



24 May 2011

## **More Seniors To Qualify For Enhanced WA Seniors Card**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the State Government's much-needed changes in the State Budget to improve the benefits paid to seniors and to expand the eligibility of the WA Seniors Card.

"The WA Senior's Card is extremely popular because of the many benefits that it provides," said Dr Nahan.

"Now, the State Government has eased the eligibility requirements to allow seniors who reside in Western Australia and who hold an Australian Government 410 or 405 Retirement Visa to apply for the card as well."

"In the past, eligible seniors had to work less than 20 hours per week and the regulations were very rigid about that. Now, seniors over 60 years old can work up to 25 hours and those hours can be averaged over a 12-month period so it is expected that many more people will qualify for the benefits of the card."

"Similarly, the popular Cost of Living Rebate has been increased for singles from \$104 up to \$150 and for couples it's gone up from \$157 to \$225."

"As a result of these changes, an additional 4,500 WA seniors will join the existing 312,000 card holders to enjoy the benefits of a WA Seniors Card, which provides up to \$1,200 worth of Government concessions and up to \$550 worth of rebates each year."

"These changes have been made to take into consideration the fact that in today's workforce, more seniors are choosing to remain in paid employment or are working part-time in their transition to retirement."

Dr Nahan said new applicants for the WA Seniors Card have until the 31 July to apply in order to receive their first Cost of Living Rebate by the end of September.

"These new provisions to the WA Seniors Card are a very welcome initiative by the State Government in recognition of the outstanding service that WA seniors have given to this State over their lifetime," said Dr Nahan.

"Seniors deserve our assistance and I am extremely pleased that these new changes have now become a reality."

Application forms for the WA Seniors Card are available from Dr Mike Nahan's electorate office at Shop P05 Stockland Riverton Shopping Centre or by telephoning 9457 1282.

New applications for the WA Seniors Card and to register for the Cost of Living Rebate must be processed before 31 July in order to receive their first Cost of Living Rebate by the end of September 2011.

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