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### From the Editor:

**Social issues**—The aim of this newsletter is to provide seniors, and seniors peak bodies, with a brief overview of the most recent issues and perspectives raised and expressed on matters relevant to seniors.

**Events**—In addition, the newsletter will flag important events that will be taking place and we will also report to you on some of those events.

**Technology**—The electronic form of the newsletter allows us to point you to online resources which are likely to inspire you or make your life easier. Enjoy.

**Other news, tips and your views**—We always welcome your comments. Please send them to [newsletter@seniorseventscalendar.com.au](mailto:newsletter@seniorseventscalendar.com.au). We will publish most interesting posts.

### Seniors in Press Recent Headlines June—July

- **Aged Care - CPSA** calls on the Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot to overhaul the Aged Care Complaints Investigation Scheme in order for complaints to be investigated properly – not ignored. “There are clear failings in the current Complaints Investigation Scheme and the role of the Aged Care Commissioner. As a result, lapses in care get swept under the carpet and not a thing can be done about it” said CPSA Policy Coordinator, Charmaine Crowe ([Click for more](#)).
- **Policy Directions— In June**, The Minister for Ageing, Mrs Justine Elliot, and the New South Wales Minister for Ageing and Disability Services, Mr Paul Lynch, announced an extra \$13.3 million for Home and Community Care (HACC) services in New South Wales. This is to assist 223,000 people in New South Wales a year – some of whom may otherwise have had to prematurely move into permanent residential aged care .
- **Women and cardiovascular disease** - The leading cause of death among women in Australia today is cardiovascular disease (CVD). More than 22,000 women each year die of cardiovascular disease and it is especially prevalent in older women. Despite this, cardiovascular disease is still seen as being something that is largely associated with middle-aged males. This is a myth that should be debunked. The National Heart Foundation’s campaign, *Go Red for Women* aims to raise awareness of the fact that CVD is a serious health risk for all Australian women. ([Click for more](#)).

### Retirement Intentions (Source: ABS)

**7.7m baby boomers in Australia** — “The survey estimated that there were 7.7 million people aged 45 years and over in Australia.

Of these:

- 3.1 million (41%) were **retired** from the labour force;
- 3.9 million (50%) were currently **employed**;
- 110,700 (1%) were currently **unemployed**;
- and 574,600 (7%) were not currently in the labour force, but had not retired
- 40% of all employed people aged 15 years and over are baby boomers.
- They also accounted for 21% of retired people aged 45 years and over (18% of retired men and 24% of retired women).
- About 15% (568,400) of employed people aged 45 years and over indicated that they did not intend to retire, and nearly two-thirds (64%) of these were men.
- Of those wishing to retire, 24% intended to retire aged 70 years and over (30% of men, 17% of women);
- 40% intended to retire aged 65-69 years (45% of men, 34% of women);
- 24% intended to retire aged 60-64 years (18% of men, 31% of women);
- More Statistics on Page 2.

### Did You Know?

The **Community Visitors Scheme** (CVS) is an Australian Government initiative first introduced in 1991, funded through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. This free service is aimed at alleviating the loneliness of isolated residents in aged care facilities (nursing homes and hostels) by introducing them to visitors from the community. [Click for More on this Topic](#)

## The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Report

### *Residential Aged Care in Australia 2007–08: A statistical overview.*

Released June 2009

- By 2056 the Australian Bureau of Statistics predicts that the over-65s will make up 23 per cent of Australia's population.
- The Rudd Government is committed to providing affordable access to appropriate care and services for Australians as they age.
- Over the next four years this Government will provide more than \$44 billion in funding for aged care and community care.
- The Rudd Government will continue its substantial investment in the nation's aged care system.
- During 2009-10 funding will increase to \$9.9 billion, including \$7.1 billion for residential aged care – an increase of almost 10 per cent on last year's funding.
- There were 105,030 admissions to residential aged care between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, of which 53,737 were for permanent care.
- On average, the length of time people spend in residential aged care is increasing. The average length of stay for permanent residents in residential aged care during 2007–08 was 147.8 weeks compared with 145.9 last year and 131.3 weeks in 1998–99; and
- Of the 47,338 residents who had been assessed under the new Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) 76 per cent of these residents were classified as high care residents and around 48 per cent had a recorded diagnosis of dementia. ([Source](#))



### Our Technology Hints

If you need intellectual stimulation, entertain your grandchildren, or simply catch up on your favourite radio or TV programs, we invite you to explore <http://broadbandforseniors.com.au> . Visit the site and keep clicking.

Today we focus on social networking.

**FaceBook** — We have discovered lately that FaceBook is not only for teens. It is a new way of staying in touch and sharing. FaceBook allows us to create "interactive webpages" and make use of different online applications, create and join Discussion Groups. On FaceBook, we post what interests us, we make links to sites, online videos and events that are important to us. We can tell others about our business and spread the word. We get creative with pages to which others can subscribe and share the fruits of our production. Our friends can look up our pages and can learn about what we do and what we like to share. The same goes for us. We can link to our friends' pages and those of the friends of our friends. We can send comments and, unless we make them private, they can be shared by the community around our friends. And yes there is more. Why bother? Because each of us is creative and FaceBook allows us to store and share the fruits of this creativity. If you are not convinced, save this information for one day when "your friends or family will make you do it"....

#### FaceBook tutorials —

- We have compiled an interactive online page with links to youtube video tutorials teaching about FaceBook [CLICK HERE](#) . You can use it, subscribe to it and also add your own links.
- For video that best describes the concept of social networking, [CLICK HERE](#).

**Smart bookmarking** — The next link will take you to a great video explaining briefly a website which helps you overcome the messy bookmarking system of all Internet browsers. From now on, you can use a simple system that almost automatically helps you categorise and then find all the websites, you have ever liked and bookmarked. To learn the solution, [CLICK HERE](#) . Similar function is offered by Firefox. If keen, explore <http://www.xmarks.com/>

**Next in the September Newsletter** — Next in our column, we will show you how to create and publish flashy websites for \$0.



- **What events can you find in the Calendar?**

The events may range from community conferences to local afternoon teas for seniors, to announcements of emergency meetings and so on.

- **What makes the Calendar unique and useful?**

The Calendar provides a central, universally-accessible, place which, ideally, would list all seniors events in Australia, thus obviating the drudgery of having to search through the many community websites which exist – and also to facilitate serendipitous discovery of community activities. The calendar is not intended to replace the current information channels, but is meant to enrich them.

[Finding Events—Click for a demonstration video](#)

See also <http://communityEVENTScalendar.com.au>

- **Purpose of the Calendar**

The Seniors Events Calendar was constructed to inform and connect. It provides individuals and organisations with a simple way to reach out to the community and, as a consequence, enable people to have a quick and clear way of identifying relevant events in their neighbourhood or around Australia.

- **Benefits**

The calendar of seniors events is self-managing. The owners of events enter the information themselves, determine the look of each entry and decide when an event is to be made public.

- The calendar gives individuals and organisations the capacity to insert for themselves events into a single national website. This, in turn, should increase the visibility of those events and therefore the visibility of local branches, organisations and associations which often lack the computer power or the IT Know-How to use the Internet. To assist this process, add a link to the Calendar on your own website.

## Contact us

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- Contact us, if you need help with our calendars. Our Team is always ready to help.
- Also, refer to the Help Files created on the Calendar websites.
- If you would like to send a report about your events, we will be happy to publish it.

