



# SNIPPETS

August 2017 | Edition 185

Seniors Enquiry Line

Linking Seniors with  
Community Information

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## Quote of the Month:

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

Warren Buffett

## Contact Details:

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Seniors Enquiry Line is an information and referral service for Queensland seniors, proudly sponsored by the Queensland Government and operated by UnitingCare Community.

## Free Will Service



The Public Trustee offers a free will-making service to all Queenslanders over the age of 18. The process is straightforward and caters to your needs without overlooking your personal circumstances.

Professionally trained will-makers are equipped to answer most questions with an experienced legal team on hand to clarify complex details. Making a will with the Public Trustee ensures there's no risk of your will being lost or destroyed, as they keep the original in safe deposit at no charge. Additional help is available for people who are vision or hearing impaired or who need an interpreter. Under special circumstances, they may visit your home, nursing home or hospital, however a fee may apply. They also provide services and information about other associated areas such as Enduring Power of Attorney and Executor Services. If this is something that is of interest to you contact the Public Trustee or **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will assist in finding the Public Trustee office in your area.

**Handy hint:** It's important to note that your will is revoked or cancelled if you get married, unless it is made in contemplation of marriage. Divorce does not revoke a will but it cancels any provision in favour of the former spouse. Seek legal advice.

## Your Input into Snippets

We would like to ensure that Snippets is discussing the topics that seniors want information about. As such, we are asking for your input into the newsletter so that it is aligned with the thoughts needs and wants of the readers across the state. If there are specific topics or themes you would like added, or feedback on the way it is currently presented, please contact **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will try our best to address them in future issues.

## Free Adult Proof of Age Card



If you voluntarily surrender your drivers licence, or have it cancelled because of a medical condition then you may be eligible to receive an Adult Proof of Age card free of charge as an alternative form of photo identity. If the drivers licence is current, you may be eligible for a refund, however there are prerequisites for this. For more information, contact the Department of Transport on 13 23 80, go to their website, or call **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will send you the relevant forms.

## August through History

- 30** Cleopatra dies after allowing herself to be bitten by a poisonous snake.
- 565** The first reported sighting of the Loch Ness Monster.
- 1173** Construction of the Tower of Pisa begins, taking two centuries to complete.
- 1882** Cricket's legend of "The Ashes" is born
- 1921** Star Trek creator, Gene Roddenberry is born.
- 1945** An atomic bomb is dropped on the city of Hiroshima in Japan.
- 1962** Marilyn Monroe is found dead in her home.
- 1963** Martin Luther King gives his famous "I have a dream" speech.
- 1963** The Great Train Robbery occurred, stealing £2.6 million in bank notes
- 1976** International lefthanders day is first celebrated.
- 1977** Elvis Presley dies at the age of 42.
- 1980** Azaria Chamberlain disappears whilst on holidays at Uluru
- 1990** The hottest temperature ever known in Britain is recorded at 37 degrees C.
- 1990** Australian 1 and 2 cent coins to be withdrawn from circulation.
- 1997** Princess Diana of Wales, dies in a car crash in Paris.
- 1997** Three days after the collapse of the Thredbo resort, skiing instructor Stuart Diver is pulled alive from the rubble.

## NBN and Home Phones

The National Broadband Network (NBN) is rolling out across the country and with this is some confusion about what this means to people's home phones. **Seniors Enquiry Line** contacted Telstra to get the facts.

- You have 18-months to switch to the NBN once it is rolled out in your area. If you don't, you will not be able to make or receive calls from your landline.
- For the majority of people, their current phone will be able to be used. The phone must be digital, which have been around for about 20 years. Telstra state that to check if it is compatible, you can ring a phone where you need to press an option in the menu. EG: it may be Press 1 for sales, 2 for faults etc. If this can be done on the phone, for the majority of people, this phone will transition to the NBN. If your phone is incompatible, you will need to buy a new one.
- If the only reason for accessing the NBN is for a home phone, there is no need for a contract. If you are with Telstra, they can send a technician out to set it up for free. If you also wish to use the NBN for the internet, you will need some sort of plan.
- If you lose power, the home phone will not work. If you don't own a mobile phone, Telstra recommend that you ask family or friends if they have a spare mobile phone lying around that is not being used. Keep it charged and you will be able to contact emergency services. Telstra state that this works even if the mobile does not have a SIM card. Mobile phones start from around \$30.00
- Quarterly billing is being phased out alongside the NBN rollout. It will become monthly billing.
- Most houses will be reduced to one phone socket, so choose wisely which room will best suit.

## What's On

19th - 27th of August is Seniors Week in Queensland, with activities and events across the state highlighting the value and input of seniors throughout all aspects of the community. COTA (Council on the Ageing), coordinates Seniors Week on behalf of the Queensland Government. Local councils and community agencies are another good source of information. To find what is happening in your area, you can contact COTA on 1300 738 348 or your local council or phone **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will be happy to assist you in locating activities.



## Retirement Villages: a different kind of 'property'.

### Retirement Villages

The idea of living in a retirement village can be appealing to older Australians for a number of reasons. Some of the big advantages can include:

1. **Living in a community** with people of a similar age and the many social opportunities.
2. **Lifestyle and convenience** is a definite advantage, with low maintenance homes and gardens, shared common areas and (often) organised activities and group outings.
3. **Flexibility!** Retirement villages can offer different levels of care, all in the one location. There could be everything from independent living (no services), to support with meals and laundry, or even residential aged care facilities.

Buying into a retirement village however, is a decision best made with sound legal advice as there can be many hidden pitfalls. Depending on which retirement village you select, there could be very different legal and financial implications. Even more daunting, is that the legal documentation required to enter into a retirement village can be extensive: **often 100+ pages (and extremely complex)**. Depending on what you sign, you could be purchasing freehold property, leasehold, loan and licence arrangements or a shareholder and company title. One common pitfall people often encounter is the **exit fee**, which can amount to a significant percentage of your original purchase amount. You also may not have the right to immediately sell and recoup your money. At least, not for a period of time until the management have had the chance to do so themselves (and they may not be as motivated as you to get the job done!).

Considering buying into a retirement village? Think about the type of facilities you want, learn your rights and responsibilities and consider the costs (particularly how you can **exit** if needed). Think cautiously – is this really going to be your last residence? What if higher care is needed later on, or you simply do not enjoy it as much as you first thought? The important message here is:

- ◆ **ALWAYS GET INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE!**
- ◆ Preferably from a solicitor who is experienced in retirement village law.
- ◆ Contact the Queensland Law Society (**1300 367 757**) for information about solicitors with expertise in retirement village law.

### Want More Information?

Check out **Caxton Legal's** factsheets and resources at:  
[https://caxton.org.au/park\\_village\\_information.html](https://caxton.org.au/park_village_information.html)

Or call **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** to have them mailed to your door.

### Have a related problem?

**Park and Village Information Link**

**Phone:** (07) 3214 6333



## Time For Grandparents Program

"I am so grateful for this program. Thankyou for all the support throughout the year. More than excellent in all areas"

Actual Feedback



"Brilliant time for grandparents and children. Many friendships formed all around"

Actual Feedback

In recognition of the importance of supporting families where children are being raised by their grandparents, Uniting Care Community in partnership with the Queensland Government set up the **"Time For Grandparents Program"**, which has been running for several years. This program was developed by the Queensland Government after research identified that more grandparents are taking on the role of primary carers for their grandchildren. Grandparents raising their grandchildren often face additional stress due to circumstances that have positioned them as primary carers. This was highlighted in a recent television news report that highlighted the challenges for grandparents of this growing family dynamic to ensure that their grandchildren remain in a positive family environment.

The "Time For Grandparents" program is designed to provide practical and emotional assistance to grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and this is achieved by:

- Providing financial assistance to grandparents for their grandchildren to participate in activities that occur out of school hours, such as swimming, scouts, guides, sports, art, music and school camps. As long as the activity provides a small amount of respite for the grandparent, even as little as half an hour, we may be able to assist.
- Organising free monthly camps throughout the year in both regional and urbanised areas that cater specifically for grandparents and the grandchildren. These camps include accommodation, food, structured activities for the grandchildren with respite and information sessions for the grandparents. Assistance is provided by qualified facilitators for the duration of each camp. There are also culturally specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander camps which are designed for families where there is any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dynamic within the family.
- A source of support. We are here to help if you require emotional or practical support. We will help you to find supports within your local community and lend a listening ear should you need it.

If you are in this situation, or know of someone who is, please feel free to contact **Seniors Enquiry Line, Time For Grandparents** program on **1300 135 500** and we will be happy to discuss the program with you. Alternatively you can go to our website at: [www.grandparentsqld.com.au](http://www.grandparentsqld.com.au)