



14 April 2011

Seniors - Are You Registered For The Annual Cost of Living Rebate?

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, encouraged WA Seniors Card holders to ensure they are registered for the State Government's annual Cost of Living Rebate to help them meet rising household bills.

"The Cost of Living Rebate is a very popular State Government initiative that we have put in place to assist WA seniors with their annual household bills," said Dr Nahan.

"The rebate is available to all WA Seniors Card holders who have registered their bank account details with the WA Seniors Card office. It is paid directly into their bank accounts each July."

Dr Nahan said there are more than 309,000 Seniors Card holders registered in WA but not all of them have also registered for the Cost of Living Rebate.

"Many of them have previously registered for the Cost of Living Rebate and they don't need to do anything as the payment will automatically go into their bank accounts. However, any seniors who have not registered for the Cost of Living Rebate have until 31 May to do so if they want to receive the rebate in July."

Dr Nahan said he was often surprised to meet older constituents who, despite meeting the criteria, were not WA Seniors Card holders.

"There are huge benefits to seniors who meet the eligibility criteria to have a WA Seniors Card and to be registered for the Cost of Living Rebate," said Dr Nahan.

"I encourage any local senior who is a permanent resident over the age of 60 who works fewer than 20 hours per week to apply for a WA Seniors Card as soon as possible. It will provide them with access to around \$1,400 each year in discounts and rebates, including 50 per cent rebates off motor driver licenses and a 25 per cent rebate on annual water charges."

Dr Nahan said the benefits from a WA Seniors Card were designed to recognize the enormous contribution that seniors have made to our local community.

"Over their lifetime, seniors have contributed in many ways to our society and it is only fitting that their long service is recognized and rewarded," said Dr Nahan.

"That is one of the reasons why the State Government provided the Cost of Living Rebate and linked it to the Consumer Price Index each year to ensure that its value is not eroded over time. Since the State Government introduced the Cost of Living Rebate in 2008, more than \$42million in payments have been made."

Application forms for the Cost of Living Rebate are available on 6217 8855 weekdays between 9am and 3pm or via email on seniorscard@communities.wa.gov.au

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