



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

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#### **IPSWICH TO SHARE IN SENIORS WEEK FUNDING**

The Beattie Government has allocated \$1097.00 to 2 of the community groups from Ipswich for Seniors Week celebrations, Minister for Seniors Warren Pitt announced today.

Seniors Week 2004, which will be held from Saturday 14 August to Sunday 22 August, celebrates the diversity of older people in Queensland with the theme "*Ageing – Everybody's doing it*".

The Government has allocated almost \$130,000 to 130 groups Statewide to help fund events celebrating the occasion.

"Seniors Week is going to be a fantastic week, bursting with entertainment, energy and enthusiasm," Mr Pitt said.

"Last year, more than 380 events were held statewide, which reflects the immense support and interest Seniors Week generates around the state.

"I encourage all Queenslanders to participate in activities in their region to help celebrate Seniors Week 2004."

Seniors Week was first held in 1986 and is an annual Statewide celebration aiming to increase community awareness and understanding of the positive aspects of ageing.

The proportion of Queensland's population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 11.6 percent in 2001 to about 18 percent in 2021, with the number of older people projected to more than double from 422,000 to 887,000 people.

"The State Government's Seniors Week funding program, now in its fourth year, provides grants for community groups to host a range of events and activities celebrating the positive aspects of ageing during the week," Mr Pitt said.

The projects offer a rich variety of activities, including cross-generational and cross-cultural celebrations to promote positive images of ageing.

Events include valuing of older people through story telling, nostalgic reviews of life from the 1940's to the present and celebrating seniors embracing the 21st century through the acquisition of computer skills and life long learning activities.

Some of the Ipswich organisations to receive funding of up to \$1000 include;

- Ipswich 60 and Better Program Inc. to run the “Come and Try” experience for seniors on Friday 20 August 2004. This program aims to encourage positive, healthy ageing and to encourage people to think differently about the ageing experience.
- The University of the Third Age: Ipswich and West Moreton Inc. to run a lecture/workshop about “Language as it relates to ageing”.

Further information on Seniors Week is available on the Department of Communities web site at [www.communities.qld.gov.au](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au)