

# Grand Matters

TIME FOR GRANDPARENTS



In the spirit of reconciliation, UnitingCare pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging and the unique role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples play in the communities we serve.

We acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope to move to a place of justice and partnership together.

In recognition of the importance of supporting families where Grandparents are raising grandchildren (full-time), Time for Grandparents partners with the Queensland Government's Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety.

See our website [grandparentsqld.com.au](http://grandparentsqld.com.au) or call us (1300 135 500) for program eligibility.

Time for Grandparents is designed to provide financial support so these families can access fun and interesting activities and grandparents can gain the opportunity to have some well-earned respite.

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 and confidential support, please contact Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

DECEMBER 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026

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## YOUR NEWSLETTER

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

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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.

# Messages from the TFG team

## Farewell to Kym, sort of

After almost 8 years with Time for Grandparents, Kym finished up her role in November 2025. Don't stress though! Kym is still with the UnitingCare's Older Persons Programs, she has accepted a role with the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit.

During her time with Time for Grandparents, Kym truly enjoyed building relationships with our grandparents and being there to support them in their caregiving role. She especially valued being involved in the dedicated effort to support grandparents through the challenges of the COVID lockdown and initiating the development of the online peer support group and Chermside face to face support group.

Kym sends her very best wishes to you and your grandchildren for the years ahead.

## Season's Greetings

Time For Grandparents Team would like to wish you and your family a holiday season that brings you moments of rest, joy, and connection.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and uplifting year ahead.



## Celebrating Aunty Dulcie Bronsch

After more than 17 years of dedicated service, Aunty Dulcie Bronsch will retire from UnitingCare's Time for Grandparents program at the end of December 2025.

Dulcie has been a passionate advocate for grandfamilies, working tirelessly to make their caring roles easier. Her leadership was instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she secured approval to redirect program funds to support families at home. This initiative provided laptops for home schooling, essential household items, and recreational resources - bringing much-needed relief during a challenging time.

Dulcie also contributed significantly to UnitingCare's Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, delivering education sessions across more than 20 regional and remote Queensland communities with her colleague Deanne. Their efforts helped seniors, Elders, and service providers recognise and respond to elder abuse.

As Dulcie enters retirement, she plans to enjoy traveling, fishing, camping, and spending time with family and friends, while prioritising health and well-being activities and plenty of coffee shops and luncheons with friends.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions. Your legacy of care and advocacy will continue to inspire us. Best wishes for this exciting new chapter!

*"I will dearly miss my work family where I have made some wonderful life-long friends. I won't miss getting out of bed in the winter months to go to work, reporting and data entry. Thank you everyone" - Aunty Dulcie*



# Time for Grandparents

## How we support grandparents raising their grandchildren

Do you know all the ways that you can receive support from the Time for Grandparents program?

### Financial assistance

The Time for Grandparents Program may be able to offer financial assistance to eligible Grandfamilies with:

- **Sports and recreational activities for grandchildren** such as dance, Guides, Scouts, football, soccer, netball and more. Ideas for activities can be found on our [Time for Grandparents website](https://www.grandparentsqld.com.au/financial-assistance) at [grandparentsqld.com.au/financial-assistance](https://www.grandparentsqld.com.au/financial-assistance)
- **School camps**
- **Grandparent's recreational and leisure activities.** This funding can give grandparents the opportunity to pursue activities that they are interested in, while taking some time out from their caring role.
- **School holiday care** to help grandparent carers juggle the demands of caring during the school holidays.

To discuss your request for this funding assistance please contact Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500 with the following information. Funding limits do apply.

- 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.

### Reimbursements can not be provided to grandparents

Time for Grandparents cannot provide reimbursements to grandparents as Our Service Agreement and the associated Brokerage Guidelines from the Queensland Government stipulates that **we have to pay activity providers directly.**

If your grandchild participates in a sport that requires an online registration and payment, please speak to your Club to request alternative booking and payment options so that Time for Grandparents can support you with funding. Please contact us on 1300 135 500 if you require further assistance with this.

### Invitations to Grandfamily Camps

Please be aware to check your inbox for emails from Time for Grandparents offering the opportunity to express interest in attending one of our Grandfamily Camps. Our email addresses are [grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au) and [tfg.camps@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:tfg.camps@ucommunity.org.au). Remember to also check your junk/spam mail.

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 Grandfamilies to participate.

### Contacting the Time for Grandparents program

For more information, contact Time for Grandparents via the Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500 between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday (*excluding Queensland and Brisbane public holidays*). Alternatively, email the team directly at [grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au)

## Queensland public holidays

For the full list, visit the Queensland Government's website at [qld.gov.au/recreation/travel/holidays](http://qld.gov.au/recreation/travel/holidays)

**New Years Day** - Thursday 1 January

**Australia Day** - Monday 26 January

**Good Friday** - Friday 3 April

**The day after Good Friday** - Saturday 4 April

**Easter Sunday** - Sunday 5 April

**Easter Monday** - Monday 6 April

**Anzac Day** - Saturday 25 April

**Labour Day** - Monday 4 May

**Royal Queensland Show** - 10 August  
(Bundaberg region - within the postcode of 4671, City of Moreton Bay, City of Redland, Gladstone region, Gympie region - Goomeri township and the parish of Goomeribong, Lockyer Valley region, Logan City, Scenic Rim region, Shire of Balonne, Shire of Cherbourg, Somerset region, South Burnett region, Toowoomba Regional Council area comprising Yarraman, Upper Yarraman and Cooyar areas, Western Downs region - Tara and District)

**Royal Queensland Show** - 12 August  
(City of Brisbane)

**King's Birthday** - Monday 5 October

**Christmas Eve** - Thursday 24 December  
(6pm to midnight)

**Christmas Day** - Friday 25 December

**Boxing Day** - Saturday 26 December and Monday 28 December

## Queensland 2026 school term dates

**Term 1: Tuesday 27 January to Thursday 2 April**

*School holidays: Friday 3 April to Sunday 19 April*

**Term 2: Monday 20 April to Friday 26 June**

*School holidays: Saturday 27 June to Sunday 12 July*

**Term 3: Monday 13 July to Friday 18 September**

*Pupil free day in Term 3: Friday 4 September*

*School holidays: Saturday 19 September to Monday 5 October*

**Term 4: Tuesday 6 October to Friday 11 December**

*School holidays: Saturday 12 December 2026 to Tuesday 26 January 2027*

## Play On Vouchers

In early 2026, round 2 will open for parents, carers or guardians to apply for Play On vouchers.

When a round is open, parents, carers or guardians can apply for a voucher valued up to \$200 for their child, aged 5 to 17 years, which can be used in winter or summer towards sport and active recreation membership, registration or participation fees with a registered activity provider. To find registered activity providers in your area, search [qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/playon/find-provider](http://qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/playon/find-provider)

There is a limit of 1 voucher per child per financial year.

To learn more about Play On, visit [qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/playon](http://qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/playon), call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email [playonvouchers@sport.qld.gov.au](mailto:playonvouchers@sport.qld.gov.au).

# Social media age restrictions

## From the eSafety Commissioner



From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating or keeping an account.

The restrictions aim to protect young Australians from pressures and risks that users can be exposed to while logged in to social media accounts. These come from design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens, while also serving up content that can harm their health and wellbeing.

As of 21 November 2025, it is eSafety's view that Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube, Kick and Reddit are age-restricted platforms. This list will continue to be updated prior to 10 December. Find the latest details about which platforms are age-restricted at [esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions/which-platforms-are-age-restricted](https://esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions/which-platforms-are-age-restricted)

The conditions for age restriction are:

- the sole purpose, or a significant purpose, of the service is to enable online social interaction between two or more end-users
- the service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users
- the service allows end-users to post material on the service.

Online gaming and standalone messaging apps are among a number of types of services that have been excluded under the legislative rules. However, messaging services that have social-media style features which allow users to interact in other ways apart from messaging may be included in the age restrictions, as well as messaging features accessed through age-restricted social media accounts.

### **It's not a ban, it's a delay to having accounts.**

This means there will be no penalties for under-16s who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers. However, age-restricted social media platforms may face penalties if they don't take reasonable steps to prevent under-16s from having accounts.

Details about how the age restrictions will operate and other information that will help Australians prepare for the change can be found at eSafety's social media age restrictions hub at [esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub](https://esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub)

### **Safer Internet Day is 10 February 2026**

Safer Internet Day, Tuesday 10 February 2026, is a global, day of action bringing communities, schools, organisations and families from more than 180 countries together to raise awareness of online safety issues and work toward a safer internet.

Join eSafety in making the internet a safer, more positive place - one conversation, one click, and one day at a time. Visit [esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day](https://esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day) for more information.

# Social media age restrictions: how can I prepare my family? From the eSafety Commission

The age restrictions are likely to mean a big change for many under-16s, so they may feel a range of emotions - including being upset, worried, frustrated, confused, sad or angry.

Some may binge on social media use now, before the restrictions start, and find it harder than usual to switch off. Others may become more secretive about their social media use and less likely to ask for help from a trusted adult if things go wrong.

As a parent or carer, you can support your child by talking calmly and openly about the age restrictions. This includes asking how they use social media now, helping them understand how the law might affect them, and guiding them to prepare for the change.

eSafety has developed sample conversation starters which can be found at [esafety.gov.au/parents/social-media-age-restrictions/conversation-starters](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/social-media-age-restrictions/conversation-starters) for parents and carers, as well as a Get-ready guide which can be found at [esafety.gov.au/young-people/social-media-age-restrictions/get-ready-guide](https://esafety.gov.au/young-people/social-media-age-restrictions/get-ready-guide) for helping under-16s prepare for the change. The guide has tips for helping under-16s find other ways to connect with friends, keep up with their interests, express themselves, learn about things and be entertained.

We understand families and households have their own agreements and approaches to being online and using devices, and that every child is different. You know your child best. Keep in mind their age, developmental stage, emotional readiness and individual needs when talking about the age restrictions.

Also, if you're caring for children of various ages you may need to handle the issue in different ways. Discussing it with everyone together and setting shared expectations can be helpful, or you may find it's better to have separate conversations.

What matters most is creating a safe space for under-16s to feel heard, supported and empowered to make 'switching off' age-restricted social media accounts as stress-free as possible.

Here are some tips:

- Lead with empathy, letting them know you understand their feelings.
- Ask them how they currently use social media.
- Talk about the new law and what it means.
- Explain that the restrictions are to protect them, not punish them.
- Talk about the sorts of risks the law aims to help them avoid. These include spending too much time on screens and being over-exposed to negative and harmful content – which can impact their sleep, stress levels, attention and wellbeing.
- Focus on what they can still do online and offline.
- Reassure them they can always come to you or another trusted adult to talk about their concerns.
- It's OK to try again later if the talk has not gone very well. Lots of little chats are often more effective than one big conversation.

**Remember, the aim of delaying account access until 16 is to give young people more time to develop important digital, social and emotional skills before facing the risks of age-restricted social media accounts.**

# Grandparent support groups in Queensland

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)

## Brisbane and West Moreton

### **Time for Grandparents Social Support Groups**

- **Caboolture**
- **Chermside**
- **Flagstone and surrounding suburbs** *\*coming soon, contact TFG for more information and to be added to the invite list\**

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. It is an opportunity 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. Refreshments will be provided; however, you could shout yourself something extra from the local cafe too.

### **Acacia Ridge - The Murri School Grandparents Yarning Circle**

The Aboriginal & Islander Community Independent School (*the Murri School*) in Acacia Ridge provide education for children from Prep to Grade 12.

The Murri school kindly provides the Yarning space for Grandparent Carers of current and former students from the Murri school and, other Aboriginal and Islander Grandfamilies informally caring, who reside locally. School Elder in Residence (female) provides a warm and welcoming space for our Circle gathering. Morning tea provided.

Please phone Janet at Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500 or email [grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au](mailto:grandparentsinfo@ucommunity.org.au) for further information.

### **Caboolture - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Chat Group**

Phone: 07 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.

## Sunshine Coast

### **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.

## Grandparents support groups cont.

Central QLD & Wide Bay

### **Urangan - Grandparents Support Group**

Phone: Anglicare 1300 114 397

This support group discusses issues you may be having with your grandkids. Some topics they cover are safe internet use, behavioural issues, diet, and any other suggestions and concerns are welcome.

### **Mackay Grandparents Group**

This group meets twice a month to support each other with everyday problems and how they can help with our grandchildren in this ever-changing world. Once a month is coffee time at a nominated cafe. The other Friday is discussion/craft time, and they also listen to podcasts about grandparenting.

Contact Annette by email: [suttonannette@hotmail.com](mailto:suttonannette@hotmail.com)

## Grandparent playgroups in Queensland

### **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. 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.

### **Hendra - Grandparents Playgroup**

Phone: Susanna 0404 176 726

Ages 0-5 years. \$5 per session. Monday 9.30am. 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.

Find playgroups at <https://playmatters.org.au/search>

## School holiday activities

The **Time for Grandparents** Program may be able to help with ideas to keep your grandchildren engaged over the school holidays.

- The Queensland Government has a wealth of information and ideas for the school holidays at their [School Holiday Activities website](#).
- Your local library will offer free activities for children of all ages.
- PCYC - [Police Citizens Youth Club Qld have vacation care](#) programs at various locations in Queensland.
- [YMCA provide vacation care](#) at various locations in Queensland.
- [Scripture Union Camps Qld](#) run close to 100 camps across Queensland for primary and high school students.
- [Queensland Government School Holiday Program](#) hosts daily activities throughout the Queensland school holidays including high ropes, surfing, rock climbing and canoeing on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.
- [PGL Holiday Camps and Day Camps](#) are the perfect way for your 8-14 year old to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills during their school holidays!

## Grandparent useful contacts

For fact sheets, information, brochures or referrals for any of the following topics, please contact **Seniors Enquiry Line & Time for Grandparents on 1300 135 500** between **9am and 5pm Monday to Friday** (*excluding Queensland and Brisbane public holidays*). We welcome calls from everyone. If your topic is not listed below, other referral options and useful contacts can be explored by calling us.

- Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander support
- Accommodation/ Housing
- Child Development
- Childcare
- Concessions/Rebates
- Consumer Rights and Scams
- Counselling and Mediation
- Disability support
- Domestic and Family Violence
- Drug and Alcohol
- Education
- Emergency Relief
- Finance
- Health
- Helplines
- Housing and Accommodation
- Legal
- Neighbourhood and Community Centres
- Parenting support
- Social and Leisure Activities for Grandparents and Grandchildren
- Support for Carers
- Transport

# Rules for personal mobility devices

You can use a broad range of personal mobility devices in Queensland. They are a type of vehicle so you must comply with the rules for personal mobility devices and the general road rules. This information was taken from [qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/wheeled-devices/personal-mobility-devices](http://qld.gov.au/transport/safety/rules/wheeled-devices/personal-mobility-devices)

To ride a personal mobility device, you must be either at least 16 years or at least 12 years and supervised by an adult while riding the device. Children under 12 years of age must not ride personal mobility devices.

Personal mobility devices can include e-scooters, e-skateboards and self-balancing single wheeled devices (like e-unicycles and e-boards).

## When you ride a personal mobility device, you must always:

- keep left and give way to pedestrians
- travel at the right speed for where you are
- travel at a safe distance from a pedestrian so you can avoid a collision
- keep left of oncoming bicycles and other personal mobility devices.



**When you ride a personal mobility device, you must wear an approved bicycle helmet or an approved motorbike helmet. You must securely fit and fasten it.**

## Paths

You may ride on paths unless there's a sign prohibiting personal mobility devices. You must comply with the following speed limits:

- Footpaths & shared paths - 12km/h maximum (unless signed otherwise)
- Separated paths & bicycle paths - 25km/h maximum (unless signed otherwise)

## Roads

You may ride on the road in some locations, as outlined in the following table. You must comply with the relevant speed limits. Fines of more than \$660 can apply to speeding.

Allowed road use locations	Speed limits for personal mobility devices
Bike lanes on roads with a speed limit of 50km/h or less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 25km/h maximum</li><li>• obey speed limits lower than 25km/h</li></ul>
Any bike lane that is physically separated from other lanes of traffic, for example, by bollards or raised median strip	
Local streets – 50km/h or less and no dividing line	

## Riding and mobile phones

Holding a mobile phone in your hand or resting it on any part of your body when riding is illegal. The phone does not need to be turned on for it to be an offence. You can keep your phone in a pocket of your clothing or in a pouch you are wearing but you must not be able to see the screen.

Mounting your phone to the handlebars is allowed so that it can be used for GPS navigation or as a speedometer. You can use a mobile phone in your hand when stationary on paths or nature strips.

## Carrying people

A personal mobility device is designed for use by one person only. You must not carry another person when riding a personal mobility device - not even a child.

## If it's flooded, forget it

The Queensland Government's award winning *If It's Flooded, Forget It* campaign is reminding drivers to stay safe on the roads this severe weather season. The message is clear: driving into floodwater isn't worth the risk.

From hot and dry conditions to torrential downpours, Queensland's weather can change in a flash. Having a plan before you jump in the car can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

### Plan ahead to stay safe:

- **Check the weather and the roads** – check out the Bureau of Meteorology and Qld *Traffic* for the most reliable and up-to-date information before leaving home and stay tuned to local radio while you're on the roads.
- **Build in extra time** - running late can lead to risky decisions. If the trip isn't essential, hold off until conditions improve.
- **Be flexible** - if severe weather is likely, consider adjusting start or finish times, working remotely, or rearranging commitments.
- **Back it up** - if you come across water over the road – the safest and smartest decision for you, your passengers, and those around you is to stop and turn around. Don't be afraid to pull over somewhere safe and wait it out.
- **Set an example** - support colleagues by encouraging safe choices.

Vehicle-related incidents are a leading cause of flood related deaths, with more lives lost in Queensland than anywhere else in Australia. Research suggests that many drivers overestimate their car's ability to drive through water, even if they've never tried. As little as 15cm of floodwater can cause your car to lose traction and be swept away. No meeting or deadline is worth the risk.

Driving during severe weather in Queensland, you never know what's around the corner. Always drive to the conditions, and if in doubt, wait it out.

Stay safe, stay informed, and *If It's Flooded, Forget It*. Please share this critical message with your loved ones this severe weather season.

*If It's Flooded, Forget It* is brought to you by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority as part of the Get Ready Queensland initiative. For expert advice, practical tips, and to learn more, visit [qld.gov.au/FloodedForgetIt](http://qld.gov.au/FloodedForgetIt) and follow [@GetReadyQueensland](https://www.instagram.com/GetReadyQueensland) on social media.



## MESSAGE STICK First Nations News



### Wishing you Mob a very **Murri Christmas**

As Christmas holiday period approaches, it is a reminder that this time of year can be very stressful or upsetting for many families. If you need to speak with someone about how you are feeling or you're going through a crisis, call **13YARN** (call 13 92 76).



**13YARN** is a national crisis line for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people. **13YARN** operate 24/7 and is staffed by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander crisis support workers who are ready to take your call anytime you need a yarn.

### A federal government package aiming to narrow the digital gap for First Nations people across Australia is set to be rolled out nationwide

The \$68 million First Nations Digital inclusion investment aims to boost digital inclusion and digital literacy in Indigenous communities.

Part of the initiative will see up to 52 remote communities in South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory benefit from free publicly accessible Wi-Fi through the \$20 million First Nations Community Wi-Fi Program.

Better digital access means better access to learning, health care and other essential services, especially for people in remote communities, the Federal Government said.

Click for full story:

[First Nations inclusion investment to tackle 'dig...  
| National Indigenous Times](#)



# Indigenous & Māori Rugby League All Stars head to New Zealand

It will be the 15th All Stars fixture since its debut in 2010, and eighth time with contests scheduled between rugby league's best Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori talent in the game in February 2026.

"All Stars is an incredible opportunity for players to represent and connect with their culture through the game they love." NRL chief executive officer Andrew Abdo said.

"Each year, the NRL is given the privilege of celebrating the vital influence Indigenous and Māori cultures have had on our game. It marks a special occasion for players, their families, and the entire community.



The Indigenous and Māori All Stars will go head-to-head in New Zealand for the second time next year, with the NRL confirming the date and location for the annual men's season curtain-raiser.

Full story, go to: [Indigenous and Māori All Stars fixtures head to Ao... | National Indigenous Times](#)

## Meriam lawyer honoured as University's outstanding Indigenous alumnus

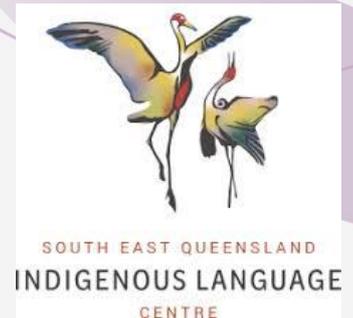
Meriam lawyer Brian Bero has been named Queensland University of Technology's Outstanding Indigenous Australian Alumnus for 2025.

Brian Bero (pictured) recognising his leadership in law, advocacy and Indigenous economic development.



Read the full story at [Meriam lawyer honoured as University's outstanding ... | National Indigenous Times](#)

# South East Queensland Indigenous Language Centre



It is estimated that there were more than 250 distinct Indigenous languages in Australia at the time of first contact in the late 1700s. Now less than 12 are spoken fluently and 90 per cent are considered endangered.

Successive government policies for more than 200 years have deliberately destroyed language use within Indigenous communities. It was not until the late 1980s that the Australian Government began a structured funding program to try to halt the ongoing loss.

The South East Queensland Indigenous Language Centre website has learnings, gaming challenges, activities and resources to help young people and beginners to learn words from these six languages:

- Yugambeh
- Turrubal
- Jinibara
- Yuggera
- Wakka Wakka
- Kabi Kabi

This website is a culturally safe space for learning the basics of Aboriginal language. It doesn't share sacred or secret knowledge but it can help you learn the first 100 words of a language to create a conversation.

## Your learning pathway

Over five lessons, the website allows you to:

1. Watch a video
2. Play the games
3. Listen to pronunciation
4. Test yourself
5. Check your memory
6. Practice with resources

Visit the website at [seqilc.com.au](http://seqilc.com.au) to start learning today.

## Indigenous Language Centres

The Australian Government supports 24 Indigenous Language Centres nationally. These are administered through the Australian Government Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) Program.

To find an Indigenous language centre near you, visit [seqilc.com.au/indigenous-language-centres](http://seqilc.com.au/indigenous-language-centres)

