



SNIPPETS

March 2018 | Edition 192

Seniors Enquiry Line

Linking Seniors with
Community Information

In this Issue:

- Did You Know?
- The Wangari Scam
- Contacting a Politician
- Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate
- Dementia Research for Spouse/Partner
- March through History

Quote of the Month:

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure... but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."

- Francis Chan

Contact Details:

Phone : 1300 135 500

Email : sel@ucommunity.org.au

www.seniorsenquiryline.com.au

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?

"Almost" is the longest English word where all of the letters are in alphabetical order

Types of Scams: The Wangiri Scam



At any one time there are numerous scams occurring around Australia. Seniors Enquiry Line has been assisting people to identify scams in order to determine if they truly are scams, if people have become victims, and if so are assisted in taking the correct course of action to eliminate or minimise the impact. One of the ways we do this is by alerting seniors to various forms of scams or fraud.

The Wangiri scam appears to be gaining momentum within Queensland and the rest of the country at the moment. The Wangiri scam is also known as the "one ring and cut" scam – wan means "one" and giri means "hang up" in Japanese.

How it works: People may receive calls from overseas that call for one or two calls and then hang up. This is then repeated numerous times, with reports of up to about 30 times. These calls are frequently at odd hours of the night, but can be received at any time. There is no specific country that they call from, however Liberia, Slovenia and various African countries are common. Their aim is to have the person being called return the call. These phone numbers are toll numbers and can cost many dollars per minute or part thereof. Generally they are dialled by a machine, so the scammers can reach maximum people. If you call before they hang up, there will be no response.

What to do: **If you call back, it costs you money.** They try and keep you on for a long as possible, costing you more and more money. Whilst it is annoying and you may want to vent at them for repeatedly calling and hanging up, DON'T. Just ignore it. **It will cost you money if you call back.** If you know someone from that country, do not call back on the number that called you, but look up their number and dial that instead. The best thing to do is put your phone on silent and vibration off or put it in another room. If you would like advice or think you may have been a subject to a scam, please call **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we will be happy to assist you.

Contacting a Politician

There have been times when we have all wanted to contact a politician with regard to something that we consider unacceptable. Most don't though, as it can be a daunting process and we figure "what is the point anyway"? They are our elected representatives and they should be guided by the people they represent. Here is a quick guide on contacting your politician and how to get bang for your buck.

- Firstly, know your stuff. Make sure you are aware of all the facts of the situation, if it is a federal or state concern or even at council level.
- Do not expect to get a call directly from the politician. Politicians have advisors and staff and you will most likely be in contact with one of them.
- Don't expect an immediate answer. Politicians are people. Imagine yourself in their place, trying to answer questions immediately with no forewarning about any part of the electorate and beyond. Give them a reasonable amount of time to find out about the subject so they can respond with a measured response. However ask for a timeframe, so you know you haven't been forgotten.
- Do not expect a response from politicians who are not your elected representative. Communication with your representative will be most beneficial.
- If you prefer to meet face to face with your politician, make an appointment to see them. That way both schedules can be taken into account and you will be guaranteed a time.
- You can email or write to your politician, and in the majority of cases, you will receive correspondence back, even if it is a standardised letter.
- Above all else, politicians can't fix things if they don't know they are broken, so be confident in contacting your politicians. They do want to hear from you. For more information, go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-12-06/tips-for-contacting-local-politicians/9226664>

Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate

The Qld Government is currently giving rebates on washing machines, fridges and air conditioners that have a 4-Star rating or higher and must have been purchased after 1 January 2018. The amount allocated is \$20 million and once this is used, the rebate will no longer be available. For more information, contact **Seniors Enquiry Line** on **1300 135 500** and we can mail you more information about the rebate or speak with you to assist in determining eligibility.

Dementia Research for Spouse/Partner

Are you a spouse or partner of someone with dementia who has moved into residential care? Deborah Brooks from the Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is carrying out a Dementia Australia Research Foundation consumer priority PhD study into improving support to spouses and partners of residents with dementia.

She would like to hold group or individual discussions with spouses and partners of residents with dementia to find out more about their experiences of moving a relative into long term care, the impact this has on them, the coping strategies they use and the support they need.

Group and individual discussions will be held in towns and suburbs within driving distance of Brisbane and will last approximately 60-90 minutes. Travel/parking expenses and refreshments can be made available.

This project has been approved by the QUT Human Research Ethics Committee (approval number 1700000529).

If you are interested in taking part in this project or would like further information, please contact: Deborah Brooks at deborah.brooks@qut.edu.au or via phone on 07 3138 3882

March through History

- 1842** Anaesthesia is used for the first time in an operation
- 1845** The rubber band is invented
- 1903** The first version of 'Monopoly' is developed
- 1921** The first woman is elected to an Australian parliament
- 1938** Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia
- 1959** The first Barbie doll debuts
- 1960 The laser is invented
- 1963** The Beatles release their first album; Please, Please, Me
- 1965** First person walks in space
- 1984** Australia introduces the \$100 note
- 2011** Tsunami off the coast of Japan claims almost 16,000 deaths
- 2233** Captain James T Kirk of the Starship Enterprise will be born.