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Local MLA To Host Tax Help Centre

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said he was delighted that his electorate office would be used again this year as a free Tax Help Centre in conjunction with the Australian Taxation Office.

"My office undertook this role last year and it was highly successful with more than 50 people taking advantage of the free and confidential service," said Dr Nahan.

"The service is designed assist seniors, the disadvantaged, students who may be preparing their tax for the very first time or those earning less than \$40,000 to complete their tax returns."

Dr Nahan said the service would run from his office from 1 July through to 31 October.

"Mr Osmund Perera, an experienced Tax Help Volunteer, will be working from my office each Tuesday, offering the free, one-hourly confidential consultations. Mr Perera has been a Tax Help Volunteer for more than six years and he is very popular with the members of the community who need tax assistance," said Dr Nahan.

"He can determine if people require a tax return and can assist with claims for family tax benefit, unemployment and sickness benefits, salary and wages, dividends, managed funds, interest, refund of imputation credits and the baby bonus."

"However, since some tax issues can be quite complex and require specialist knowledge, such as business tax returns, partnerships and trust matters, capital gains tax or rental property issues, he is only able to help with fairly straightforward tax returns."

Dr Nahan said the Tax Help Volunteer program began in Newcastle, New South Wales in 1988 and has since expanded to cover the whole of Australia.

"Today, there are more than 800 Tax Help Centres across Australia assisting over 70,000 people to prepare their annual tax returns. Paper lodgment of their tax returns is also being phased out and many volunteers, like Mr Perera, now help clients prepare their tax returns using *e-tax* so the returns can be lodged electronically."

"The demand for these services is growing and I encourage members of the community to contact my office on 9457 1282 to book a confidential appointment with Mr Perera as soon as possible."

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