



# SNIPPETS

March 2013 Edition 136

## In this Issue:

- Centrelink Payment Increases
- Making a Will
- Seniors Week Funding
- International Women's Day
- Looking for information?
- Stroke Safe Ambassador
- Share your Stories

### Quote for the Month:

"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."

~ Dom Helder Camara  
(Brazilian Poet, Missionary)

### Contact Details:

**Phone:** 1300 135 500  
**TTY:** (07) 3867 2591  
**Email:** [sel@uccommunity.org.au](mailto:sel@uccommunity.org.au)  
**Web:**  
[www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au](http://www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au)

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.

**Payment Increases for pensioners, and for self-funded retirees who receive the Senior Supplement: see Page 2.**

## Making a Will – Red Cross

Do you need to make a new will? Your options are:

- The Public Trustee can make your will for free
- A solicitor can make your will (suggestion: shop around for quotes on costs)
  - Make it yourself – this is not advisable (a solicitor commented that probably over 70% of court cases regarding wills are related to do-it-yourself wills)
  - The Red Cross has Wills Days where you can make or update a simple will through a local solicitor, from \$75.

The Red Cross has a national solicitor network which provides help to the Red Cross, and represents a substantial discount on the normal cost of making a will. While there is no obligation to include Red Cross

## Seniors Enquiry Line - Linking Seniors with Community Information

in your will, they hope by using the service you will consider it.

Dates for Wills Days in the next few months are:

Caloundra: 14 March, 12 to 4pm  
Maroochydore: 19 March, 10am to 2pm  
Noosa: 20 March, 10am to 2pm  
Redcliffe: 24 April, 10am to 2pm  
Gympie: 2 May, 10am to 2pm  
Ipswich: 23 May, 10am to 2pm

To make an appointment, phone 1800 649 685 or email [bequests@redcross.org.au](mailto:bequests@redcross.org.au) At the appointment, the solicitor will discuss your wishes and take your instructions. Afterwards (usually a few days) the solicitor will contact you when your will is ready for signing.

The Red Cross also has a Wills Booklet with information on making or updating your will. To obtain a copy, phone or email as above.



# Centrelink Increases

**F**rom March 2013, payment rates for pensioners and other payment recipients will be increased:

**1. Clean Energy Supplement** - If you are a pensioner, or a self-funded retiree who receives the Senior Supplement, your payments will increase this year due to the Clean Energy Supplement. This payment provides regular assistance for low and middle income households to meet the impacts of carbon pricing on living expenses.

- Pensioners who receive their Pension Supplement on a fortnightly basis will receive the Clean Energy Supplement from March 2013. This will be paid fortnightly along with the pension, at a rate of \$13.50 for singles and \$10.20 for each member of a couple.

- Senior Supplement recipients, and pensioners who receive their Pension Supplement on a quarterly basis, will receive the Clean Energy Supplement, in arrears, from June 2013. The full Seniors Supplement will be increasing to \$1,203.80 per year for a single person, and \$907.40 for each member of a couple. The increase is mostly due to the Clean Energy Supplement which will be, annually, \$351 single and \$265.20 for a member of a couple (divide by 4 for approximate quarterly figures).

The Clean Energy Supplement will be permanent and will increase over time. If pensioners prefer, there is the option to have the Pension Supplement paid quarterly rather than fortnightly.

**2. Cost of Living adjustment** - Also, from 20 March 2013 pensioners will receive a pension



increase in line with increases in the cost of living. This year the increase, together with the Clean Energy Supplement, brings the total fortnightly increase to \$35.80 for singles and \$27.00 for each member of a couple.

Thus pensioners who are on the maximum rate will receive \$808.40 a fortnight for singles, or \$609.40 a fortnight for each member of a couple.

**3. Deeming Rates** - As well as the above, from 20 March the Australian Government will reduce the pension deeming rates which will benefit more than 740,000 part-pensioners who have assets which are deemed to be earning interest.

The lower deeming rate will decrease from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent for financial investments up to \$45,400 for single pensioners or \$75,600 for a couple. The upper deeming rate will decrease from 4.5 per cent to 4 per cent for balances over these amounts.

**For more details, phone the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) on 13 23 00. Or for clarification, Seniors Enquiry Line may be able to help: phone 1300 135 500.**

## Seniors Week Event Funding

Seniors Week 2013 will be held from 17th to 25th August. To encourage community groups, clubs and organisations to hold events and celebrations during the week, a limited number of subsidies of up to \$1000 are available.

Applications for a subsidy need to be made through COTA Queensland and close on Friday 19 April 2013. An organisation must register as a Seniors Week Partner to apply for a Subsidy.

For more information, contact Lisa Hodgkinson on 3316 2999 or 1300 738 348 (from a landline only), or email: [seniorsweek@cotaql.org.au](mailto:seniorsweek@cotaql.org.au)



## International Women's Day



International Women's Day (IWD), held globally on 8th March each year, celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future.

The Qld Government theme for 2013 IWD celebrations is 'Queensland Women – Building Connections'.

Events will be held throughout Queensland on or around the 8th March. For details of these events, go to [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au) (and type 'International' in the search box at the top right) or phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.

## Wealth of Information

Seniors Enquiry Line's website has a wealth of information. Go to [www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au](http://www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au) and click on 'Seniors Weblinks and Info' (on the horizontal menu at the top of the webpage), and you'll see a list of topics on the left.

These topics include concessions, accommodation, health, transport, computer clubs and much more. Clicking on the topic you are interested in gives a whole series of links to various webpages and information.

If you can't find what you are looking for, or if you don't have computer access, you are welcome to contact staff at Seniors Enquiry Line on **1300 135 500** – the phone line has no messages and no buttons to push if you phone from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Talk to a real person on any topic, no matter how big or how small.

## Become a StrokeSafe Ambassador

Do you want to help save lives from stroke? The National Stroke Foundation needs passionate volunteer speakers from Queensland for their StrokeSafe Ambassador program. StrokeSafe Ambassadors play a critical role in stroke prevention within the community, conducting talks in their local community.

- No experience is required
- Comprehensive training provided (training is planned for June 2013).

To express interest in becoming a StrokeSafe Ambassador, please contact Michelle Adamson on 07 3218 7303 or email [volunteer@strokefoundation.com.au](mailto:volunteer@strokefoundation.com.au) For more details, go to [www.strokefoundation.com.au](http://www.strokefoundation.com.au)

## Share your stories – Harmony Day

Australians are encouraged to share their personal stories of diversity and multicultural experience through SBS's Tell Us Your Harmony Story competition for Harmony Day 2013. Entries may be published on SBS's YouTube Channel and the Official Harmony Day website.

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor said 'people are invited to create a video, take a photo or share their written personal journey through an original song, poem or story.'

Entries need to be received by Friday 29th March. They can be submitted online, but if posted allow a few days for entries to arrive. For more information go to [www.sbs.com.au/harmonystories](http://www.sbs.com.au/harmonystories) or phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.



**Disclaimer:** The materials and information included in this edition of the "Snippets" newsletter are provided as a service to you and do not necessarily reflect endorsement by Seniors Enquiry Line. Seniors Enquiry Line is not responsible for the accuracy of information provided from outside sources.