



## New year, new beginnings! It's never too late to begin again!

A new year is generally a time for reflection, review and renewal!

You'll be off to a great start by joining the branch for the January catch up 'Planning for Purpose'.

See page 2 for more details!

## Learn Basic Computer Skills in 2026

**NEW START DATE:  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Childers Branch is excited to confirm that The Good Things Foundation has awarded funding for delivery of 10 x 2 hour weekly workshops to support 30 older Australians aged 50+ to develop their digital skills and confidence through free face-to-face contact, utilising the learning courses available on the Be Connected Learning site.

Bookings are essential to avoid disappointment. Click on the link below for more information and to book.

**LINK**

**Date Claimer for  
Harmony Day 2026  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March!**

See page 3 for more details. Interested in being actively involved in Harmony Day 2026?

Please contact Desley on 0419 817 973 or email [childersnationalseniors@gmail.com](mailto:childersnationalseniors@gmail.com) to arrange a time to discuss.

## Stay up to date

Save the link to your favourites to keep up to date with branch happenings:

[Childers National Seniors](http://childersnationalseniors.com.au)

..or google Childers National Seniors and the branch should be top of the list!

*Kindness is contagious!*

## REGULAR CATCH UP DATES

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Planning for Purpose**

**10am-12pm**

**Isis Club, 46 Churchill St, Childers**

*Buy your own food/drink.*

Do you feel like you are just sitting around waiting to die?

Don't know what to do with yourself to get meaning back? This fun activity will help.

**Thursday 5th March 2026**

**10am - 11.30am**

**Funding for Arts and Community**

**Isis Club, 75 Churchill St, Childers**

*Buy your own food/drink.*

*Find out how you can apply for arts or community funding from Bundaberg Regional Council  
Community Arts Development Officer Jolene Watson.*

**Thursday 2nd April 2026**

**10am - 11.30am**

**Isis Club, 75 Churchill St, Childers**

*Buy your own food/drink.*

From March 2026, monthly catch ups will be held on the first Thursday of the month at the Isis Club from 10am.

Guest speaker for April 2026 will be announced soon!



## Planning for Purpose Isis Club Inc

**Thursday 5th February 2026**

**9.30am-12midday**

**46 Churchill St, Childers. QLD**

**RSVP to Desley 0419 817 973**

**Cost: free**

**Buy your own drinks and eats.**



### Planning for Purpose

**Do you feel like you are just sitting around waiting to die?**

**Don't know what to do with yourself to get meaning back?**

**This fun activity will help.**

*New Year*  
NEW YOU!

**Tailored especially for Seniors over 50!**

*New Year*  
NEW YOU!

Whether you are still in the work force, planning your retirement or already retired, this planning event will be tailored just for you!

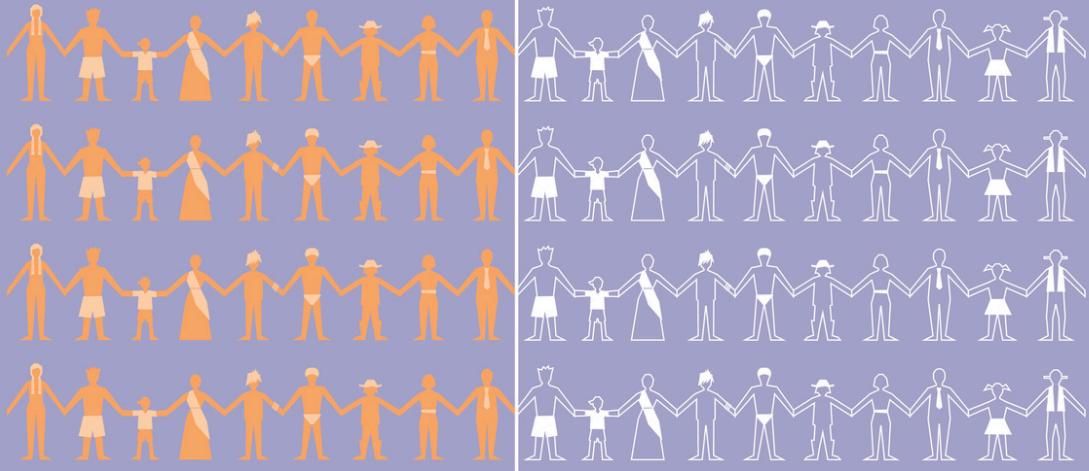
Please don't think that, 'at your age', you can't still make a difference and make a meaningful contribution. It simply isn't true!

Discover new ways to refine, rethink or plan your goals for 2026 and, if you'll allow it, branch members will support you along the way where they can!

Be sure to join the branch mailing list, facebook page or check out the National Seniors Australia Childers web page for more details as venue and costs are finalised.

Everyone welcome!

<https://nationalseniors.com.au/get-involved/branches/childers-social-branch>



**Almost half of Australians were either born overseas or have a parent who was**

**MARCH 2026**

**Join us for a month of fun, friendship & learning**



### **Regular Catch up**

**Thursday 5th March 2026**

**10am-11.30am**

**Isis Club, 46 Churchill St, Childers. QLD  
RSVP to Desley 0419 817 973**

**Cost: free**

Share creative ideas and thoughts, gain information on potential collaboration and eligibility for RADF funding to support creative projects in 2026.

Special guest speaker for March is Jolene Watson, Community Arts Development Officer, Bundaberg Regional Council.

Free to join the chat. Buy your own food/drink.

*Date  
Claimers!*

**Over the past 70 years,  
more than seven and a  
half million migrants  
have made Australia  
home**

### **Harmony Day**

**Wednesday 18th March 2026**

**10am-2pm**

**Isis Club, 46 Churchill St, Childers. QLD**

**The town is already talking about this day!**

An extra special event which includes food from all corners of the globe, cultural presentations, recipes, guest speakers and more!

The Bundaberg Regional Council Community Services Program provided \$4640 to Childers National Seniors towards delivery of this event in collaboration with Childers Multicultural Friendship Group, Howard District U3A and Childers Neighbourhood Centre.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2026 FOR CHILDERS BRANCH



### Regular Catch ups

First Thursday of the month until November 2026  
10am-11.30am

Isis Club, 46 Churchill St, Childers. QLD  
RSVP to Desley 0419 817 973  
Cost: free  
Buy your own drinks and eats.

Every month, the branch will hold a regular catch up on the first Thursday of the month at the Isis Club.

The format will always be:

- Update/feedback on National Seniors Australia advocacy campaigns.
- A local guest speaker
- Update/feedback on local issues

Members and guests are always welcome. Free to attend the meet up. Buy your own food and drink.



### Be part of the community that gets things done!

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
10am-12midday

Isis Club, 46 Churchill St, Childers. QLD

Current volunteers will meet in January to plan the Childers NSA Branch year, then 2026 will kick off with the first branch catch-up in February.

The group is a warm, friendly bunch and welcome anyone excited at the thought of helping grow the branch to make a meaningful difference in 2026.

Choose what you'd like to do—there are no titles, just a friendly team working together.

Contact Desley to learn more or RSVP.

# National advocacy update



## Cash Mandate: A 'baby step' forward

National Seniors Australia (NSA) has cautiously welcomed new Federal Government regulations requiring fuel and grocery retailers to accept cash from 1 January 2026. The rules apply to in-person transactions of \$500 or less between 7am and 9pm, helping ensure people who rely on cash can continue paying for essentials. Small businesses with annual turnover under \$10 million will generally be exempt. Consumers can also continue paying bills in cash through Australia Post outlets. While the changes are positive, NSA says the reforms are limited and should be closely monitored. NSA is calling for stronger action, including measures to maintain access to cash, particularly in regional and remote communities. Keep Cash stickers are available from your branch.

**Read the full article:**

<https://bit.ly/NSAcashstep>



## Get your favourite cafe on the EAT|PLAY|SAVE app

Many NSA members are saving every day using the EAT | PLAY | SAVE app, and you can help make it even better. We are looking to increase the number and variety of businesses offering discounts, especially in regional and rural areas.

You can help by encouraging local cafés, restaurants and other businesses to join the app and enjoy more customers through their doors. Flyers are available from your branch to help start the conversation. Businesses just scan the QR code, enter their details and we take care of the rest.

It is free for businesses to join and a great way to attract loyal, repeat customers with exclusive offers.

**Visit the sign-up page:**

<http://bit.ly/44ts5Hy>

**National Seniors Australia is urging retailers who accept cash to proudly display our sticker.**

**Register for bumper stickers and retailer stickers to distribute in your local area.**

**Visit our KEEP CA\$H campaign page:** [bit.ly/3wEOLGu](https://bit.ly/3wEOLGu)



## PAST EVENT SNAPSHOT!



The Good Cause Santa Claus special event, where members and guests did the giving, was a fabulous morning thanks largely to the lovely ladies from Childers CWA who catered for the event, which was held in their historic cottage on Crescent Street.

Lovely venue, lovely company, excellent food and a welcome collection of donations to add to their drive and the Childers Neighbourhood, Share the Dignity Drive. Federal Member for Hinkler David Batt and Division 2 Councillor Bill Trevor also attended.



*Giving is the best gift to receive.*

## What is a Social Branch?

The social branch structure is more relaxed, requiring volunteers to do the fun things like organise activities and maintain contact with members and NSA.

No bank accounts! No committee! No reporting requirements! How good is that?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DID YOU KNOW THAT FOREST VIEW CARE HAVE A MEDICAL TRANSPORT BUS AVAILABLE?

Community service for locals, not only Forest View residents, currently \$10 for medical appointments in Childers town. Pick up and drop off from your home. Wheelchair friendly.

The service is also available to the Childers community for return trips from their home to medical appointments in Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Maryborough. There is an additional cost which can be claimed on the PTSS. [Return](#) trip pricing examples:

Childers to Bundaberg - \$46

Childers to Howard - \$26

Childers to Woodgate - \$32

Childers to Buxton - \$24

Childers to Maryborough - \$52

Forest View bus drivers are very much appreciated volunteers. FVC try to keep times between 8am and 4pm with some flexibility depending on driver's availability. Contact Forest View for more information or to book



*Information correct at the time of writing*

## Branch Contact Details

Desley Cowley  
Childers Social Branch  
Volunteer  
0419 817 973

**E:** [ChildersNationalSeniors@gmail.com](mailto:ChildersNationalSeniors@gmail.com)  
**W:** <https://nationalseniors.com.au/get-involved/branches/childers-social-branch>