

21 October 2008

Liberal Government works for seniors

Local MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, Tony Simpson has reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to introduce an annual cost of living rebate for all Western Australian Seniors Card holders.

Mr Simpson said that a cost of living rebate of \$100 for singles and \$150 for couples would be paid to seniors early in the new year.

"I know that seniors on limited and fixed incomes are struggling, especially with rising food, electricity and petrol prices," Mr Simpson said.

"During the election we committed to helping seniors with these costs by introducing a new cost of living rebate.

"I am pleased that seniors will be able to access this rebate early next year so they can manage their post-Christmas bills."

The cost of living rebate will be available to more than 267,000 Seniors Card holders and will be indexed annually to the CPI to make sure that seniors do not lose out with rising living costs.

Mr Simpson also stated that the new Government was committed to helping WA seniors and would also:

- Commission a review of options for the expansion of the eligibility criteria for the WA Seniors Card so more Western Australians can access rebates and concessions;
- Provide free public transport for Seniors Card holders and pensioners in non-peak periods; and
- Establish a Ministerial advisory group to give seniors a direct line to Government.

"While I was Opposition Spokesperson for Seniors I was constantly in touch with representatives from all of the major senior's groups in Western Australia," Mr Simpson said.

"Now that I am the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Seniors, I will continue to listen to their advice and make sure that Government policy works for our older Western Australians."

Anyone aged over 60, who is a permanent resident of WA and does not work more than 20 hours per week is eligible for a WA Seniors Card.

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