

John Castrilli MLA



SENIORS CARD IMPROVEMENTS A BIG HIT!

I am proud to be part of a Government which is fulfilling its commitment to expand the services of the Seniors Card. This year Senior's cardholders have shared in \$33.4 million worth of payments through the Cost of Living rebates with singles receiving \$150 and couples \$255.

The security and safety rebates that have been introduced are also proving very popular with assistance being provided to install security screens, security lighting or fire safety items in card holder's homes.

The enormous response from older West Australians seeking to apply for the annual Cost of Living Rebate and additional services, has resulted in the Minister for Seniors & Volunteering, Hon Robyn McSweeney announcing the Seniors Telephone Information Line will be open for an extra two hours a day. The Seniors Card Hotline number is 1800 671 233. (free country call)

In addition to the introduced rebates, Senior's card holders are also eligible for numerous discounts on products and services. Amongst the most popular include 25% of Water Rates and Local Government rates and concessions on the energy supply charge and motor vehicle driver's licence. Card holders can also enjoy free public transport, discounts to tourist attractions such as the Perth Zoo and Rottnest Island and over 500 businesses across the state offer discounts of 10 per cent or more.

The best way to make the most of your card is to be aware of all the great offers available to you. I would encourage all people over 60 years of age who work less than an average 25 hours per week to ensure they are receiving their maximum benefits.

Further information on the Seniors Card is available on www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au or by contacting my office on 97 91 3636.

CAT CONTROL DEBATE

Last week I introduced the Cat Control Bill to Parliament for debate.

The legislation is aimed at addressing the number of stray cats being euthanased each year, the need to encourage responsible cat ownership and to provide for better management of the unwanted impacts of cats on the community and the environment.

Most cat owners act responsibly with 93% of owned cats already sterilized. However there are estimates of over 14 000 cats being euthanized each year in WA, with most being strays.

Stray domestic cats also add to the huge problem of an estimated 650 000 feral cats who damage property and kill off wildlife.

An increase in the number of sterilised cats and improved ability for local governments to deal with stray cats, is expected to result in a reduction in the number of unwanted cats in the community.