



SNIPPETS

August 2014 Edition 152

Seniors Enquiry Line

*Linking Seniors with
Community Information*

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Quote for the Month:

If you are depressed you
are living in the past.
If you are anxious you
are living in the future.
If you are at peace you
are living in the present.
~ Lao Tzu

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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.

Free Tax Help

Tax Help is the Australian Taxation Office's free and confidential service of trained volunteers who help people complete tax returns from 1 July to 31 October.

You are eligible for Tax Help if you have simple tax affairs and earn around \$50,000 a year or less. Volunteers are unable to help with situations such as: if you sell shares, are a contractor or run a business.

Tax Help is available in all capital cities and many other centres across Australia. To make an appointment, phone the ATO on 13 28 61.

Office of the Health Ombudsman

The Office of the Health Ombudsman is Queensland's health service complaints agency, replacing the Health Quality and Complaints Commission from 1 July 2014.

This service provides a 'one-stop-shop' for all complaints about health matters in Queensland. The website is www.oho.qld.gov.au or phone 133 OHO (133 646).



News for Seniors magazine



Centrelink has recently mailed out its *News for Seniors* magazine, which will now be published twice a year rather than quarterly. It provides information to older Australians on the government and community support available to them, explains government payments, current pension rates, concessions, allowances and services.

If you are not a pensioner but would like to receive a copy of *News for Seniors*, phone 13 23 00. *News for Seniors* is also available in languages other than English by phoning 13 12 02. People with vision impairment can receive an audio version by phoning 13 23 00.

PIN only Debit Cards



From 1 August 2014 you will not be allowed to sign for debit card and credit card purchases when you are buying a product at a point of sale. You'll need to enter your PIN to authorise the transaction.

However, some cardholders who have dementia or an impairment which makes it impossible to use a PIN may be able to obtain a sign-only card. Check with your bank (or else one of the larger banks) as some banks are planning to provide a sign-only card where necessary.

Mature Age Job Seekers

The Commonwealth Government's new Restart programme provides up to \$10,000 as an incentive to employers to hire and retain mature age job seekers aged 50 and over who have been in receipt of income support for six months or more.

For more details, contact Job Services Australia on 13 62 68 (job seekers) or 13 17 15 (employers) or go to <https://employment.gov.au/restart>

Retirement Income Products

The Commonwealth Government has recently issued a discussion paper, 'Review of retirement income stream regulation', which considers greater product innovation and possible changes to the availability of retirement income stream products.

If you would like to make a submission (due by 5th September 2014), you can find the discussion paper at <http://treasury.gov.au> For enquiries please call Michael Wellham (02) 6263 3043 or Zema Rigzin on (02) 6263 3769.

Rural & Regional Awards

The Regional Achievement and Community Awards for Queensland recognise rural & regional achievers.

These awards are an opportunity to say thank you to businesses, community groups & individuals who work tirelessly in developing their chosen fields of endeavour.



Nominations close 22 August, 2014. For details, go to www.awardsaustralia.com or phone 1300 735 445.

Seniors Week

Seniors Week is an opportunity for Queenslanders of all ages to join together and celebrate the valuable contribution of older people. This year's Seniors Week will be celebrated from 16-24 August, with various seniors' events held throughout Qld.

For events in your area, go to www.cotaqld.org.au or phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.

Seniors Enquiry Line's **Jazz & Swing Night** will not be held this year. Last year the Jazz & Swing Night was funded by UnitingCare Community and we had hoped to raise the funds to run the event again this year. Unfortunately this has not been possible and we are no longer able to hold the event.

What's On

Brisbane Seniors Gala Cabaret Concert

17th August 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Enjoy a concert by Brisbane's talented seniors and celebrity guests. Cost: \$5.

Venue: Brisbane City Hall, 64 Ann St, Brisbane

Phone: QTIX on 136246 for bookings.



Seniors Week Expo – Elanora

21st August 10:00am – 1:00pm

Celebrate Seniors Week with free entertainment, music, information & demonstrations.

Venue: The Pines Shopping Centre, Elanora

Phone: 07 5525 6466

Centrelink Seminars for Seniors - Cairns

19th August 10:00am – 4:00pm

There are seminars on Retirement Income Streams, Aged Care Fees, and Estate Planning. Cost: Free.

Venue: Cairns City Library, 151 Abbott St, Cairns

Phone: 07 4044 3720

Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's [Events](#) pages include: Delicious and DeLIGHTful Festival – Dalby, Royal Queensland Show EKKA – Brisbane, Mind, Body and Soul for Seniors - Cooroy, Seniors Week Bus Tour - Caboolture, Central Highlands Multicultural Festival – Emerald, Yandina Street Fair.

Gold Coast Free Seniors Travel to continue

Free Seniors Travel will continue for a further 12 months, allowing **local** seniors to ride Gold Coast Translink buses during off-peak periods, for free. For details, phone the Council on 1300 465 326.