

National Seniors

AUSTRALIA

ADELAIDE NORTH-WEST BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Meeting at 1.30 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month at
Lockleys Baptist Church house, 244 Henley Beach Road, Underdale (parking at rear)

COMMITTEE

President..... Brian Mibus (0417 887701)

Vice-President....Trevor Molde (0417 838740)

Secretary Kathy Hancock (0432 101372)

Treasurer..... Dawn Thomas

Activities Coordinators

- Outings Annie McCall
- Speakers..... Heather Dowling

Committee Jeanette Molde

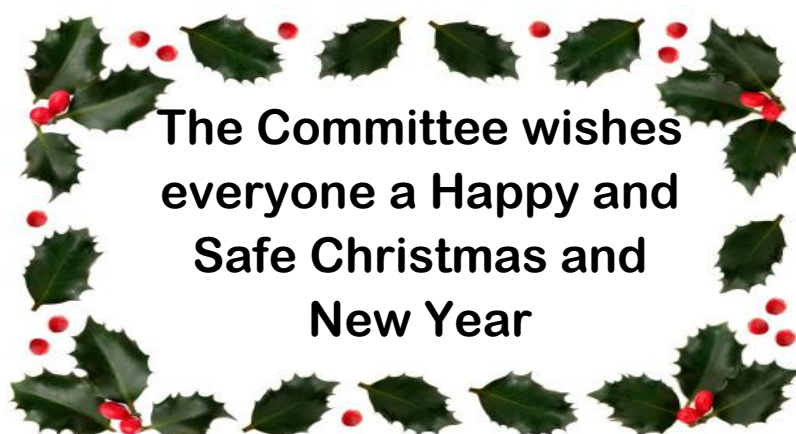
Jenny Mathews

Mavis Smith

Newsletter Trish Mibus (0407 605091)

2025 / 2026 CALENDAR

DATE All dates are Wednesdays	ACTIVITY	AFTERNOON TEA
2025 November 26, 1.30 pm	Guest Speaker - Cassandra from Life Care	Carole Smith
2026 January 21, 2026 5.30 pm	OUR 'BEAT THE HEAT' MEETING – DINNER AT THE ALBERTON HOTEL GUEST SPEAKER – JENNIFER MACKENZIE – Writer of Historical Fiction A \$10 deposit will be collected for our January dinner at the November meeting.	



Our October Guest Speaker – Mataan Dunning, Financial Adviser Fiducian Financial Services

Residential Aged Care – huge changes to the Aged Care Act came in on November 1, 2025

RAD – Refundable Accommodation Deposit – pay for room

RAC – Refundable Accommodation Contribution – partial payment

Previously - RAD – was increased to \$500,000 and the provider must refund the entire balance of a resident's RAD/RAC.

From November 1 the resident (or their estate) will not get the full deposit refunded and providers are able to keep 2% per year up to 5 years

Payment structure has all gone up.

The new maximum accommodation price has increased RAD to \$750,000 with the 2% fee, to be under the CPI index each year.

Support at Home – Will replace existing Home Care packages. 4 package levels have been replaced by 8 packages plus End of Life, Respite Care (12 weeks).

New means testing rules

Clinical care services, such as nursing care, will be fully funded by government regardless of a person's means.

Services that promote independence will be fully funded by government for full pensioners but attract a co-contribution of between 5-50% for part-pensioners and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders (CSHC)—and a co-contribution of 50% for self-funded retirees without a CSHC.

Services related to everyday living (e.g. gardening) will attract a 17.5% co-contribution from pensioners, a co-contribution of between 17.5% and 80% for part pensioners and CSHC holders, and a co-contribution of 80% for self-funded retirees without a CSHC.

People on a Full Pension receive Clinical services for free, pay 5% for Independence services, 17.5% for Everyday living.

Downsizing – can mean less maintenance, income boost, sea change, close to family or support.

It can impact your pension if you receive additional money from the sale of your house.

When downsizing, costs involved need to be taken into consideration – agent's fees, marketing, stamp duty of 5-6% on your new property. **Always get advice before going down this path.**

Centrelink monitors assets and income – they undertake an Asset Test and an Income Test when looking at eligibility for a pension and you will receive whichever gives you the lower amount.

The family home is not included in the Asset test except if it is a large rural property when part is counted. The balance from downsizing goes into income % deemed.

Retirement income better money in bank and part pension.

People over 55 years can make additional super contributions of \$300,000 single, or \$600,000 per couple from the sale of their home if they are living in the property and have owned it for 10 years or more.

If you are under 75 years you can put money into your Super without selling your home.

Some products are Centrelink friendly e.g. Annuities – don't count all of this amount.

Retirement Income products – Super income – Centrelink count as asset and you can get money out of the account. Commonwealth Annuities – pay for the rest of your life but it's hard to get extra money out. If you put some in Annuities and some in Super it is more flexible.

Super – no death tax – tax is hidden.

If your super is included in your estate through your will, it takes time for the beneficiaries to get the money and it can be contested.

If you nominate beneficiaries through the Super fund the money doesn't go into the estate and is

usually paid our quicker and is not as easy to contest. If you nominate your spouse, it is tax free, but if you nominate someone else, it is taxable.

Your super balance is made up of a taxable component and tax-free component. There are strategies that can be put in place to change the structure of super so that tax is minimal.

It is recommended that you sit down with a Financial Planner to talk through your specific situation.

Fiducian Financial Planning has many ways to help clients. The first appointment is free and is to talk about your specific situation but if you

choose to go ahead, they charge a fee to put a plan together for you.

Financial Planners have a legal obligation to work for their clients and for the advice given to them. Banks will give general information but do not have the same legal obligations.

Mataan is happy to meet clients at a People's Choice branch near you or at his office in Flinders Street or the Norwood branch of Fiducian.

Mataan's Phone number is 0429 905 721

OUR NOVEMBER OUTING WAS CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT LOCKLEYS HOTEL



A Politician Meets a Native

A politician visits a remote Native American community.

With news crews following him around as they tour the place, he asks the chief if there was anything the people need.

"Well," says the chief, "We have three very important needs. First, we have a medical clinic, but no doctor."

The politician whips out his mobile phone, dials a number, talks to somebody for two minutes and then hangs up.

"I've pulled some strings. Your doctor will arrive in a few days. Now what was the second problem?"

"We have no way to get clean water. The local mining operation has poisoned the water our people been drinking for thousands of years. We've been flying bottled water in, and it's terribly expensive."

Once again, the politician dials a number on his mobile, yells into the phone for a few minutes, and then hangs up.

"The mine has been shut down, and the owner is being billed for setting up a purification plant for your people.

Now what was that third problem?"

"We have no mobile phone reception up here," the chief says.

Now, ain't that the bloomin' truth!!