



SNIPPETS

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Seniors Enquiry Line

*Linking Seniors with
Community Information*

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Quote for the Month

A smile is a curve
that sets everything
straight.

~ Phyllis Diller

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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.

Optometry Charges

From 1 January 2015, when you obtain new glasses, optometrists can now set their own fees for their services, some of which can usually be reimbursed by Medicare. The fee which pensioners are charged varies, but may leave a gap of perhaps \$10.



However, some optometrists still bulk bill in which case no fee is charged.

The most convenient way to claim the Medicare benefit is at your optometrist if they offer electronic claiming (you need an EFTPOS card, and the Medicare benefit is credited to your account within 1 or 2 days), otherwise you can claim online or visit a Medicare Centre.

If you have held a pension card, health care card or Seniors Card for over 6 months, you are still entitled to free spectacles every 2 years under the Spectacle Supply Scheme (SSS), or earlier if you have certain changes in your eyesight. However, the optometrist may charge their fee for examination and prescription.

To obtain a list of optometrists in your area who are part of the SSS, phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500

Entry into an Aged Care Home

The booklet, "Five steps to entry into an aged care home", published by the Australian Government, aims to help older people, families and carers understand the process for moving into an aged care home.

It outlines five steps to follow: determining eligibility, finding an aged care home, costs, applying for an aged care home, and what it's like to live there (including resident agreement, rights & responsibilities, and more). It also includes a help list of questions with relevant phone numbers.

For a copy of the booklet, call Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.

What's On

Lifeline Bookfests - Gold Coast & Rockhampton

Both bookfests have a huge range of books, and all funds raised help support Lifeline's free counselling and support services. Rockhampton's Bookfest also sells clothing.

Gold Coast: 15 - 17 May, 8am to 5pm, at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Rockhampton: 22 - 24 May, 10am to 4pm, at the Rockhampton Showgrounds.

Web: www.uccommunity.org.au/brisbane-bookfest

Pumpkin Festival – Goomeri

31st May 6:00am - 4:30pm

Enjoy novelty events, a variety of pumpkin foods, street parade and markets, live entertainment & more.

Venue: Boonara & Moore Sts, Goomeri

Web: www.goomeripumpkinfestival.com.au

Phone: (07) 4168 1925



Family History for Beginners - Cairns

14th May 10.30am - 12.30pm

Workshop about family history resources. Basic computer skills required. Cost: \$10.

Venue: Manunda Library, phone (07) 4044 3779

Other events on Seniors Enquiry Line's 'Events' pages include:

Women's Health and Well-Being Expo – Robina; Captain Cook 1770 Festival at Seventeen Seventy; The Australian Bee Gees Show – Caloundra; Logan Eco Action Festival - Meadowbrook; Port Douglas Carnival; Renaissance Faire – Broadbeach.

Computer Clubs

The Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA) supports and encourages seniors to take advantage of modern information technology. They have a listing of computer clubs in Australia which you can access at their website: www.ascca.org.au (see 'Clubs Directory' in the left-hand menu) or else phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500.

The Brisbug Computer Club is a Brisbane non-profit club for PC users which is suitable for seniors, beginners and advanced users. Membership is \$55, and the club meets at Windsor. At the meetings, you can hear presentations, share your knowledge and skills, and get help with hardware and software. Members can take in their computers for help with diagnosing problems, and possible fixes. For more information, go to www.brisbug.asn.au or phone (07) 3353 3121.

Commemorative ANZAC Records



Almost 10,000 hand-written records of Queenslanders killed in World War 1 have been digitised and are now accessible online through the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The digitised records can be searched online for free. Images of individual registry entries and commemorative death certificates are available for a fee: the commemorative ANZAC death certificate (with a picture of either poppies or a soldier) to commemorate the death of a fallen family member, costs \$28.

To search for a record, go to www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research If you don't have computer access, call 1300 366 430.

New rules for Bicycles

Drivers should know about new rules for bicycles that have been introduced in Queensland. Cyclists can now:

- ride on a single lane roundabout like any other road user, taking up the whole lane
- choose **not** to ride in a bicycle lane – bicycle lanes are now optional
- ride across zebra and children's crossings, as long as they stop and check that it's safe to do so first.

Also, when passing a cyclist, drivers must give a minimum passing distance of at least 1 metre in a 60km/h zone, or 1.5m in a speed zone of above 60km/h.

It is legal for cyclists to ride on footpaths, though they must give way to pedestrians.



Neighbourhood Disputes

QAILS, the peak organisation for Queensland's community legal centres, has a website which is a self-directed guide that aims to help users find solutions to their neighbourhood problems.

For disputes about noise, animals, fences, trees etc, visit the Queensland Neighbourhood Disputes website: www.qldneighbourhoods.com If you don't have computer access, you are welcome to phone Seniors Enquiry Line on 1300 135 500 for information.