



# SNIPPETS

June 2013 Edition 139

Seniors Enquiry Line

Linking Seniors with  
Community Information

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### Quote for the Month

There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle.

~ Albert Einstein

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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.

## Booklet – 'Financial Decisions at Retirement'

The booklet, 'Financial Decisions at Retirement', is a guide to help you make the most of your money in retirement and avoid costly mistakes. It is published by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), a Commonwealth Government body.

Included in the booklet are topics such as: how much money you will need, long-term costs of retiring, entitlements from Centrelink, income streams, superannuation, investments, and estate planning and wills.

For a copy of the booklet phone Seniors Enquiry Line: 1300 135 500.

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Join Older People Speak Out (OPSO), Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU) and the Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) in turning Queensland purple for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on 15th June 2013.

JUNE 15 each year is the day designated by the United Nations as the international day of action when the world voices opposition to the abuse of older people. WEAAD is represented by the colour purple – which denotes wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity.

Keep an eye out in your community in June for events that are purple-themed. Or why not create your own purple-themed event to raise awareness of WEAAD? How about having a purple-themed picnic with your

family on Sat the 15th? Or wear something purple on the day or during that week and tell people why. Put up a poster or have a purple morning tea at your workplace.



Out of purple ideas? Check out [www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com) for some suggestions and toolkits to help you get started. Send us your suggestions and we will put them up on the website – if you have one please send an email to [eapu@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:eapu@uccommunity.org.au)

For free and confidential advice on elder abuse, phone the Elder Abuse Helpline on 1300 651 192.

## 'Your Story, Our Table'

COTA Queensland invites you to join 'Your Story, Our Table'. COTA Queensland aims to create a more caring community where people can easily interact with people of their own and other generations, and where older people are actively involved, empowered and have access to appropriate support and care.

Hearing the stories and experiences of people from throughout Queensland will inform this work so that we can better understand what makes an age friendly Queensland.

### Why join Your Story, Our Table?

- You will have regular opportunities to contribute your knowledge and experience to ongoing discussions about issues that impact on people as they age.
- You will receive regular updates about the stories we are hearing and how those stories are influencing COTA Queensland's policy and advocacy work.
- Participants at the Table will go in a quarterly draw to win a voucher to the value of \$50.

To join *Your Story, Our Table* or for more information, phone 1300 738 348 (Landlines) or 07 33162913, or go to [www.cotaqld.org.au/get-involved/your-story-our-table](http://www.cotaqld.org.au/get-involved/your-story-our-table)

## What's On

### Brisbane Lifeline Bookfest – South Brisbane

Dates: 8th – 11th June

Find brilliant books whilst supporting a fantastic cause.

Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre,  
Merivale St, South Brisbane.

Phone: 07 3308 3000

Web: [www.uccommunity.org.au/brisbane-bookfest](http://www.uccommunity.org.au/brisbane-bookfest)

### Mackay Marine Festival

Dates: June 22 – 23rd 9am – 5pm

Mackay's Marine Festival highlights the region's rich & diverse marine industry and lifestyle. Cost: free.

Venue: Mackay Marina, Mulherin Drive, Mackay.

Phone: 07 3240 0170

Web: [www.mackaymarinefestival.com.au](http://www.mackaymarinefestival.com.au)

**Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events' pages include:** Broadbeach Country Music Festival, Townsville Billy Cart Dash, Open Cockpit Weekend – Caloundra, Winter Solstice Festival - Windsor.

## Untouched Bank Accounts

Do you have a bank account that has been untouched for over 3 years?

There have been changes to the Commonwealth unclaimed money laws, so that from 31st May 2013, if you have not deposited or withdrawn money from a bank account for a period of 3 years (previously 7 years), it may be identified as unclaimed, and be transferred to the Commonwealth of Australia Consolidated Revenue Fund.

To ensure your account is kept active, you only need to deposit or withdraw money – 5 cents will do! – in under 3 years.

If your account is closed and transferred to Consolidated Revenue, it is always claimable by the rightful owner, and from 1 July 2013, interest will also be payable. To find out if there is unclaimed money for you to claim, you can do a free search of unclaimed money records held by ASIC through the MoneySmart website:

[www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au)

For more information, talk with your bank, or go to [www.asic.gov.au](http://www.asic.gov.au) and type 'unclaimed money' in the search box at the top of the page. Otherwise you can phone ASIC on 1300 300 630.

## Fire Safety in Winter

As there are typically more house fires throughout the winter months, seniors are urged to take preventative measures as follows:



- Have a working smoke alarm
- Check that appliances such as heaters and electric blankets are in good working order. Almost 400,000 potentially faulty electric blankets and 41,000 potentially faulty heaters were recalled last year. To make sure yours isn't one of them, find your model and product number, then check the Recalls Australia website [www.recalls.gov.au](http://www.recalls.gov.au) or phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.
- Have a fire extinguisher and fire blanket in the kitchen and know how to use them.
- Clear away food crumbs and scraps from cooking appliances, and keep electrical appliances away from water and open flames. Never use water on fat or oil fires. Kitchen fires are especially dangerous as they start and can spread quickly.
- Check the filter of a clothes dryer before every load.

**For more information** on fire escape plans or to book a free Safehome visit by Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, log on to [www.fire.qld.gov.au](http://www.fire.qld.gov.au) or call 13 74 68.