

# MEDIA STATEMENT

**Dr Mike Nahan** MLA  
Member for Riverton



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6 January 2009

## **New Cost of Living Rebate Deadline For Seniors Extended**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, encouraged senior members of the community to apply for the new Liberal/National Government's annual Cost of Living Rebate, which will provide eligible Western Australian seniors with \$100 for singles and \$150 for couples.

More than 270,000 current Senior's Card holders have been sent personalised application forms and explanatory leaflets in the mail over the Christmas break. The deadline to return the completed application forms has been extended from 15 January to 31 March 2009 to give seniors more time to provide their details.

"Given that there are more than 350,000 seniors in WA, I encourage anyone who hasn't received their documentation or who would like to apply for a WA Seniors Card to contact the WA Seniors Card Centre on 6217 8855 or my office on 9457 1282 for further assistance," said Dr Nahan.

"It is the first time that the rebates have been offered to WA seniors who are over 60 years of age and who work less than 20 hours per week. The completed documents should be sent in as soon as possible, outlining their bank account details so that the first payment can be made directly to their bank accounts by electronic deposit by the end of March 2009."

"There is no doubt that the money will assist seniors within our community with the rising cost of living."

Dr Nahan said the WA Senior's Card Centre has put on extra staff to deal with the expected influx of queries and to process the number of completed application forms.

"It would be preferred if the applications could be sent in by 15 January but they will continue to be accepted up until 31 March 2009 for this year's rebate. It's a case of the sooner the information is received, the sooner it can be processed and the sooner the rebate can be sent out," said Dr Nahan.

Dr Nahan said most Government payments were now made using electronic deposits directly to people's bank accounts rather than via cheques.

"Strict procedures are in place to keep banking details safe and in future years when the rebate is paid, only people whose banking details or marital status have changed will need to notify the WA Seniors Card Centre to update their details," said Dr Nahan.

"The payments will be indexed to the Consumer Price Index each year for the next three years to help keep pace with rising costs. I am sure that the Government's new annual rebate will be very well received and that it will make a significant difference to the lives of many seniors within our community."

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