

## Karen Wilson

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**From:** Karen Wilson  
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**To:** Karen Wilson  
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Hi Everyone

We're excited to share our **March News for Seniors Social Isolation Services** — packed with fresh updates, and opportunities to help you better support older people in your community 🤝 ✨

This month, we're focusing on:

- 🌱 Online Engagement Hub (SSIP Hub)
- 📅 Key Dates and Opportunities
- 💡 Community of Practice Meetings
- 🔧 Grants & Funding Opportunities
- 👉 Ongoing & Exciting New Initiatives
- 🌟 Training & Development Opportunities

Whether you're looking for inspiration, collaboration, or actionable insights, there's something here for you!

### 🌱 Your New Online Engagement Hub

During February we've been piloting the **Seniors Social Isolation Prevention Hub (SSIP Hub)** with a small group of providers. Thanks to everyone who's involved in the pilot testing. Due to some technical difficulties, we've extended the deadline for feedback to 9 March. In March, we'll be inviting a further 10-15 providers to test the site and provide additional feedback. This is really important to us. It's your Hub, and we'd love to shape it together so it truly works for you 😊

The revisions will be implemented after Phase 3 feedback is received. Phase 4 testing will open from 11 March.

**If you'd like to be part of our Phase 4 testing in March, we'd love to hear from you** 😊 Just let me know and I'll send through the briefing document and template.

See also [SIL-Funded-Orgs-2026 - Google My Maps](#), which is listed on the SSIP Hub.

### 📅 Key Dates & Opportunities

- **8 March** - [International Women's Day \(IWD\) 2026](#)
- **8 March** – [Community Cabinet](#) (Sunshine Coast) An opportunity to meet directly with Premier David Cristafulli and Cabinet Ministers to discuss things that matter to you. *Other dates and locations listed.*
- **16-22 March** - [Harmony Week - Everyone belongs](#)

- **29 March** — [Day of Action | Neighbours Every Day](#)

See also **Queensland Women's Week Events** at: [Events calendar | Community support | Queensland Government](#)

If you're looking for some **inspiration and resources**, see the links below:

- [International Women's Day Resources](#)
- [Harmony Week Resources](#)
- [Neighbours Every Day Resources](#)

On Saturday 7 March, I'll be delivering an interactive storytelling session on the topic of "**Older Women in Queensland - Balancing the Scales through Volunteering**", with our lovely Volunteer Champion, Celsie Mead in North Lakes, City of Moreton Bay 🍷

**Is your organisation planning something for IWD, Harmony Day or Neighbours Day?** 🏠 We'd love to hear what you're doing and share your inspiring stories on our social media and website ✨ Feel free to let us know and send through a photo 📷

## 💡 **Community of Practice Meetings**

Below is our schedule for the Community of Practice (CoP) meetings for 2026.

- **COP1** - 18/2/26 - Digital Confidence and Access (**[View Recording here](#)**) *Meeting Notes to follow*
- **COP2** - 15/4/26 - Health, Care and Dignity
- **COP3** - 17/6/26 - Safety, Rights and Respect
- **COP4** - 19/8/26 - Housing and Homelessness
- **COP5** - 21/10/26 - Ageing Well and Celebration
- **COP6** - 16/12/26 - Reflection, Gratitude and Care

Calendar invites were sent out earlier this week. The Agenda for each meeting will be circulated at least one week prior to the meeting.

We encourage **all network members to engage and get involved!** If you'd like to be a **Guest Speaker** and share a **Good News Story** 🌟 we'd love to hear from you. Just reach out, and I'll make sure you're added to the agenda 😊

The Draft **Terms of Reference** are attached for review. Please send any **comments or suggestions to me by 31 March 2026**.

## 🔧 **Grants & Funding Opportunities**

Please find below some grants and funding opportunities for you to explore.

- [Active Australia Innovation Challenge \(AAIC\) | Heart Foundation](#) – **Closes 1 March 5pm**
- [Queensland Seniors Month Grants](#) - **open on 16 February 2026 and will close on 27 March 2026**
- [Bendigo Bank Community Grants](#) to help local communities thrive. The application process is simple, and they encourage everyone to apply!

- [Grants and opportunities | Good Things Foundation](#) (various)
- [QBE Foundation Local Grants Australia - Monday 16 February 2026 until 5pm AEDT Monday 16 March 2026](#) (Inclusion Category – to increase access to opportunities and resources for groups in your communities who experience exclusion or are marginalised in society (e.g., reconciliation, LGBTIQ+ inclusion and gender equality).

## 🔥 Ongoing & Exciting New Initiatives

Exciting things are happening! Check out some existing and new initiatives.

- [Chatty Cafe Scheme Australia](#)
- [Launch of the Indigenous Australian Lived Experience Centre - Black Dog Institute | Better Mental Health](#)
- [Ways to Wellness: A social prescription pathway to address social isolation and experiences of loneliness | Brisbane South PHN](#)
- [Queensland Social Prescribing Trial for children, families, and communities](#)

The **Social Connection Collective (SCC)**, a global network of practitioners, researchers, entrepreneurs, leaders and advocates working to end loneliness and build a more connected world. Born from the momentum of the [WHO Commission on Social Connection launch](#), the SCC unites people across sectors and countries to share ideas, collaborate and champion meaningful human connection.

**SCC Regional Connect meetings** for those doing social connection work across **Australia and the Pacific**, are Chaired by Tatia Power, Strategic Partnerships Manager, **Inclusee Virtual Community Centre**.

See LinkedIn for more info: [Social Connection Collective: Overview | LinkedIn](#). See also the Meeting Notes from CoP 1, held 18/2/26, for Tatia's contact details (to follow).

## 🔥 Training & Development Opportunities

Please find below some training and development opportunities that may be of interest, including a link to the P2i Help Centre.

- **Wed 4 March (10.00am – 11.30am) Online:** [Volunteering Queensland Learning Lab: Series Two, Part 1: Impact Evaluation Essentials](#)
- [Ageing Matters podcast series | Ageing Australia](#)
- **P2i's Training & Help Centre** (with step-by-step guides, online training and tutorial videos)
- **SaferSeniors** – free online training to protect the wellbeing of older people

I hope you found this information helpful. Together, let's keep building **stronger, more connected communities for older Queenslanders** 😊

Kind regards

Karen

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