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Investing in the  
next generation

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The power of a  
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Knowing Jesus  
changed our lives

# Celebrating grandparents

Highlighting a unique and special relationship

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY 31 OCTOBER 2021



# SALVOS

MAGAZINE



Love is the greatest gift that one generation can leave to another.

*- Richard Garnett*





## The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

### What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

### Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

### Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

# Salvos Magazine

**Founders** William and Catherine Booth

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### Territorial Leaders

Commissioners Janine and Robert Donaldson

**Secretary for Communications and Editor-In-Chief**

Lieut-Colonel Neil Venables

**Publications Manager** Cheryl Tinker

**Assistant Editor** Simone Worthing

**Graphic Designer** Eris Alar

**Editorial phone** (03) 8541 4562

**Enquiry email** [salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:salvosmagazine@salvationarmy.org.au)

**All other Salvation Army enquiries** 13 72 58

**Cover:** Commissioner Barry Pobjie welcomes his baby granddaughter, Priya.

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**The power of a heartfelt hug**



**My Story [12]**

**Knowing Jesus changed our lives**

## Grandparenting

For many of us, grandparents were the ones who would play with us, tell us stories, give us chocolate and always be willing to listen to us. They were fun, patient and kind. Many others love being grandparents, or are looking forward to joining that club.

Not everyone though, has positive memories of their grandparents. For many, that relationship was distant, painful, damaging – or non-existent. Some grieve for their own children who, for whatever reason, can't become parents. Others are separated from grandchildren through family conflict, relationship breakdown or COVID-19.

In this edition of *Salvos Magazine*, different grandparents share their perspectives on this influential relationship, with an emphasis on the positive impact they can have on their grandchildren as they show unconditional love and sow lasting values into their lives.

In Faith Talk, Dean Simpson tells a story about his own grandfather, Albert, whose ongoing care for and acceptance of Andy – a man battling challenges with alcohol – changed Andy's outlook on life, and left a lasting impression on Dean as well.

To read more, go to [salvosmagazine.com.au](http://salvosmagazine.com.au)

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

# Celebrating grandparents

Highlighting a unique and special relationship

National Grandparents Day will be celebrated this year on 31 October. The day is dedicated to honouring grandparents and the special role they can play in families and in our communities. It also helps children become more aware of the strength, information, and guidance that older people can offer, and some of the unique challenges they may face.

Below, we hear from a few grandparents about what they love about being a grandparent and some of the unique ways they fulfil their role.

## FULL CIRCLE

I like to think that being a grandparent brings your own parenting full circle. To see the children you've raised now raising their own children, in a sense, completes the cycle. And if I'm totally honest, it does provide a little sweet revenge when I see my son having the same comical conversations, quizzical complications, and occasional cross words with his daughter that I had with him two decades ago.

It's great to be the 'fun' adult in the room, to spoil your grandchildren, to buy the loud toys and to say yes to one more piece of chocolate, knowing full well you won't suffer the ramifications of such an indulgence.

But being a grandparent is not just filling your grandkids with sugar and handing them back to their unsuspecting parents. Being a



**Above:** Shirli and Chris with "most" of their grandchildren; **Below:** Carolyn and Bruce love being an active part of their grandchildren's lives; **Bottom right:** Wendy and Rodney make the most of their time with their grandchildren.



grandparent is an extension of unconditional love. You love your grandkids and would do anything for them because you love your own children and would do anything for them.

As grandparents, you get to experience it all – the good, the bad, and sometimes the ugly. But what a privilege. Where mistakes may have been made in raising your own children, as a grandparent, you get to make amends by having a positive impact on helping to raise the next generation. It's like a second chance to do it all over again – only better. You go, Grandma!

– Carolyn



### FAMILY AND ELDERS

When Aboriginal people refer to their family, they mean their extended family. This might include parents, children, aunties, uncles, cousins, and grandparents, and it goes beyond genetics.

We are intertwined with our grandchildren because traditional ways and cultural expectations value and support our involvement. When our families regularly gather, there are multiple generations. This is normal to us. Having a house full of family and grandchildren is seen as an honour and privilege. As grandparents, like our parents and grandparents before us, we are here to serve not only our family, but also our community as Elders, holders of wisdom, cultural knowledge keepers and as teachers.

As grandparents, and in our stage in life, while our extended family have work or other commitments, we are seen as being a source of stability and support to provide a sense of belonging, safety, and security to our 'grandchildren'. Respect for grandparents is instilled in children from a young age, which results in us forming very strong bonds. Our most heart-warming moments are when our families gather, and there is this natural synergy of love, belonging and overall well-being of all who gather.

– Shirli

### FROM A DISTANCE

We love being grandparents. The challenge is doing this from a distance. Facetime has become our best friend.

We speak with our family often – each of the grandkids interacts with us 'when they want to'. Right from an early age, they knew our voices and faces and would interact with us via the screen. We have joined them on the trampoline, for a tea party, blown on hot scrambled eggs, have 'sat' on the table while they do crafts, played games, gone down the slippery dip with them – all via Facetime!

Just recently, I taught myself to crochet and, one by one, the grandkids put in their order for a blanket. As I made each loop, I thought of the grandchild this was being made for and prayed for them. When I handed it to them, I told them that they had been prayed for as I worked on the blanket and, as they snuggled under the rug, to remember that 'Mimi' had prayed for them.

When we are home in Australia for holidays, we really try to make the most of our time with the kids, including celebrating 'everyone's' birthday. We look forward to retirement when we can be physically in the same country as our precious kids and grandkids.

– Wendy



## SEIZE THE DAY

Several years ago, while holding my new grandson and obviously enjoying every moment, my daughter, who was looking on, asked, "Do you love your grandchildren more than you love us?" Of course, my answer was a no, but I wondered what was different about a grandparent's love?

I went on to explain that when my kids were little, I was concerned about all that had to be done and about what was next. With my grandchildren, I have realised that time goes so quickly, and before you know it, they are all grown up. I have learnt to seize the day, to enjoy each moment and to love these 15 deeply. Other things can wait! **– Sandra**

**Below:** Sandra, right, and David, left, make sure they enjoy every moment with their many grandchildren; **Opposite page, top:** Barry and Raemor regularly spend time and organise fun activities with their grandchildren; **Bottom:** Two of their grandchildren now live overseas, but contact continues via Facetime.

## JOY AND FUN

I am honoured to be the grandmother of seven beautiful grandchildren. The joy grandchildren bring to your life is amazing. They have filled my life with such happiness, and the respect they show me is beautiful to see and experience. I have tried to be a godly influence. I see that influence returned to me by my grandchildren, and I thank God for his place in their lives. **– Helen**

My wife's more practical role with our grandchildren has given me the freedom to be more of a fun grandfather. Our seven grandchildren are now all teenagers, but during their younger years, I was able to spend time telling them stories I made up on the spot, with them as the main characters. They howled with laughter and excitement.

Now that they are teenagers, I listen intently to their stories about how life should be and, sometimes, suggest solutions. I'm not sure they agree with me anymore. I'm still working on that. **– Bill**



## GIVING AND FORGIVING

I love playing and doing things together. I love spoiling them a little – okay, a lot – but not in a way that will not be good for them. I love seeing them grow and develop, and enjoying them without all the hard bits! I hope to show by my life that being a Christian is not about don'ts and 'thou shalt nots' but about love and joy, giving and forgiving.

– Raemor

## TEACHING THE 'WHY'

I love that my grandchildren keep me grounded in the present and bring me an insight to the future. They keep me balanced between the past and future – and they teach me what is wrong with my computer! I hope to help them have an understanding of the 'why' behind the important things that we need to 'do', so that they might make informed and better decisions.

– Barry



## FROM THE GRANDCHILDREN

They do lots of things for us, like taking us for fun outings. They're always fun. They're always willing to have us.

– Archie, 7

They're always, like, so thoughtful. They're much more patient than Mum and Dad.

– Joel, 10

My grandfather tells me stories about his life. I love that.

– Rebecca, 11

They spoil us. They care for us. And they appreciate us.

– Ben, 12

I value their sense of humour, their care and concern, their intelligence and their curiosity.

– Zoe, 19

My grandparents mean a lot to me because they care for me, help me when I am hurt, look after me and pray for me. They are special because they are the kindest and the most caring grandparents, and they do fun activities with me.

– Mark, 10

My grandparents are both the best people in the world. My grandpa is super funny and always finds ways to make our visits fun. My grandma makes the best food and we do fun creative projects together. Even though she lives far away, my other grandma spoils us and cares for us no less than the others. My life is richer because I have my grandparents in it.

– Nika, 14



Scan here for more on finding meaning.

# Investing in the next generation

The critical impact of grandparents

**WORDS** KELVIN ALLEY



Jasmine, following instructions from Grandma, is proud of her first cake baked from scratch.

It was Grandma's day, set aside to spend with our granddaughter who is in her final year of primary school. Grandma looked forward to these days, as did our granddaughter. It started with a sleepover the night before, which meant a sleep-in, of course, at Grandma's house, followed by Grandma's special breakfast.

The project was to spend the day with Grandma in the kitchen. The task at hand – to

cook a strawberry sponge cake from scratch. This was no packet job! Grandma was almost as good as your old-fashioned country cook.

Out came the flour, eggs and mixing bowl. Under Grandma's loving and careful guidance, our granddaughter was doing everything herself.

Grandad walked in to see two cooks working diligently side by side. Our granddaughter had the bowl held tightly under her left arm; she held the metal spoon in her right hand and was turning the flour into the eggs, caster sugar and vanilla in order to make a lovely fluffy mixture.

Apparently, this is called 'folding'. A packet mix off the shelf is too easy for Grandma. "You must learn things as I did when I was your age," I heard her say.

Grandad went out to the backyard to water the plants. It wasn't long before our baby grandson arrived for a visit. He is just seven months old, but his face lights up into a perpetual smile when he sets eyes on his grandma and grandad.

Hosing the garden is put on pause. Grandma is busy in the kitchen supervising the sponge. Grandad takes the little visitor on his arm and resumes the hosing – the scene from the kitchen is too much for Grandma – she pauses the cooking and grabs the camera – the image of the youngest grandson sitting happily on Grandad's thigh, held tightly in his left arm with hose in his right, is too much to be ignored!

Within a few hours, our granddaughter could not have been prouder as she learned from Grandma how to whip the cream, spread it on the two sponges, join them, and then decorate the top with fresh strawberries.

She stood back – her first cake – made from scratch, and now keen to get home to show her masterpiece to her parents.

## RICH INVESTMENT

We should never underestimate the value of grandparents and the rich investment we can make in the lives of our grandchildren.

Not every grandma is a cook, nor every granddad handy with tools, garden skills or workshop craftsmanship. Each school holidays, my grandsons look forward to a solid hike in the national parks in south-east Queensland with their granddad. Not every granddad can do that, either.

However, grandparents have much to offer their grandchildren. Some may have special skills such as cooking or making nice things from wood, but most grandparents are gifted with the very essence of what our grandchildren need the most – interest and affection, kind words, acceptance and most importantly, unconditional love.

The Bible also shows the critical importance of the influence of grandparents in the lives of their grandchildren. Addressing the congregation of Israel in Deuteronomy chapter 4, verse 9, Moses reminds his people how important it is for them to not forget the lessons they have learned in life and the wisdom they have accumulated, but to specifically pass them on to “your children and their children”.

“

**We should never underestimate the value of grandparents ...**

”



Kelvin with baby grandson Angus, happily watering the garden with Grandad.

Let no one tell grandparents that their lives are of no use, or that they are too old to be effective. With the Bible as our guide, and generations of experience behind us, be encouraged to embrace the critical influence that grandparents have to shape and sow lasting values into the lives of grandchildren.

It may not be widely known, but each year in Australia, the last Sunday of October is National Grandparents Day. It is intended as a day for families to honour grandparents and provide an opportunity for grandparents to show love for their grandchildren.

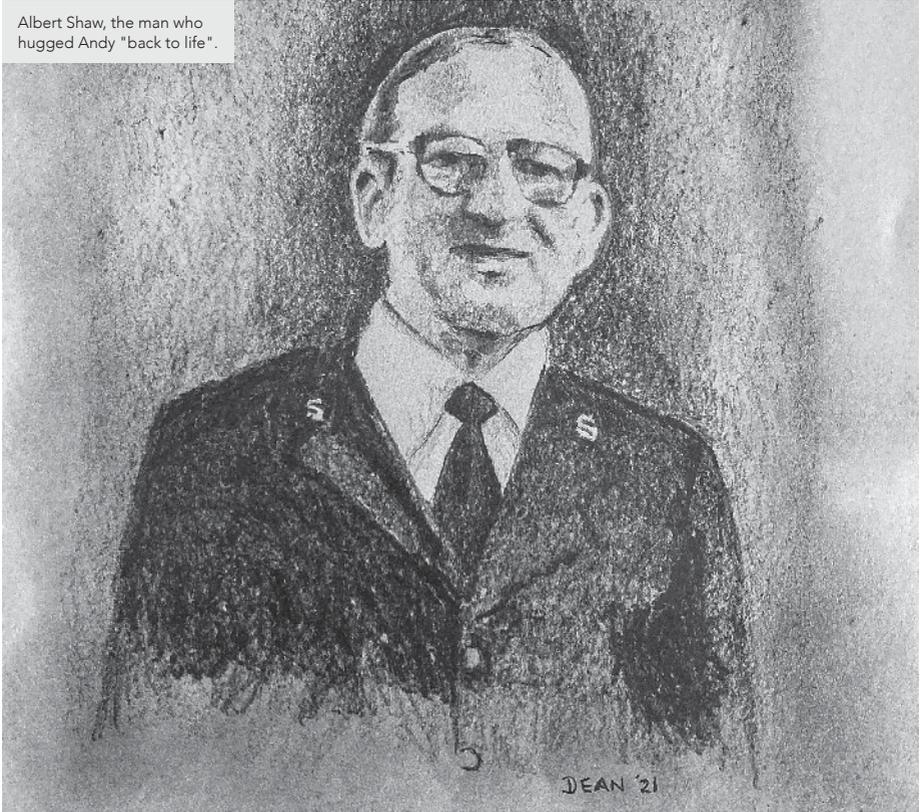
Why not do something special on that day? After all, grandparents and grandchildren are all part of God’s plan for the enrichment of our family life!

*Colonel Kelvin Alley is a retired Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Queensland.*



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Albert Shaw, the man who hugged Andy "back to life".



## The power of a heartfelt hug

Embracing the thought that someone out there cares

**WORDS** DEAN SIMPSON

I was surprised that I hadn't heard the story before. It was told at my grandfather's funeral 20 years ago during the eulogy ... and it still makes me quite emotional today.

My grandfather was one of those good ol' fashioned Salvationists (member of the Salvos), in the mould of the Salvation Army pioneers who epitomised the traditional 'heart to God, hand to man' style of mission synonymous with Co-Founder William Booth's fledgling movement.

He loved The Salvation Army and all that it stood for – the uniform, the band, the songsters (choir), the traditions – but he also thrived on the Salvos' public image of 'Christianity with its sleeves rolled up'.

His gift was ministering to the down and out. He would often catch the train from his home in Wollongong to Central Station in Sydney and spend the day in the surrounding parks and streets chatting with the homeless, the drunks, and many more poor, desperate souls of our community. He'd buy them a sandwich or a pie, perhaps link them with a Salvos service, but always share a prayer with them.

But one story stands out in my mind, the one I heard at his funeral, and I still treasure it today when I think of my grandfather.

It starts with a fellow called Andy. Andy was a Scotsman, recruited to come to Australia to play soccer in the NSW State League. Andy was apparently a top player, and quite popular in the soccer community. At some stage, however, he fell victim to the "demon drink", as my grandfather called it, and was eventually admitted to the Salvos' William Booth House, where he underwent the alcohol rehabilitation program.

Andy never found true freedom from alcohol, but he did 'find God' at William Booth House. After completing the program, he made his way south and linked with the Wollongong Salvos. It was here that my grandfather befriended Andy and "kept an eye on him".

He knew Andy's struggles, so he checked on Andy every week to ensure he was going okay, sometimes taking meals to his home. My grandfather had a warm heart for people with alcohol problems. While Andy made significant progress as a Christian, he was also prone to the odd 'slip-up' with alcohol.

One Sunday, my grandfather noticed Andy wasn't at the morning church service. He was quite concerned, so he asked a fellow Salvo to accompany him to Andy's house to check on him. They arrived and knocked on the front door, but there was no response. My grandfather sensed that Andy was inside and perhaps in trouble, so he persisted.

Seeing a neighbour, my grandfather and his friend expressed their concerns for Andy and said they would try the back door. It was open.

As they walked into the house, beer cans and bottles were strewn all over the floor. They called out to Andy. There was a muffled sound coming from a bedroom. They found Andy lying on the bed, amid a sea of more beer cans and bottles.

As they walked towards the bed, Andy began crying, saying that he was sorry that he had let everyone down. My grandfather pushed his way through the cans and bottles on the bed, took Andy in his arms and hugged him. He held onto Andy for some time. He then told Andy to keep trusting in God because God loved him and wanted to help him.

That hug made a difference because Andy was back at church the following Sunday. He said he now knew that someone had cared enough to seek him out during one of the lowest points in his life.

Not long later, Andy decided to go back into rehabilitation in Sydney. There was the occasional 'slip-up', but he maintained his faith in God. My grandfather continued to visit Andy in rehab, and Andy always got a hug from him, no matter his condition.

Over the remainder of his life, during all his ups and downs, Andy never forgot that initial hug. In fact, he was overheard many times referring to my grandfather, Albert Shaw, as the man who hugged him back to life.

*Dean Simpson is part of the Communications team for The Salvation Army Australia.*



Scan here for more on finding meaning.



Ayda, her husband Yadi, and their children converted from Islam to Christianity in 2019 after Ayda met Major Colin Elkington, who established the Farsi Fellowship at Brunswick Salvos in Melbourne.

Kevin Amiri, left, from the Salvos Farsi Fellowship, presents Ayda, right, and Yadi with certificates for completing their studies in the biblical book of John.



# 'Knowing Jesus has changed our lives'

Iranian family finds a spiritual home at the Salvos Farsi Fellowship

**WORDS** AYDA MIRHASHEMI

When my family and I left Iran for Australia in 2013, we were Muslim and had followed the Islamic faith our entire lives. After a month in a detention centre, we moved to Melbourne.

We didn't know anyone in Melbourne, but we built a life for ourselves. I studied for a degree in accounting and started a job as a social worker.

In 2019, I started to volunteer with The Salvation Army in Brunswick, Melbourne. I helped with customer service, took calls and helped the older clients who needed support. Every week, I would see [Salvos officer (pastor)] Major Colin Elkington behind the customer service window, and he was so kind and would pray for people. I just watched, and I told myself, "Oh, they are so lucky."

When my mum passed away in Iran, I said to Colin, "I'm so upset about losing my mum. Could you please help and pray for me?" He prayed, and that was really helpful. So, I continued praying with him, and I became interested in the Christian religion. We started a Bible study, and I went home and explained to my husband, Yadi, that Christianity is such an amazing religion.

That's when Yadi said, "I can do this as well!" And he met with Kevin Amiri – the ministry

assistant at the Brunswick Farsi Fellowship, who is also Persian – and he learned about the Bible. By the end of that year, my husband, my children and I decided to change our religion from Islam to Christianity!

Knowing Jesus has changed our lives. We feel like we are closer to God, and we are always happy. In our culture, we would come together in the mosque, and I felt we just had to be sad and always crying. But here at church we are always happy, singing songs and playing the piano.

We have a family now. My daughter Sadaf says it feels like we're taking the last steps of fitting into the Australian community. Knowing Jesus makes me feel like I'm close to God – even in my house. I've never had such a feeling before.

**Check out next week's edition to read Sadaf's story.**



Scan here for more on the need for community.

# Ham and cheese muffins



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

## Ingredients

2 cups plain flour, 2 tsp baking powder, ¼ tsp pepper, ¼ tsp paprika, 1 clove crushed garlic, 1 cup diced ham, ½ cup grated cheese, ¾ cup diced tomatoes, 1 cup milk, 50g melted butter, 2 beaten eggs. Extra grated cheese if desired.

## Method

- In a bowl combine flour, baking powder, pepper, paprika, garlic, ham and cheese.
- Make a well in centre and add tomatoes, milk, melted butter and beaten eggs.
- Mix ingredients together and place in greased muffin tins.
- Sprinkle with a little grated cheese if desired.
- Bake at 200°C for 15 minutes.
- \*Variation: Add ½ cup crushed pineapple with juice, or ¾ cup diced pineapple in place of tomato.



PHOTO: STOCK / GETTY IMAGES

## Quick quiz

1. Around how many species of birds can be found in Australia?
2. What percentage of these species can't be found anywhere else?
3. Australia is home to which two flightless birds?
4. Which branch of zoology is devoted to studying birds?
5. What is the national bird of Australia?
6. Which Australian bird is the world's largest kingfisher?

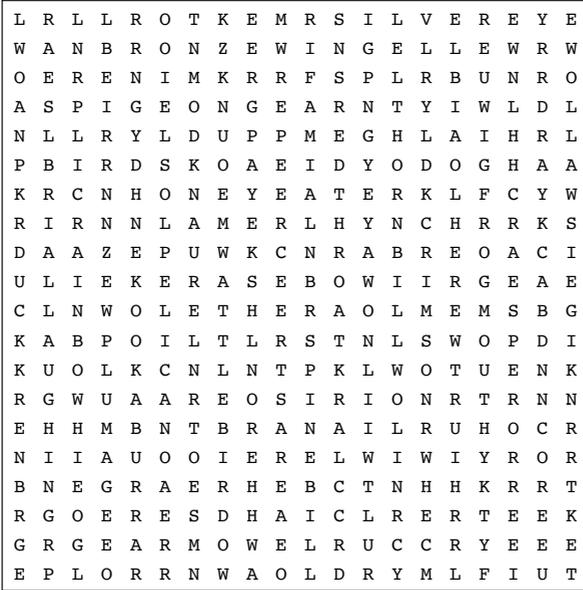
## Bible byte

I can do all this through him  
who gives me strength.  
Philippians chapter 4, verse 13  
*New International Version*

## Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



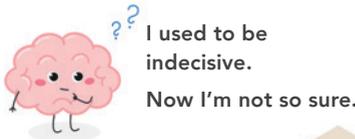


# Wordsearch

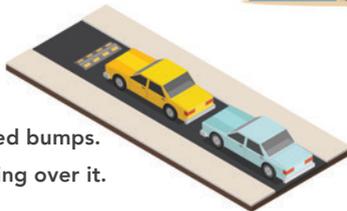
Words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

- Bakyard
- Birds
- Bronzewing
- Crimson
- Curlew
- Duck
- Frogmouth
- Heron
- Honeyeater
- Kookaburra
- Lark
- Laughing
- Lorikeet
- Miner
- Pelican
- Pigeon
- Plumage
- Rainbow
- Redthroat
- Search
- Silveryeye
- Spinebill
- Swallow
- Thornbill
- Treecreeper
- Wattlebird

## HAVE A LAUGH



I have a fear of speed bumps.  
But I am slowly getting over it.



How do trees get online?  
They just log on.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The black box in an aircraft is bright orange, not black, to aid in recovery.

Over six billion bacteria reside in your mouth.

You share your birthday with around nine million others.

During an average lifetime, the human heart will beat more than 2.5 billion times.

Answers: 1. 850. 2. 45%. 3. Emu and Southern Cassowary. 4. Ornithology. 5. Emu. 6. Kookaburra. Turn-Turn: is hiding on page 12.

## Support for grandparents

Grandparents have always played an important role in family life, but over the last twenty years, many have taken on increased responsibility, or full-time care, for their grandchildren due to changes and issues in families and society. Others have faced separation from their grandchildren for a wide range of reasons, or, tragically, abuse.

Help is out there for grandparents needing physical, social, psychological, financial and other support, both through the Salvos and across government, community and specialised organisations.

Below are some places to start. Check out these links and search 'grandparents' for more information and resources.

- [salvationarmy.org.au](http://salvationarmy.org.au)
- [aifs.gov.au](http://aifs.gov.au)
- [yourlifechoices.com.au](http://yourlifechoices.com.au)
- [servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au)
- [raisingchildren.net.au](http://raisingchildren.net.au)
- [familyrelationships.gov.au](http://familyrelationships.gov.au)
- [playgroupaustralia.com.au](http://playgroupaustralia.com.au) ('grandparent only' playgroups) National toll free number – 1800 171 882

