



# SNIPPETS

June 2014 Edition 150

Seniors Enquiry Line

Linking Seniors with  
Community Information

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### Quote for the Month

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

~ Maya Angelou  
(1928—2014)

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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.

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

15 June, 2014

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), designated by the United Nations, is an opportunity for individuals, families, groups and organisations to speak out against elder abuse. WEAAD is represented by the colour **purple**, denoting wisdom, dignity, independence and creativity.

Events are being held around Queensland, and you are also invited to organise an event or to do something purple around the 15th June and telling people 'Why'. You might make a purple cake for morning tea at work, give purple flowers to an older person, organise to go out with friends all wearing purple, etc.

For details of events, posters, fact sheets and more purple ideas (including recipes!) go to [www.weaadqld.com](http://www.weaadqld.com) or phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.

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



## Transport Help

If you want to stay in your own home, but need help getting to and from shops, medical appointments, etc within the community, then transport services may be available, generally at a small cost.

Seniors Enquiry Line can provide details of any community transport available in your area, and also details about Taxi Subsidy, Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, Council Cabs (for shopping), Disability Parking Permits, Senior Card+ go, and more. Phone 1300 135 500 for information.

For seniors and people with disabilities living in **greater north Brisbane** (north of the Brisbane River), Pine Rivers, North Lakes and Redcliffe, St John Ambulance (Qld) Social Services can provide non-urgent assisted door-to-door transport to various appointments, shopping and activities. The cost depends on the distance travelled – e.g. an individual trip starts at \$5. To find out more or register for transport, phone 07 3632 9932 or email [transportbookings@stjohnqld.com.au](mailto:transportbookings@stjohnqld.com.au)

## Budget Changes

Seniors Enquiry Line has had many queries about the changes to the budget, and the following details should answer some of them.

The changes may not all be passed by the Senate, which will sit in July 2014. At present there is the possibility that the \$7 co-payment to see a GP and for pathology and diagnostic imaging services may not pass, as well as some other measures.

- Changes to **Pensions** will mostly occur from 2017. From September 2017, index changes mean that the value of the pension will decrease every six months in comparison to wages. Also, there will be changes to the income and assets tests making it harder for some people to qualify for a payment. For people who have savings, the deeming thresholds will also be reduced. The pension age will eventually increase to 70.

- The **pension supplement** will not be affected, except that the Clean Energy Supplement component will no longer increase with CPI after June 30, 2014.

- **Concessions** in such areas as electricity, motor vehicle registration, public transport etc may be cut, as the Federal Government has cut payments for concessions to the states. It will be up to the State Government whether concessions will continue or not.

- Those people not eligible for pensions, but eligible for the **Commonwealth Seniors Health Card**, will lose the Seniors Supplement, (currently \$876.20 per year for singles and \$1,320.80 for couples) after their June payment, although the Clean Energy Supplement (to be renamed the Energy Supplement) will stay, at \$88.71 for singles and \$134.02 for couples, per year. There will also be changes to eligibility for this card.

- If the \$7 **co-payment** passes the Senate, it will start from 1 July 2015. Pensioners and other concession card holders will have the fee waived after the first 10 visits per year (including pathology & diagnostic imaging).

- Increase in prescription costs and safety net thresholds – **scripts** go up by \$5, or \$0.80 with concession cards.

- **Optometrists** providing Medicare eligible services will be able to determine their own fees.

- **Fuel costs** will increase due to a return to indexing the fuel excise.

- The **Housing Help** for Seniors program won't proceed.

If you have further questions, please phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500, and we will research the information, or refer you on.

## BCC's Green Heart Wisdom

Brisbane City Council (BCC) is inviting residents to participate in the Green Heart Wisdom program which aims to help Brisbane's over 60s to save on power bills.



Both individuals and small groups of 8-10 people are welcome to apply. Participants need to be aged 60 years and over, live in the BCC area, have a Pensioner Concession Card, and own and live in a home with its own electricity meter.

Participants receive:

- Four free group workshops (in groups of 8 to 12) held once a month for four months, with a CSIRO trained facilitator;
- Magazines full of easy energy tips and information to take home;
- A \$50 grocery voucher.

For more information, go to [www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/greenheart](http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/greenheart) or phone the BCC on (07) 3403 8888.

## What's On

### Lifeline Bookfest – South Brisbane

7 - 10 June, 2014 8:30am – 7pm

Support Lifeline's counselling programs at their huge book sale. DVDs, CDs and more are also available.

**Venue:** Brisbane Convention Centre, Merivale St, South Brisbane.



### Adventure Tour to the Ration Shed – Sunshine Coast

21st June 7:30 am - 6.00pm

Cultural tour of Cherbourg's Historical precinct - listen to Indigenous Elders, visit the Ration Shed, then enjoy a 2 course meal at Moffatdale Ridge Winery. Cost: \$70.00.

**Start:** Ettamogah Pub, 73 Frizzo Rd, Palmview.

**Phone:** 07 5459 9150 **Email:** Sarah.Larsen@dete.qld.gov.au

### Sustainable Living Expo - Cairns

22nd June 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Learn how to live more comfortably for less at this free display of sustainable living products for home & garden.

**Venue:** Fogarty Park, Esplanade, Cairns

**Phone:** 07 4044 3572

**Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events' pages include:** Old Time Dance at Jondaryan, Carers of Someone with Dementia – Brisbane North and Mt Isa, Get Back on Your Bike Workshop – Coolangatta, History Alive: A Journey Through Time – Lytton, Discover the iPad – Buddina.