Assistance with Back to School Costs
- Christmas Food Parcels & Gifts
- Grandparent Useful Contacts
- Grandparent Support Groups

We would like to ensure that Grand Matters is discussing topics that are important to you. If there are specific topics or themes that you would like included in your newsletter, please contact Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500, and we will endeavour to address them in future issues.

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.

Term 1 2024 - 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.

There is a limit of \$500 funding assistance per grandchild/per financial year (July 2023 – June 2024). If you wish to have your grandchildren attend activities that exceed the \$500 limit, Time for Grandparents will contribute up to \$500 towards the total cost per grandchild/per financial year.

FAIR PLAY VOUCHERS

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 one 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 Fair Play 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

The Queensland Government website <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/Fair Play/apply> has a user friendly "How to" video explaining how to apply online.

Need more information

Phone: Smart Service Qld on 137 468

Email:

fairplayvouchers@dtis.qld.gov.au

Web:

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

Grandfamily Camps

Information about our 2024 Grandfamily Camps has been sent to grandparents.

SPACES IN 2024 GRANDFAMILY CAMPS ARE LIMITED so check your inbox for our email offering the opportunity to express interest in attending one of our 2024 Grandfamily camps and RESPOND WITH YOUR PREFERENCES NOW to avoid missing out!

Our email addresses to look for are

grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au and

tfg.camps@ucommunity.org.au. ***Remember to check your junk/spam inbox too!*** 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. TFG need to balance a range of considerations when choosing families to participate.

For more information contact the Time for Grandparents Program. Phone: 1300 135 500 Email: grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au

Information Sessions and Social Support Group – Online

An invitation to meet with fellow grandparent carers for coffee, conversation and information sessions from guest speakers online.

Join our monthly Queensland wide Time for Grandparents Online group. Pour a coffee and participate from the comfort of your own home.

Are you interested in learning about information and resources available to grandparent carers but just do not know where to start?

Are you looking to connect with other grandparent carers?

Have you searched for a grandparent carers' group in your community but cannot find one?

If you answered yes to any of these questions join us!

For more information contact the Time for Grandparents Program. Phone: 1300 135 500 Email: grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au



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 Camps Qld offers limited school holiday camps for primary and high school students.

<https://www.leadershipunderthestars.com.au/school-holiday-camps>

- 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.

SwimStart Vouchers



Queensland
Government

SwimStart is a new voucher program to support learn to swim activities for 0 to 4 year olds.

When the program opens later this year eligible parents, carers or guardians will be able to apply for a voucher valued up to \$150 for their child, which can be used towards learn to swim programs with a registered SwimStart activity provider. There is a limit of one voucher per child per financial year.

Key dates:

- 7 November 2023: SwimStart round 1 opens for voucher applications
- 01 May 2024: Round 1 closes for voucher applications
- 29 May 2024: Last day for round 1 vouchers to be presented to an activity provider.

Need more information

Phone: Smart Service Qld on 137 468

Email:

swimstartvouchers@dtis.qld.gov.au

Web:

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

First 5 Forever

Babies and young children learn best by listening and interacting with the important adults in their lives during everyday activities – whether that's talking about what you can see on the way to the park, singing nursery rhymes, pointing out something you both view out the window, or learning new words while shopping for groceries.

First 5 Forever is a statewide initiative of the Queensland Government and connects caregivers to a range of resources and ideas including:



- online Story Time, Rhyme Time and Baby Play sessions
- online books and free activities
- monthly newsletter which includes age-appropriate advice and fun play activities
- connects you to your local library.

Find out more about First 5 Forever at:

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever>

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to help improve the skills, employment opportunities and social inclusion of disadvantaged young Queenslanders to gain the skills, qualifications and experience needed to enter and stay in the workforce.

PCYC Queensland delivers four of the eight programs that form the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative at several clubs across the state including:

- ❖ *Community Foundation Skills*
- ❖ *Community Work Skills*
- ❖ *Get Set for Work*
- ❖ *Ready for Work.*

Find out more about the PCYC Skilling Queenslanders for Work training programs and locations at: <https://www.pcyq.org.au/youth-and-community/personal-and-leadership-development/skilling-queenslanders-for-work/>

Online Safety for MOB in First Nations Languages

Hear stories from mob in language and find tips to help you be deadly online. You can hear about:

- connecting safely and how to get support if you need it
- online family violence and tech abuse, what you can do and how to protect yourself
- sexting and sending nudes, what you can do and how to protect yourself
- online hate and abuse, how to report it and how to protect yourself.



Find out more at eSafety First Nations:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/first-nations>

There are also animated videos exploring how to be safe online and what to do if things go wrong in Aboriginal English, Torres Strait Islander Creole, NT Kriol, Kimberley Kriol, Arrernte, Yolngu and more.

[To see these videos click here.](#)

Assistance with Back to School Costs

Would you like some help with the cost of computers or iPads for school, schoolbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions?

The beginning of another school year can be a tricky time to balance all the financial demands of needing new books, stationery, uniforms and having to pay for upcoming school excursions.

Speak to the Guidance Officer, Principal, Deputy Principal or form teacher at your child's school to discuss how they may be able to assist you. It could also be worth your while to speak with your local Neighbourhood Centre, as they may well be able to advise you about what assistance is available in your local community. If the school is unable to provide assistance, the following agencies may also be able to help you if you are finding this a difficult time:

- **The Smith Family - Learning for Life Program** may be able to provide financial assistance to help disadvantaged families afford the cost of their child's education.

Phone: 1300 326 459

Web: <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/programs/learning-for-life>

- **Savers Plus Program** - the Savers Plus Program may be able to match you dollar for dollar up to \$500 to save for education costs if you have:
 - a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
 - AND an eligible Centrelink payment
 - have a child in school (can be starting school next year) OR be studying yourself
 - have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner - many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible)

Phone: 1300 610 355

Email: saverplus@thesmithfamily.com.au

Web: <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/programs/financial/saver-plus>

- **NILS - No Interest Loan Scheme** - provides families on low incomes with access to safe, fair and affordable credit. Loans may be available for education essentials such as fees, uniforms and laptops if you have:

- a Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card OR
- earn less than \$70,000 gross annual income as a single or \$100,000 gross annual income as a couple or person with dependants OR
- have experienced family or domestic violence in the last ten years
- AND can show that you have the capacity to repay the loan.

Phone: 13 64 57

Web: <https://goodshep.org.au/services/nils/>

- **St Vincent de Paul Society** - you may receive food, clothing and other assistance on assessment by contacting the Call and Support Centre. If approved, the Call and Support Centre will then forward your request to your closest Support Centre.

Phone: 1800 846 643

Web: <https://www.vinnies.org.au/findhelp#!qld>

- **The Salvation Army** - if you find yourself in a sudden crisis, you may receive support for immediate basic needs.

Phone: (07) 3001 6288

Whilst a lot of people find it difficult to approach these services, just remember that they are set up to help anyone in financial distress and if you are considering accessing their services then you are likely to be exactly who the services are catering for. Please be aware that the demand on these services can outweigh supply, so not everyone is guaranteed assistance, but they will do their best to help you.

Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it!



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

Brigitte, Buddi, Dulcie, Kym, Margaret, Rhett and Xavier!

The Time for Grandparents Program would like to take this opportunity to let you know that this office will be closed:

from Monday, 25 December 2023 and will re-open Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

Please remember that should you require any urgent assistance over the Christmas and New Year period please call:

Lifeline on 13 11 14

or Parentline on 1300 301 300

Christmas Food Parcels & Gifts

Christmas is meant to be a time of celebration, however, if times are tough it can be especially difficult. If you are going through challenging times this year, enquire at these services listed below, as you may be eligible for food parcel or gift assistance. ***Alternatively, enquire at your neighbourhood centre about support in your local area.***



Salvation Army – Statewide

To find out if you are eligible for support this Christmas in the form of food hampers or gifts, reach out to your local Salvos. Find local Salvo Centre locations on the [Salvation Army website](#).

Phone: (07) 3001 6288

Foodbank – Statewide

Foodbank Queensland is the largest supplier of food relief, providing food directly to frontline charities across the state. If you or your family are in need of food, [please click here to visit their Find Food page](#). This will help you find local food support near you.

St Vincent De Paul Society - Statewide

- may be able to offer the provision of food and/or food vouchers.

Phone: 1800 846 643

Wesley Mission - Fortitude Valley

- food hampers may be available. Dependent upon availability, eligibility requirements apply. Contact Wesley Mission to make an appointment.

Phone: 3216 1579

Please be aware that the demand on these services can outweigh supply so not everyone is guaranteed assistance, but they will do their best to help you.

Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it!

Grandparent 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
		Autism Connect	1300 308 699
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636	Blue Knot	1300 657 380
Bravehearts	1800 272 831	Carer Gateway	1800 422 737
Carers Qld	1300 747 363	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
Mob Strong Debt Help	1800 808 488	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	(07) 3001 6288	Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
St Vincent de Paul	1800 846 643	Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467

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

Statewide

Queensland - Time for Grandparents Online - Information Sessions with Guest Speakers and Social Support Group

Phone: Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500

Email:

grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au

Meet with fellow grandparent carers for coffee, conversation and information sessions with guest speakers. Free monthly online meetings held on Monday from 10am – 12 noon. Pour a coffee or tea and participate from the comfort of your own home!

Brisbane and West Moreton

Caboolture - Time for Grandparents Social Support Group

Phone: Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500

Email:

grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au

A social support group created to bring together eligible grandparent carers who are the full time carers of their grandchildren in order to share lived experience and practical advice

about their caring role, as well as receiving information, encouragement, peer support and connection.

Held monthly on a Wednesday morning from 10am - 12 midday. Cake, tea and coffee will be provided. However, you could shout yourself something nice from the local cafe too.

Caboolture - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Chat Group

Phone: 5495 3818

This group has been created as a safe place to meet, socialise with others and allow people to share experiences, feelings, coping strategies and solutions with each other. This group will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn new skills in their areas of interest, such as crafts, story writing or herb gardens.

Hendra - Grandparents Playgroup

Phone: Susanna 0404 176 726

Ages 0-5 years. \$5 per session.

Monday 9.30am.

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

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.

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 – Sunshine Coast Intergenerational Playgroup

Phone: (07) 5453 4938

Email: schub@playmatters.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/playmatterssc>

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

Playgroup for Grandparents, Carers, Mums and Dads with children under school age, birth to 5 years.

Playgroup meets each Wednesday 9.30am to 11.30am during school terms. Come along for a fun, friendly, relaxed morning together. Our venue, Play Matters Sunshine Coast Hub is set on 1 acre of gorgeous, magical grounds. It is safely fenced with plenty of car parking and easy access. Children engage in a range of play experiences. It is a perfect environment to make new friends, play, and become part of a community. Tea and coffee are available but please bring your own snacks. We look forward to making you welcome!

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.