

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

More benefits to Seniors Card

Last Wednesday I was invited to speak at a meeting of the Bunbury branch of the Association of Independent Retirees.

Among other topics, I was pleased to be able to inform people that the State Government has signed a reciprocal agreement for public transport.

WA Seniors Card holders can now take advantage of concession fares on public transport if they visit other states.

In addition, our public transport services Transperth and Transwa also recognise Seniors Cards from other Australian states and territories.

Hopefully this will encourage seniors visiting WA to take a trip out into regional areas, and in turn help the economy of tourist destinations such as Bunbury.

Another benefit of Seniors Cards which has recently been announced by the State Government is the Safety and Security Rebate – a \$10 million election commitment which has been delivered on.

Card holders are now eligible for a one-off rebate of up to \$200 per household to buy and install security devices such as door and window screens, deadlocks, alarms and sensor lights.

At the community meetings I hold in Bunbury, the issue of home safety and security has been raised by senior residents as an area of concern.

The security rebate is one way of helping people feel safe in their own homes, and I applaud its introduction.

Application forms for the security rebate are available from Australia Post or my office.

If you don't already have a Seniors Card, application forms for it are also available from my office. Applicants must be aged 60 or over and working less than 20 hours per week.

Nominate outstanding efforts

Still on the topic of seniors, applications are now open for the WA Seniors Awards 2009.

There are three categories:

- Outstanding service, commitment or achievement (2009 Burswood Senior of the Year)
- Individuals who improve quality of life for seniors or retirees
- Agencies of businesses demonstrating innovative planning or response to the ageing population

There are so many people in our community, both seniors and younger citizens, who perform outstanding work in terms of improving the quality of life for older members of society.

This is the chance to recognise them for their efforts – or to nominate yourself.

As Australia's population ages, it is important to recognise the efforts of those who work with seniors and retirees, as well as members of this demographic who work tirelessly to help others.

Nominations close on July 31, with nomination forms available from www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au or from my office.

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