



# SNIPPETS

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Seniors Enquiry Line

Linking Seniors with  
Community Information

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### Joke of the Month:

Why do crabs never give to charity?

Because they're shellfish.

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

## Changes to Home Care Packages

From 27 February, older Australians who have Home Care Packages will have more choice, flexibility and control over the support they receive. Funding for Home Care Packages will no longer be allocated to the provider; instead the funding will be allocated directly to you, the consumer to purchase home care services. This means that consumers are able to choose who



provides the home care services, the type of services that, and when and where the services are provided. Consumers can also change providers and take any unspent funds with them to the new organisation that will be providing the services.

If you currently receive home help and are happy with the services you receive, you are not required to do anything. If you would like to change providers, contact My Aged Care on **1800 200 422** to receive support to make this change. Further information is available at: <https://agedcare.health.gov.au>.

## Queensland Women's Week

Queensland Women's Week (6-12 March, 2017) provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Queensland women and girls. The theme for this year is: "Queensland Women: Be involved. Lead the way." This theme aims to encourage women and girls to participate and pursue leadership roles in their community and workplace.

There will be a number of events being held throughout Queensland to celebrate Women's Week, with a large number listed on the Queensland Women's Week events website: [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au).



If you don't have access to the internet and would like information about events in your area, please phone Seniors Enquiry Line on **1300 135 500**.

## Organ Donation

According to the Australian Government, a record number of organ donations were made in 2016, with 1,447 Australians receiving transplants from 503 deceased donors. Despite this, around 1,400 people are still waiting for a life-saving transplant at any given time.

If you are interested in becoming an organ donor, your wishes can be recorded by signing up for the Australian Organ Donor Register. Registration is voluntary but having your name on the register means that your wishes can be verified in the event of your death. Anyone aged 16 or over can register but it's still important to inform your family of your wishes as families are always asked to give consent before donation can proceed.

If you would like to sign up for the register, this can be done online through your MyGov account, Express Plus Medicare mobile app or the online Australian Organ Donor Register Registration Form is on their website: [www2.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www2.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or by completing a paper form. Forms are available online at: [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au), or you can phone Seniors Enquiry Line on **1300 135 500** to have the form posted out.

## Seniors Card

If you are 60+ and a permanent resident of Queensland, you may be eligible for a Seniors Card or Seniors Business Discount Card. The eligibility criteria and benefits differ, depending on the card type.

A Seniors Business Discount Card gives you access to discounts from participating businesses and the Senior Shopper service. You can search for business discounts in your area at: <https://secure.communities.qld.gov.au>.

A Seniors Card is also eligible for the business discounts, however, there are also additional benefits such as:

- Electricity Rebate - \$329.96 per year
- Reticulated Natural Gas Rebate - \$69.73 per year
- Registration Concession on 1 vehicle and 1 recreational boat
- Discounts on public transport
- Free prescription glasses (after 6 months) under the Spectacle Supply Scheme
- Access to the public dental services

Seniors Card holders who use public transport in South East Queensland may benefit from the Seniors Card +go. This card has a Seniors Card on one side and a Go Card on the back. The Seniors Card +go has the added benefit of being able to use the Go Card to receive cheaper fares.

You can apply for these cards online at: <https://secure.communities.qld.gov.au>, by phoning Seniors Card on **13 74 68** or by completing an application form and posting it in. If you would like any further information about the benefits available, how to access them, or to receive a paper application form, contact Seniors Enquiry Line on **1300 135 500**.

## National Broadband Network

The nbn is being rolled out across Australia and should reach all households by 2020. It's important to be aware of when the nbn is being connected in your area as the existing network may be switched off 18 months after the nbn is available. The rollout affects more than just internet connections. It may affect your home phone, medical alarm, teletypewriters, fire alarm and security alarm. Some existing devices may not be compatible with the nbn and may need to be checked and upgraded prior to changeover.

If you have a medical alarm, it's important to register this with nbn co as support may be required to connect to the nbn. Medical alarms can be registered at [www.nbnco.com.au](http://www.nbnco.com.au) or by phoning **1800 227 300**.

Moving to the nbn is not automatic so you will need to contact a service provider to arrange for your services to be migrated across. You can check when the nbn is due to be installed by typing your address into the search at [www.nbnco.com.au/](http://www.nbnco.com.au/).

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission also has information about the nbn on their website <http://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/national-broadband-network> and includes questions to ask before changing to the nbn. If you are unable to access the internet, phone Seniors Enquiry Line on **1300 135 500** to have this information posted out.

## What's On

### Legal Info for Families of People with a Disability

**21 March**                      **9am - 12pm**

You are invited to attend a free legal presentation for families and friends of people with a disability.

**Venue:**                      11/8 Centreview Drive, Biggera Waters  
**Phone:**                      3622 1250

### Felton Food Festival

**25-26 March**                      **9am - 4pm**

Experience a day of authentic country life at the Felton Food Festival and experience everything that the Felton Valley is famous for.

**Venue:**                      64 Bryces Road, Felton East  
**Phone:**                      0427 961 271  
**Website:**                      [www.feltonfoodfestival.org.au](http://www.feltonfoodfestival.org.au)

**Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events' page include:** Gold Coast Seniors Health & Lifestyle Expo – Palm Beach, Bundy Fun Day, Philosophy of Sounds – South Bank, Ocean Film Festival 2017 World Tour - Cairns, and many more.