



SNIPPETS

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Seniors Enquiry Line
Linking Seniors with
Community Information

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Quote of the Month:

"If you want a thing done well,
do it yourself"

– Napoleon Bonaparte

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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 Queensland.

Did You Know?

The Bumble Bee Bat is the world's smallest mammal, being less than 3cm long and weighing only 2 grams.

Types of Scams going around QLD at the moment



Seniors Enquiry Line frequently receives calls about various types of scams that people have been subjected to. In recent weeks there have been several that appear to be growing in popularity. The first is to do with tradesman coming to houses and stating that they are working on a nearby job site and can do work around the house for a low cost as they have left over material. **THIS IS A SCAM.** The work, if done at all, will cost you thousands of dollars above what would be considered fair, with

reports of over \$30,000. They have also been known to leave materials in driveways and not remove them until they are paid. It was approximately this time last year that this was also occurring. If you initially agree to the work and then call to stop it, they will still show up, quite often with numerous people and at times too many people required for the job. If in doubt, contact **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we can help you determine if it is a scam. You can also contact **Police Link** and report it on **131 444** as they will be keen to ensure that this type of scam does not occur within the area.

The second type of scam gaining momentum is one where people claim to be from the Do Not Call Register. The phone calls follow a similar pattern to an almost identical scam in 2017 where the caller would ask how many sales call you receive and ask for your details and financial information. They usually also try and sell you a device, program or software to stop all unwanted calls. **THIS IS A SCAM.** The Do Not Call Register is a free service that anyone can sign up to. If you feel that you may be scammed or are just not sure, contact **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will help you with the determination and the steps to take.

**THESE ARE NOT THE ONLY SCAMS IN QUEENSLAND SO
ALWAYS BE ALERT**

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Safety Net

The PBS Safety Net is calculated on a calendar year and resets at the beginning of each year.

The 2018 PBS Safety Net threshold is:

- \$1,521.80 for general patients, or
- \$384 for concession card holders

Before you meet the threshold, your medication will cost:

- Up to \$39.50 for general patients, or
- Up to \$6.40 for concession card holders

Your pharmacist can tell you when you're close to reaching the threshold. You can ask them about getting a PBS Safety Net card. This card will be valid for the rest of the calendar year. When you reach the PBS Safety Net threshold and apply for a PBS Safety Net Card, your pharmacist will give it to you the concession. You need this card to get cheaper or free PBS medicine.

Your medicine for the rest of the year will be:

- Up to \$6.40 for general patients
- Free for concession card holders

You can reach the PBS Safety Net using prescriptions filled at:

- Community pharmacies
- Private hospitals approved to supply PBS medicine,
- Out-patient pharmacies at public hospitals

If you spend over the threshold before you get the card, you may get a refund.

Mortgage Relief Loan

This loan provides short-term help to people who are having difficulties with their home loan repayments. These difficulties may be from unemployment, accident, illness or some other crisis. The loan is interest free with no application fees or ongoing charges. You can borrow a maximum of \$20,000 which is repayable over 10 years. Repayments start 12 months after getting the loan. For more information, contact **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** or go to: <https://www.qld.gov.au/housing/buying-owning-home/mortgage-relief-loan>

Pension Rate Increase

The Aged Pension has increased for singles and couples as of 20 March 2018 per fortnight. Below is a table indicating the changes.

	From 20 Sep 2017	From 20 Mar 18	Increase
SINGLES			
Base	\$814.00	\$826.20	\$12.20 pf
Pension Supp.	\$66.30	\$67.30	\$1.00 pf
Energy Supp.	\$14.10	\$14.10	\$0.00 pf
Total	\$894.40	\$907.60	\$13.20 pf

	From 20 Sep 2017	From 20 Mar 18	Increase
COUPLES			
Base	\$613.60	\$622.80	\$9.20 pf
Pension Supp.	\$50.00	\$50.70	\$0.70 pf
Energy Supp.	\$10.60	\$10.60	\$0.00 pf
Total	\$674.20	\$684.10	\$9.90 pf

April through History

1912 The Titanic hits an iceberg, killing 1517 people.

1918 The Red Baron is killed.

1926 Sound is added to film for the first time.

1937 Jack Nicholson (the actor) is born.

1956 "Heartbreak Hotel" becomes Elvis' first song to reach #1.

1970 Paul McCartney announces that The Beatles have broken up.

1986 The Chernobyl nuclear accident occurs.

1988 The Stockman's Hall of Fame, is opened in Longreach.

1989 Lucille Ball, of I Love Lucy fame, dies.

1990 The Hubble Space Telescope is delivered to outer space.

2005 Pope John Paul II dies.

2015 Australian cricket great, Richie Benaud, dies .