

# 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 Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships 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.*

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***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.***

### Time for Grandparents Program

M PO Box 2376  
Chermside Central QLD 4032  
T 1300 135 500  
E [grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@uccommunity.org.au)  
W [www.grandparentsqld.com.au](http://www.grandparentsqld.com.au)

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 3, 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 \$600 funding assistance per grandchild/per financial year (July 2024 – June 2025).*** If you wish to have your grandchildren attend activities that exceed the \$600 limit, Time for Grandparents will contribute up to \$600 towards the total cost per grandchild/per financial year.

## FREE FLU VACCINE FOR EVERY QUEENSLANDER AVAILABLE NOW

***Free flu vaccinations are now available for all Queensland residents over six months old!***

With flu season typically peaking from May to October, it is essential that you and your family get vaccinated ahead of time to stay protected throughout the winter months.

The free flu vaccine is available until 30 September 2024.

Book your appointment now with GPs, pharmacies or your local Aboriginal Health Service.

To find a vaccination provider near you:

call **13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)**  
use HealthDirect's free [service finder](#).



## TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS – New ways we can provide Funding Assistance

The Time for Grandparents Program is pleased to announce two new ways we can provide funding assistance to our eligible Grandfamilies! *Funding limits do apply – to discuss your request for this funding assistance please contact Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500.*

### Grandparents Recreational and Leisure Activities

This funding assistance can give grandparent carers the opportunity to pursue activities that they are interested in, while taking some time out from their caring role. Take up a yoga class, join a tennis club, take up water aerobics or join an art class – the choice is yours!



### School Holiday Care

The juggle to manage grandchildren's care during school holidays can be a huge challenge for grandparent carers. But your grandchild is sure to have an exciting time with some of the programs on offer at school holiday care these days, all while allowing you some time out from your caring role.

Also called Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), these care arrangements cover full-day care during school holidays. OSHC is a supervised environment and programs must comply with legislative requirements. All school-aged children are eligible to attend, and school holiday care programs can be run at schools themselves or at youth clubs or community centres. The programs usually have a



set schedule of activities locked in for each day of the school holidays. Grandparent carers can go over the schedule with their grandchild so they can

choose the days when activities they will enjoy the most will be held.

School holiday care is a paid care arrangement like day care or child care. There may be additional charges on the days that excursions or external activities are scheduled. Some grandparent carers may also be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy from Services Australia to help with the cost of school holiday care.

More information about the Child Care Subsidy can found at the [Services Australia website](#).

## SCHOOL STUDENT BROADBAND INITIATIVE (SSBI)

The Australian Government has established the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI) to provide free home internet for up to 30,000 unconnected families with school aged students until the end of December 2025.

To be eligible for SSBI, families must:

- Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school (up to year 12 including Prep in Qld/Vic/Tas, Kindy in NSW, Reception in SA, Transition in NT/ACT and Pre-Primary in WA).
- Not have an active **nbn**<sup>®</sup> network internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility.
- Live in a premises that can access the **nbn** network via a standard connection.
- Not have had an active **nbn** connection during the previous 14 days.

If you would like to self-nominate for the SSBI, follow these three simple steps:

**Contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610** (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT), or visit [www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet). Call back and WebChat functions are also available via the website.



Check your eligibility – the National Referral Centre team will help determine your eligibility and confirm your suitability for the program, by checking your residential address and asking you some questions to determine if you meet the Government's eligibility criteria.

If eligible, you will be issued a voucher which can be redeemed at any of the participating School Student Broadband Initiative internet providers. The National Referral Centre will also be available to assist with contacting your chosen internet provider or providing follow-up support.

For more information visit the [NBN School Student Broadband Initiative website](http://www.nbn.gov.au/school-student-broadband-initiative).



## SCHOOL REFUSAL AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

Chances are you have heard about or have a child who struggles to attend school. A growing number of Aussie kids are missing school — for the last decade attendance rates have been dropping according to the national attendance authority, ACARA.

One of the reasons experts say some children are not going is "school refusal". It is a term that refers to children who experience emotional distress around school. ***Many experts and families argue the more accurate term is "school can't", as it is not a deliberate choice by the child.***

The issue was the subject of a recent Four Corners episode, 'The Kids Who Can't', and has largely been a hidden struggle for families. There is no easy solution, and every child's situation is different, but here are some resources and options that might help you:

Queensland families can call the [Regional Youth Engagement Service](#) for help and assistance if their child is refusing to go to school. They can put parents in touch with guidance counsellors and other professionals to provide support.

Monash University, University of Melbourne and Deakin University researchers have also created evidence-based parent resources for school refusal including a [parenting guide](#) and [online modules](#) for families.

Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-04-30/school-refusal-cant-what-to-do-four-corners-explained/103779990>

## WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (WEAAD)

WEAAD, designated by the UN, is held on June 15 each year and is an opportunity for all to speak out against elder abuse. WEAAD is represented by the colour purple, denoting wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity.

Elder Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

If you would like further information about WEAAD, or are concerned about an elder abuse situation call **The Elder Abuse Helpline** on **1300 651 192**.

Website: <https://www.eapu.com.au/>



## ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH RENT?

Anglicare Australia's 2024: Rental Affordability Snapshot shows Australians are facing a rental market that has never been less affordable. ***If you are struggling with rent, you have options.***

For information and support call the **National Debt Helpline** on **1800 007 007** or visit their [website for information about steps to take if you are struggling to pay your rent](#).

## 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](mailto:fairplayvouchers@dtis.qld.gov.au)

**Web:**

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

## SWIMSTART VOUCHERS

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.

### Need more information

**Phone:** Smart Service Qld on 137 468

**Email:**

[swimstartvouchers@dtis.qld.gov.au](mailto:swimstartvouchers@dtis.qld.gov.au)

**Web:**

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



## NATIONAL NAIDOC WEEK

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. NAIDOC Week will be held across the country from 7 – 14 July 2024.

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee, is Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.

The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

For more information about the week and local events, visit the [NAIDOC website](#).



## TAX HELP PROGRAM

The Tax Help Program is free and helps eligible people earning \$60,000 or less lodge their tax return online.

Tax Help is a network of ATO-trained community volunteers who can help you prepare your tax return using myTax. From July to October each year, their accredited volunteers help people lodge their tax returns online. Tax Help volunteers can also help you:

- lodge amendments
- claim a refund of franking credits
- create a myGov account
- tell the ATO if you don't need to lodge a return.

You can receive Tax Help online or over the phone from the comfort of your home. You can also get help face to face from Tax Help Centres across Australia.

For more information about the Tax Help Program go to: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Your-tax-return/Help-and-support-to-lodge-your-tax-return/tax-help-program/>

## 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](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au) and

[tfg.camps@ucommunity.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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.pcyq.org.au/find-your-pcyq/>
- 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.



# 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	Brother to Brother – Crisis Line for Aboriginal Men	1800 435 799
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	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](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au)*

## **Statewide**

### **Queensland - Time for Grandparents Online Information Sessions with Guest Speakers**

Phone: Time for Grandparents on 1300  
135 500

Email:

[grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au)

Meet with fellow grandparent carers for coffee, conversation and information sessions with guest speakers. Pour a coffee or tea and participate from the comfort of your own home. Coming soon.

## **Brisbane and West Moreton**

### **Caboolture - Time for Grandparents Social Support Group**

Phone: Time for Grandparents on 1300  
135 500

Email:

[grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto: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. Come along to our Grandparents Playgroup. Playgroup is a wonderful way for you to socialise with other Grandparents and for

# 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)*

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](mailto: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.

