

# Carers Week 2009

Carers Week is just around the corner, starting on 18 October this year. Carers Week is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the vital role carers play in our society. The week promotes and raises awareness of the valuable role that carers play in our community and generates discussion about carer issues.

This year's theme is "... Anyone, anytime across Australia can be a carer" which recognises carers come from all walks of life and have many different experiences.

Centrelink is proud to support Carers Week each year. Centrelink offices throughout Australia will be involved in a range of activities in conjunction with local carer organisations to celebrate Carers Week in October.

With the spotlight on Carers Week it is also a good time to highlight the support Centrelink provides to carers.

• **Carer Payment**—This is an income support payment for people who, because of the demands of their caring role, are unable to support themselves through substantial paid

employment. It is a fortnightly payment and the amount received will depend on the person's income and assets tests.

• **A Pensioner Concession Card** is also available with this payment.

• **Carer Allowance**—This is a supplementary payment available to parents or carers who provide daily care and attention for adults and children with a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability or someone who is frail aged.

Carer Allowance is not income tested and may be paid on top of wages or income support payments such as Carer Payment or Age Pension.

To find out more information about the payments and services available to Carers you can speak to Centrelink in your language by calling 13 1202. You can also visit your local Centrelink Customer Service Centre to see what activities they have planned to celebrate Carers Week.

Some information in your language may also be available under the heading, "We Speak Your Language" on the Centrelink website at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

## Mother's cancer spread to baby in the womb

SCIENTISTS have established beyond doubt that cancer can be transmitted from mother to baby in the womb, but Australian women have been told the incidence is "extraordinarily rare" and no cause for alarm.

The discovery was made by scientists in Britain when a baby developed cancer a few months after her mother died from leukaemia.

The girl, born to a Japanese woman, 28, developed lymphoma, but a team at the Institute of Cancer Research, a college of the University of London, found that leukaemia cells had crossed the placenta and spread from the mother to her unborn baby, defying accepted theories of biology.

The scientific adviser to Cancer Council Australia, Nik Zeps, said yesterday that there had been anecdotal evidence for more than 100 years that cancer could spread from mother to baby, but this case gave scientists the first hard evidence that the phenomenon existed.

"We need to stress that it is very rare, extraordinarily rare, for a pregnant woman to contract cancer and additionally rare for that to ever be passed on to an infant, but the most interesting part of this case for researchers is how the cells escaped the baby's immune system," Dr Zeps said.



the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers said about 17 cases of suspected mother-to-child transmission had been noted throughout the world - usually leukaemia or melanoma - although Dr Zeps said he was unaware of any cases in Australia.

If the cells crossed the placental barrier the baby's immune system should have recognised them as foreign invaders and destroyed them.

In the latest case no one knew the mother had cancer during her pregnancy. She had a normal delivery in hospital, giving birth to an apparently healthy baby girl. But a month later the mother was diagnosed with advanced leukaemia and died.

When the baby was 11 months old she was taken to hospital with a swollen right cheek. Tests showed she had a tumour in her jaw and the cancer had spread to her lungs. Researchers then found the cancer cells of mother and baby carried the

identical mutated cancer gene, called BCR-ABL1, but the infant had not inherited this gene. This meant that the cells must have come from the mother.

Scientists then looked for evidence of some form of immunological acceptance or tolerance of the foreign cells by the foetus.

They examined the genes of the cancer cells in the infant and found a deletion mutation - some DNA missing in the region that controls expression of the major histocompatibility locus. This was significant because HLA molecules primarily distinguish one individual, and his or her cells, from another, so the absence of these on the cancer cells meant the infant's immune system would not have recognised that they were foreign.

"Hopefully, this case will now open up new avenues of research into how targeting immune systems can prevent or treat cancer," Dr Zeps said.

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Ο Όμιλος Κρητικής Παράδοσης γιορτάζει 11 χρόνια αυτόνομης δημιουργικής πορείας στα παροικιακά πολιτιστικά δρώμενα με μια όμορφη χοροεσπερίδα το **Σάββατο 17 Οκτωβρίου 2009** από τις 7.00 μ.μ. στην **Κυπριακή Κοινότητα 58 Stanmore Road Stanmore.**

Πέρα από τη χαρά που θα δημιουργήσει η ζεστή παρουσία των παρευρισκομένων σ' αυτή την ξεχωριστή βραδιά για τη Διοίκηση και τα μέλη του Ομίλου Κρητικής Παράδοσης γεμίζει όλους με ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια το γεγονός ότι παρών θα είναι για τρίτη φορά προσκεκλημένος του εν λόγω φορέα ο εξαιρετος Κρητικός καλλιτέχνης **Δημήτρης Σκουλάς.**



Ο σεμνός καλλιτέχνης που με την κρυστάλλινη φωνή του και το δυναμικό του παίξιμο στο λαούτο έχει συμμετάσχει στις δισκογραφικές εργασίες των μεγαλύτερων λυράρηδων της Κρήτης και έχει καταταγεί κι εκείνος στους μεγάλους της κρητικής μουσικής. Είναι σίγουρο ότι θα μας μεταφέρει και πάλι στους γνώριμους χώρους, τα μέρη που αφήσαμε πίσω μας πριν από χρόνια και μεταναστεύσαμε στην άλλη άκρη του κόσμου. Θα έχει συνεργάτες το Μιχάλη Πλατύρραχο στη λύρα και τον Αντώνη Πετραντωνάκη στην κιθάρα.



Ο Μιχάλης Πλατύρραχος δεν χρειάζεται συστάσεις. Έχει καταξιωθεί στην παροικία και κάθε αναφορά στο όνομά του είναι και ιδιαίτερη τιμή. Ο Αντώνης Πετραντωνάκης έχει αφήσει το δικό του στίγμα στα μουσικά δρώμενα της παροικίας μας με την λύρα αλλά και την κυθάρα του. Ελάτε να περάσουμε όλοι μαζί μια υπέροχη Ελληνική βραδιά που θα θυμίζει πολύ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ!

**ΕΙΣΟΔΟΣ** με φαγητό \$ 50. Το ποτό θα προμηθευέστε από το μπαρ σε συγκαταβατικές τιμές!  
 Για τα μέλη του χορευτικού συγκροτήματος και παιδιά κάτω των 12 χρονών \$ 30. Κλείστε έγκαιρα τις θέσεις σας για να μας δώσετε τη δυνατότητα να οργανώσουμε όσο το δυνατόν καλύτερα τη χοροεσπερίδα  
 Τηλέφωνα: 97073408, 0416066138, 0410517973.

## ΡΑΔΙΟ - ΓΕΦΥΡΑ

Αποκτήστε το ειδικό ραδιόφωνο για να βάλετε την Ελλάδα στο σπίτι σας. Ακούτε και τους 7 ελληνικούς σταθμούς που εκπέμπουν στην μητροπολιτική περιφέρεια του Σύδνεϋ. Διαθέτουμε ραδιόφωνο για το σπίτι σας και ειδική συσκευή για το αυτοκίνητο. Μην αρελεύετε να επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μας. Σας το φέρνουμε και στο σπίτι σας.



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