

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Territory Families:

Seniors, Pensioners and Carers

1. How many Seniors and Carers have signed up for the new schemes?

ANSWER:

The new schemes commenced on 1 July 2018. As at 22 July 2018, 350 new member applications for the schemes were received. The details for 5,420 existing members' have been confirmed.

All members of the NT Pensioner and Carer Concessions Scheme have transitioned across to the new NT Concession Scheme and if 65 years or older will be eligible for the NT Seniors Recognition Scheme. Members have until the 31 December 2018 to confirm their details. As at 22 July 2018, 5,420 members have confirmed their details.

2. What assistance will be provided to Senior Aboriginal Territorians living in remote communities to access the schemes?

ANSWER:

Territory Families is providing assistance to remote Aboriginal people to confirm their details, or sign up to the schemes and is engaging relevant stakeholders which can be used to explain the schemes.

Resources to communicate with remote Aboriginal people are being developed in consultation with stakeholders. The story board can be used by government and non-government staff when interacting with people in remote communities to explain the schemes.

More broadly radio and television advertisements have been running to get the message out.

3. Referring to Budget Paper 3, please detail the total cost incurred to deliver concessions/subsidies in the following categories from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 under the pensioner concession scheme:

- a. Electricity/alternate energy
- b. Local council property rates
- c. Water rates
- d. Sewerage rates
- e. Garbage charges
- f. Motor vehicle registration
- g. Drivers licence
- h. Spectacles, including for dependents
- i. Public transport
- j. Interstate/overseas travel

ANSWER:

The below table provides the total cost incurred from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018 to deliver concessions/subsidies by category:

Electricity/alternate energy	\$9,210,211
Local council property rates	\$1,269,096
Water rates	\$2,836,793
Sewerage rates	\$1,297,137
Garbage charges	\$261,653
Motor vehicle registration	\$1,237,552
Drivers licence	\$329,759
Spectacles, including for dependents	\$965,782
Public transport	N/A
Interstate/overseas travel	\$964,809
*Administration	\$193,888
Total	\$18,566,680

*Administration fees relate to the charges levied for administering concessions on electricity, sewerage and water rates by third parties.

4. How much was spent on advertising for the new Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme?

ANSWER:

As at 30 June 2018, a total of \$59,650 was spent on advertising for the new NT Concession Scheme and NT Seniors Recognition Scheme.