

## Seniors welcome no-frills super

OLDER Australians have welcomed the Federal government's commitment to cheaper, simpler and more transparent superannuation in its response to the Cooper Review. Of the 117 Super System Review recommendations put to the Government in June, the most critical to consumers, said National Seniors chief executive, Michael O'Neill, was the introduction of the default, no-frills MySuper option "For too long, the retirement savings of ordinary, hardworking Australians have been unknowingly milked by industry through fees and trailing commissions," said O'Neill.

"It's not illegal, but the super system is so murky, so complex that very few consumers would know they've been paying \$85 a month or over \$1000 a year in fees alone. This green light for a simple default fund with lower fees means that when consumers hit retirement they'll have an extra \$40,000 in retirement savings," he said. "Australia Institute research suggests those savings could be as high as \$100,000". "On both choice and default products, we are keen to see the development of an independent consumer-friendly website that would allow Australians to easily compare super funds, performance and fees," he said.

Courtesy: National Seniors 'Connect'

## Fair Trading gets social on the net

CONSUMERS, businesses and stakeholders can now receive real time updates from the Queensland Office of Fair Trading (OFT) through its new social media presence on facebook, twitter and youtube. Minister for Fair Trading Peter Lawlor said it was important for Government agencies to embrace technology to better communicate with stakeholders. "Queenslanders will now be able to receive instant updates from the OFT by logging onto Facebook and Twitter accounts," Mr Lawlor said.

"From consumer alerts to changes in legislation, Facebook and Twitter allow the OFT to provide ways to communicate that is instant, accessible for Queenslanders and provides transparency in Government communications," Mr Lawlor said. "Just recently with the floods that affected areas of our state we saw how important it was to ensure fast and effective communication between Government agencies and the public.

"By utilising social media like Facebook and Twitter we'll be able to provide information through mobile phones if other communication channels aren't available.

"I encourage anyone interested in keeping up to date with the latest news from the OFT to join us on the net.

"The OFT has also established a dedicated YouTube page which will allow people to access videos and webinars from their home, work or mobile device." Click on the link to follow the Office of Fair Trading at Twitter, join the network on Facebook, or check it out on YouTube.

For more information, contact Fair Trading by visiting [www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au) or by calling 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

## Have you made a will?

THE Red Cross 'Wills Day' will be held on Tuesday 22 February at the Robina Community Centre.

The Red Cross advises that many people pass away without a legal will and this can cause tremendous stress to those left behind.

A will should be updated when circumstances change, such as the birth or death of a family member, change of marital status, or superannuation policy details.

The Red Cross offers residents the chance to come along and talk to a solicitor about what is involved in creating or changing a will, and the updating or preparation of a will, for just \$75.

For more information, or to make an appointment, please phone Kathy Smythe, Red Cross Donor Relations Coordinator on (07) 5539 7033 or email [ksmythe@redcross.org.au](mailto:ksmythe@redcross.org.au).

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## GCCC deferred rates payment options

IF you have a Pensioner Concession Card, Veteran Affairs' Gold Card or Queensland Seniors' Card, you may be entitled to defer the payment of part of your rates bill.

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Who is eligible? (a) You must own and occupy the property and (b) your general rate must be more than the Minimum General Rate and (c) you must be the holder of a Pensioner Concession Card or Repatriation Health Care Card. Conditions apply.

Phone the Customer Contact Centre on 1300 366 659 or visit [www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/rates](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/rates).  
Courtesy GCCC GC Life eNewsletter

### Brain Fodder

What is the value of x in this series? 4, 9, x, 25

*Answer: 16 (all squares)*



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Broadbeach  
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## Are you raising Grandchildren?



## Do you need information?

**CALL Grandparents Information**

Also ask about **'Time for Grandparents'** a program providing time out for eligible grandparents, activities for grandchildren, grandfamily camps and support with school camps.

**1300 135 500**

Seniors Enquiry Line **1300 13 5500**

Linking seniors with community information  
Funded by QLD Government Department of Communities.