

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Help with the cost of living

Seniors are an important sector of our community and while many people over 60 have reached a comfortable stage of life, there are others who are doing it tough.

The State Government's Seniors Cost of Living Rebate provides a financial boost in the form of an annual payment.

In 2009, almost \$20 million worth of payments were made to 231,370 Seniors Card holders in WA, including 18,000 in the South West.

This is a wonderful helping hand for older members of our community and I am pleased it has helped thousands of local residents' budgets stretch that little bit further.

If your details have not changed since last year, payments will automatically go into your bank account from mid-July.

If you have changed your bank details, call the Seniors Card line on 1800 671 233.

Payments will be \$104.80 for singles or \$157.22 for couples who both hold a Seniors Card.

Pensioner fuel card expanded

Another important initiative which has been expanded this year is the Country Pensioner Fuel Card.

As well as helping Aged Pensioners, it has now been expanded to also include people receiving Centrelink categories Disability Support, Carer Payment, Widow B or Wife pension.

The \$500 fuel card has already helped almost 3000 pensioners in Bunbury and I am delighted it will now help people with disabilities and other pensioners to make ends meet.

New applications can be made after July 1, with the forms available from Australia Post outlets.

If you received the fuel card last year you do not need to reapply. If you have changed your address, contact the fuel card information line on 1300 666 609.

Recognition for our schools

Bunbury is fortunate to be served by excellent schools with staff members who are dedicated, professional and caring.

If you know a public school teacher, principal or staff member doing an outstanding job or a public school which should be recognised, consider nominating them for the WA Education awards.

There are several categories in the Individual and School awards:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year Award
- WA Principal of the Year
- WA Beginning Teacher of the Year
- WA School Support Staff Member of the Year
- WA Literacy School of the Year
- WA Numeracy School of the Year
- WA Science School of the Year
- WA Innovative School of the Year

Nomination forms are also available from my office or online at www.det.wa.edu.au/educationawards