



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
13th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	3
Title	Seeking review of the Seniors Concession Scheme
Presented on	22 November 2016
Presented by	Ms Ngaree Ah Kit (Member for Karama)
Referred to	Minister for Territory Families (Hon Dale Wakefield MLA)
Date referred	22 November 2016
Response due	21 March 2017
Response received	6 December 2016
Response presented	14 February 2017

Petition

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

There are over 55,970 seniors residing in the Northern Territory, and the current population of 16,411 seniors over 65 years and over is set to more than double by 2041.

Before 2014, all Territory male residents over 65 years and Territory female residents over 60 years were eligible for the Seniors Concession Scheme. In the May 2014 Budget, eligibility restrictions for the Scheme were announced *without warning or consultation*, meaning that concessions were restricted to holders of Pensioner Concession and Commonwealth Seniors Health Cards only. Effectively, there is no recognition or financial support for any Territory senior who does not meet the criteria of a Centrelink assessment.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

The Northern Territory Government launch an immediate and urgent review of the Seniors Concession Scheme.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

Response

I would like to thank the Council of the Ageing NT (COTA) for their support to senior Territorians and for this petition.

COTA's *request for the NT Government launch an immediate and urgent review of the Seniors Concession Scheme* has been heard by our Government and is being actioned.

A review into the Scheme is underway and consultation on these changes is expected to take place in early 2017. I encourage all of your members and the wider community to actively contribute to the consultation process.

Senior Territorians will be better off from 1 July 2017. We are working to introduce changes to make the Scheme more equitable and accessible for Senior Territorians.

Changes to the Scheme will include, raising the concession to \$700 every two years and diversifying the concession to be used on a wider range of things including car registration and healthcare. Those excluded from the concession by the previous government will be back in.