



# SNIPPETS

March 2015 Edition 158

Seniors Enquiry Line

*Linking Seniors with  
Community Information*

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## Quote of the Month

Old is always fifteen years from now.

~ Bernard Baruch,  
US philanthropist and  
Presidential advisor,  
on his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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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.

## Pension Increase & Deeming Rates

From 20<sup>th</sup> March, there will be an increase in pensions due to indexation. Currently, most pensions are indexed twice a year, on 20<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> September.



**Deeming:** The social security deeming rates will be lowered from 20<sup>th</sup> March. Deeming is used to assess income from financial investments, and to determine the income that Centrelink uses to work out your payment. Deeming assumes that your financial assets are earning a certain amount of income, regardless of the income they actually earn.

The new deeming rates: The lower deeming rate will decrease from 2 per cent to 1.75 per cent for financial investments up to \$48,000 for single pensioners, and \$79,600 for pensioner couples. The upper deeming rate will decrease from 3.5 per cent to 3.25 per cent for balances over these amounts.

For more information phone Centrelink on 13 23 00.

## NICRI Closes

NICRI, the National Information Centre on Retirement Investments, has closed, due to Federal Government funding cuts. For 25 years, NICRI has been a free, impartial & confidential service for seniors wanting investment, superannuation and other financial information.

NICRI suggests that for information on other consumer investment information services you contact your local member or the federal Minister for Social Services.

At present the website, with a list of publications, is still available at [www.nicri.org.au](http://www.nicri.org.au)

## What's On

### Understanding Pensions Seminar – Maroochydore

25<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am – 12:30pm

Free Centrelink seminar about making the most of your pension. Bookings required.

**Venue:** RSL House, 106 Memorial Ave, Maroochydore

**Web:** [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au) (type 'seminar' in Search box).

**Phone:** 07 5443 1719

### Planning for Retirement Seminar – Southport

25<sup>th</sup> March 10:30am – 12:30pm

Free Centrelink seminar about getting started with investments. Bookings required.

**Venue:** Community Centre, 6 Lawson St, Southport

**Web:** [www.humanservices.gov.au](http://www.humanservices.gov.au)

**Phone:** 07 5581 7227

### The Feast of the Senses – Innisfail

21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March - Enjoy an impressive variety of rare and exotic fruits and a smorgasbord of fine fare from Tropical North Queensland.

**Venue:** Edith Street, Innisfail

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

**Phone:** 0447 037 476

### Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events'

**pages include:** Learn more about GI Cancer in Bundaberg; Stitches & Craft Show – Brisbane; Gem Mineral & Fossil Show – Gatton; Ipswich Antiques & Collectors Fair; The Ten Sopranos at Tweed Heads.

## Men's Sheds

Men's Sheds have sprung up throughout Australia, with men coming from all walks of life. The sheds give an opportunity to connect with others, and to be productive in various ways – e.g. restoring furniture, restoring bicycles, making toys to help a community organisation, etc.

There will be tea and coffee and a comfortable area to sit and talk, and there may be an area where men can learn to cook for themselves or where they can learn how to contact their families by computer. Sheds can promote a culture of mutual support and trust, strengthening both the individual and community.

**Spanish speakers' Men's Shed:** LACA, the Latin American Cultural Association, is trying to organise a Men's Shed for Spanish speakers in Brisbane (or if you would like to practice Spanish, come along!). If you would like to join, please contact Luis Guillermo Sanchez at 0434 849 860 or [sanluisgui@hotmail.com](mailto:sanluisgui@hotmail.com)

For information on other Men's Sheds, go to [www.mensshed.org](http://www.mensshed.org) or phone 1300 550 009.

## Retirement Villages & Home Parks

The Park and Village Information Link (PAVIL), part of Caxton Legal Centre, is a specialist service providing free information and legal assistance for **residents and prospective**

**residents** of retirement villages and manufactured home parks in Queensland.



PAVIL aims to help people to:

- understand their rights and responsibilities
- obtain the knowledge and skills to present their interests to village and park operators
- have increased access to appropriate legal advice services.

To access the service, please call Caxton Legal Centre on 07 3214 6333.

## Seniors Enquiry Line

Seniors Enquiry Line is a free telephone information and referral service for seniors, their family, friends, carers and service providers that has been operating since August 1999. It is a Statewide service funded by the Queensland Government and operated by UnitingCare Community.

The difference with our service is that it is not automated: there are no buttons to press and when the phone is answered, you get to talk to a real person – one of our friendly staff.



Seniors Enquiry Line has a wealth of information on topics including concessions, accommodation, health, transport, finance, computers, leisure activities and much more. In fact, **we will try to answer any questions at all that you have, or refer you to the appropriate service.** In some cases we will call you back if it means we have more time to find out the information for you. Also, if you are on a mobile we can call you back.

As well as phoning us, you can check our website at [www.seniorenquiryline.com.au](http://www.seniorenquiryline.com.au) – you might like to click on 'Useful Links' in the top menu.

Seniors Enquiry Line operates Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm, and you can ring us on **1300 135 500** for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Queensland.