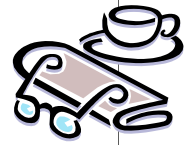


The Coffee Break



News for Grandparents who are raising their Grandchildren

Welcome to the Winter Edition



Volume 1 Issue 10
Winter 2007

Hello and Farewell

Farewell from Lyn

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each and every grandparent for the privilege of listening to your story, sharing your joys and your pains, and berating with you the unfairness of many of our systems that do not recognise or honour your commitment to your grandchildren.

It has been a realm privilege for me to experience your tenacity, your strength, your perseverance and most important of all, to witness your endurance of whatever confronts you for the love of your grandchildren. Thank you for allowing me to experience that love and I know that I have been changed forever for sharing this time with you.

I hope and pray that we as a community here in Australia may have the courage and wisdom to assist you all emotionally and financially in your raising of these beautiful children who bring you all such joy.

Lyn Rose

Hello from Sandy

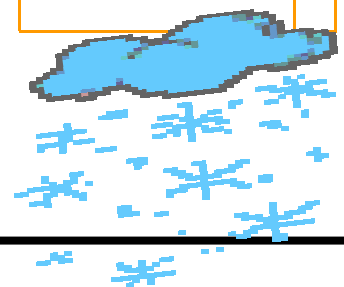
I would just like to take this opportunity to say hello and thank you to those people I have already met for making me feel so welcome. I look forward to meeting those people I haven't meet in the very near future.

I am also keen to be taking up from where Lyn left off and willingly take up the challenges I know are ahead in supporting grandparents who are the primary carers of their grandchildren. Particularly in order to gain recognition and acknowledgement for the great job the do with very little assistance.

Please do not hesitate to ring me on 82419023 if you feel like a chat or think you have a great idea for the project.

Sandy Graham

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Family Law Information Seminar 2007



Free Seminar



One of the Legal Services Commission Family Law solicitors will cover the Family Law Act and other relevant information for community workers and members of the public.

NB Significant changes to Family Law Act came into operation in 1st July 2006 & will again in July 2007. This seminar will update your knowledge.

Have you recently separated? What is the role of a Family Relationship Centre? Would you like to try mediation and avoid going to court? Do you wish you understood more about family law and court procedures? Are you wondering how the Family Law Courts decides what is in the "best interest of children?" Would you like to understand how children's views can be put to the Family Law Courts? Would you like to understand how your property will be divided?

If you have answered **yes** to any of these questions then a free seminar on family law would be worth attending.

WHERE: tafeSA Adelaide City Campus, 120 Currie Street, in the Communications Centre, Room W123F, Level 1 West (Enter from Light Square, Level 1 and turn sharp left as you enter UPark Parking. (User Pays) is available underneath tafeSA ACC. City Loop Bus route nearest stop is Stop 4 on Hindley St. near Morphett St) and below sites. The tafeSA video-conferencing centre/s is usually in or near the Learning Resource Centre of each Metropolitan and/or Regional tafeSA Campus.

WHEN: tafeSA Adelaide City Campus on all dates listed below plus the following areas:

Friday, 29th June 2007

Adelaide, Noarlunga, Murray Bridge, Victor Harbor & Kingscote

Friday 31st August 2007

Adelaide, Pt Augusta, Pt Pirie, Coober Pedy, Pt Lincoln, Ceduna, Whyalla, Kadina, Naracoorte, Barossa, Gawler & Berri

Friday 28th September 2007

Adelaide, Noarlunga, Mt Gambier, Mt Barker, Naracoorte, Millicent, Elizabeth, Clare, Waikerie & Victor Harbor

Friday 23rd November 2007

Adelaide, Barossa, Gawler, Berri, Murray Bridge & Kingscote

TIME: 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm (Be early as we will start exactly at 12 noon)

BOOKINGS: Bookings are essential by the previous Wednesday. Email us on the Courses section of website www.lsc.sa.gov.au or ask for Nina or Kirsty Ph: 08 8463 3528 or 1300 366 424 for cost of a local call.

A free service provided by the Legal Services Commission of South Australia, the tafeSA Adelaide South Institute, Justice Studies Dept, & tafeSA's three institutes.

Project Evaluation

As a grandparent who has accessed the Grandparents as Parents Project you will be receiving a questionnaire asking for comment on what you like or haven't found useful about the Project. If you haven't received you're the questionnaire you will in the very near future.

Please take the time to complete the form so we can learn where we may need to make changes to ensure we are meeting the community need.

Any questions please feel free to call Sandy on 82419023

FAMILIES SA—News Break

The South Australian Government introduced the Informal Relative Caregiver's Statutory Declaration (the Declaration) on 9 May 2007. This is a first for Australia; no other jurisdiction has a document which is accepted by more than one department across the whole State.

The Declaration is a written statement made in the presence of an authorised witness that states that the person is informally providing full time care to a relative's child or young person.

The Declaration will provide a way for relative care givers to establish their care-giving status to State Government agencies. This will assist these carers to access government support and services including enrolling the child in school, gaining consent to medical or dental treatment, obtaining a birth certificate and being able to authorise school excursions.

The Declaration and accompanying Frequently Asked Question Sheet are available for downloading from the Department for Families and Communities (www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au) and Services SA website (www.sa.gov.au).

Hard copies of the Declaration are available from Families SA offices, Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc and Helping Hand: Aged Care. Assistance in filling in the Declaration can be obtained from a variety of different places, including the State government agencies that provide the services and community organisations that have programs for grandparents. Community organisations that can help include Helping Hand: Aged Care – Grandparents as Parents Project (08 8285 0924) and Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc (08 8226 3386).

Please note the new telephone number for the Helping Hands Grandparent as Parents Project is 82419023.

Volunteers Wanted

Helping Hand

For anyone considering volunteering—Helping Hand is always looking for new volunteers. Volunteering with Helping Hand is a way of truly making a difference to the lives of older South Australians. Please contact us on 82419020, if you have any spare time.

Community Foodies

“Salisbury Community Health Centre and the City of Salisbury are recruiting volunteers for the Community Foodies program. Free training is provided. If you are interested in becoming a Community Foodie please phone Kirsten or Narelle on 8281 7644 to enquire.”

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to call our staff if you have any enquiries.



Just so you know you are not alone and there is recognition out there—even if it is small I have included articles from the recent ‘the grandparent’ a national newsletter for, about and by grandparents May 2007

GRANDPARENTS ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE AUSTRALIAN SENATE

Senator Stephens (New South Wales—Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition) recently moved in the Australian Senate a motion of support for grandparents: the motion was supported and would not have been put if not for the government backing. Now we need action and programs to back this up. That the Senate-

(a) notes.

- (i) the growing incidence of, and pressure on, grandparents who are being called upon to resume the role of parenting of grandchildren because of family tragedies, family breakdown, or the devastating impact of drugs and alcohol abuse,
- (ii) the important role played by community organisations and support services in highlighting these issues and seeking funding for services, and
- (iii) the fundamental role many grandparents play in holding family units together, and their struggle to provide a safe secure and supportive environment for their grandchildren;

(b) acknowledges:

- (i) the support currently provided by government departments and agencies,
- (ii) the contribution of peak organisations, including research and reports developed by such bodies as Families Australia (Grandparents: present and future, January 2007) and in the Australian Capital Territory, the Canberra Mothercraft Society Inc (Grandparents parenting children because of alcohol and other drugs, 2006) and
- (iii) calls to achieve substantive improvements in quality of life for grandparents and the children in their care by advocating for legislative recognition of these particular family units and their unique situations;

Continued

(c) recognises:

- (i) the need for relevant, current and accessible information as soon as children arrive,
- (ii) the potential for significant financial hardship, and compromise when they take on parenting grandchildren,
- (iii) the need for access to affordable legal advice and support,
- (iv) that parenting over the age of 55 years has significant health impacts,
- (v) the significant contribution grandparents make to the social capital of their communities and the nation, and
- (vi) the need for further research to identify the extent of grandparent families, particularly Indigenous grandparent families; and

(d) calls for improved responses by government to these issues, including in relation to:

- (i) accessibility of relevant information and advice,
- (ii) consideration of financial implications,
- (iii) legal complexities and costs,
- (iv) health impacts on grandparents and children,
- (v) impact on grandparents and their contribution to society, and
- (vi) the need for further research.

Grandparents for Grandchildren SA Inc

Invite you to attend our monthly meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.30am at the Grandparents for Grandchildren office.

Torrens Building
220 Victoria Square
Adelaide

There is no need to book and you are encouraged to attend these valuable, supportive sessions.

Guest Speaker for August is:

Mr Nirri Aluvihare
Area Business manager
Families and Child Care
Centrelink.

The Edmund Rice Camps SA —Camp

Edmund Rice Camps is holding a Grandparents respite camp for Grandchildren who are primary cared for by their Grandparents. The camp will be a residential camp for the children/young people over a two night period from Friday 27th July to Sunday 29th July. There is a nominal payment made with alternative payment options available for families who struggle to meet costs or cannot be sponsored by an agency. There are still a number of vacancies open and they are eager to assist those who could benefit from this service. If you feel you benefit from an Edmund Rice Camp please contact Sandy on 82419023 or Edmund Rice Camps SA Inc on 82342937 and speak to Jason.

Mediation and Counselling Services

UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide, Disability Mediation & Counselling Service offers counselling & mediation concerning planning for the future family members who are supporting individuals with a disability or a mental illness.

This service can outline the legal and financial considerations when planning for the future. We also provide emotional support as families work through blockages in the planning process caused by issues such as grief & loss, guilt around relinquishment of care &/or lack of resources available.

Mediation is offered to assist families to find consensual agreement around care, accommodation & financial issues for example mediation may become necessary if a parent directs family resources & rights of inheritance to one family member due to special needs.

The primary client group is family members supporting the person with the disability or mental illness as well as siblings or significant other that are part of the planning process.

Counselling & mediation is conducted at 10 Pitt St, Adelaide however we are an active outreach service & offer our service in client's homes.

Cost is on a sliding scale dependent on income, People on a pension are expected to pay \$5.00 however no one is refused service due inability to pay. Referrals can be made by phoning Kathy on 81507213.

Health Care Cards

If you are already receiving a payment from Centrelink, such as the Aged Pension, you will already have a Pensioner Concession Card. If you are eligible for Family Tax Benefit for the children in your care, they can be added to this card and receive the same benefits, for example, prescription medicines at the concessional rate.

If you do not receive a payment from Centrelink but are eligible for the maximum rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A, you will automatically be issued with a Health Care Card for you and the children in your care. If you are not automatically entitled to a Health Care Card you may be entitled to a Low Income Health Care Card and you should test your eligibility by lodging a claim.

Foster Child Health Care Card

Another option is to claim a separate Foster Child Health Care Card for your grandchild. This card is available to grandparents who are caring for a child through either an **informal or formal care arrangement**. This card can be claimed by you, but is issued in the name of your grandchild. You do not have to meet an income or assets test to get this card. The Foster Child Health Care Card can be claimed through the Family Assistance Office. Benefits include your grandchild receiving prescription medicines at concessional rates and bulk-billed doctors appointments, at the discretion of the doctor.

If you urgently require your concession card you should ask for an interim card, which you can use until the actual card arrives.

For a claim form or more information please visit a Family Assistance Office, or call 13 61 50. Family Assistance Offices are located in Medicare offices, Centrelink Customer Ser-



Grandparents are Great Day



Thursday 19th July

10am - 3pm

Salisbury East Neighbourhood House

28 Smith Rd, Salisbury East.



Drumming

Dancing

Games

Sausage Sizzle Clay And Craft Making

FREE

Face painting

Yoga For Kids



Sponsored by Office for the Ageing

Bookings Essential

Ph: 8285 2055

ANGLICARE Family Support Program
SA

Salisbury East Neighbourhood House



inspire with the Community

If you have any suggestions, articles, etc for the next newsletter just ring 82419023.

All ideas and contributions are warmly welcomed.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR GRANDPARENTS

Support groups are a great source of personal support and information. Members can share ideas and offer different perspectives on parenting and children's behaviours. It a great experience to have some social networks and connections with other local grandparents ...

If you are interested in making contact with a local group or know someone who may be interested :-

Hackam West

The first Monday of every month 12.30—2.30 pm
Hackman West Community centre.
CONTACT: Jen 8305 9223

Fleurieu Families

The last Wednesday of every month at 3 Stuart St Victor Harbor (old House with the cream fence) from 10.30am – 12.00pm This group will commence regular activities in August.

Modbury

The last Friday of every month 10.30-12.30 pm
CONTACT: Kerry 8265 560

Peterhead/Exeter

Every Tuesday 10.00 am—11.30 am
CONTACT: Jean 8268 4427

Granny's Group

Meets fortnightly at the Parks Community Centre
CONTACT: Di 82409633

Kilkenny/Elizabeth Downs

CONTACT: The Salvation Army Community Support Services 8445 2111

Elizabeth Downs

Meets at the Elizabeth Downs Primary school on the 1st Tuesday of the month CONTACT Sandy 82419023



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SUPPORT

If you are foster parent of a child and are also a grandparent for that child then you might like to ring the **Family Support Team** at Anglicare SA. Jen can be contacted on 83059223

Support Groups Continued:-

Murray Bridge

Third Monday of every month 11.00-12.30 pm at 25 Joy Street Murray Bridge. CONTACT Dee: 8532 6963

Indigenous Granny's Group

EMU—Elderly Miminis United
Every 2nd Friday during school terms 11.00am—2.00pm CONTACT: Sharon Northern Carers Network 82840388

Salisbury East Community Group

Third Monday of every month—Salisbury East Community Centre, 28 Smith RD CONTACT: Grandparents as Parents on 82419023

Western Group

1st Wednesday of every month—Cheltenham Community Centre—Stoud St, 10.00am-12.00pm CONTACT: Grandparents as Parents on 82419023

Too far away from one of these groups?

If you are too far away from one of these groups but are interested in having a group start in your local area (country or city) then contact Helping Hand on 82419023.



This newsletter was compiled by

Helping Hand Aged Care Inc.
568 Port Rd,
Allenby Park 5009
Phone: 82419023

While taking all care in the preparation of this information, the agencies referred to in this newsletter accept no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any of the information. It is offered as a general guide only.

About ...

Helping Hand Aged Care Inc offers a wide range of residential and community support services especially for older people. They include carer support, respite, counselling, therapy, and accommodation as part of a range of services that help people to remain living in their own homes.

Website: www.helpinghand.org.au

Child & Youth Health delivers health care and parenting support so that children and young people have the chance to 'Start Healthy and Stay Healthy'.

There are over 120 locations in SA including medical, nursing, allied health and community health professionals.

Website: www.cyh.com

Anglicare SA's Family Support Service focuses on family strengths and works with parents to help them on issues like child development, budgeting, behaviour management and household organisation.

Website: www.anglicare.org.au

News Flash... . News Flash... . News Flash... .News Flash.... News

State Conference—Grandparents as Parents

The Helping Hand - Grandparents as Parents Project is planning a state conference on the 25 and 26 October 2007. There will be a series of workshops to assist grandparents with the care of their grandchildren and on the second day there will be a number of information sessions on various Departments such as Child Support Agency, Centrelink Legal Services etc with the afternoon session focusing on a structured discussion to look at what the needs are for grandparents caring for their grandchildren and to develop a list of recommendations to be presented to both the relevant State and Commonwealth Ministers'. So make sure you pencil it into your busy schedules - child care will be provided.

We also hope to weave throughout the Program Grandparents stories - so if you think you may like to present your story we would love to hear from you. Please ring Sandy on 82419023.

I know this will take time out of your already busy days but lets see some support for Grandparents as Parents—so watch this space as more information becomes available.

If you have any suggestions, articles, etc for the next newsletter just ring 82419023.

All ideas and contributions are warmly welcomed.

