SENIORS, PENSIONERS SHIELDED FROM FULL IMPACT OF TARIFF CHANGES

November 20th, 2012

Territory seniors and pensioners will be shielded from half the cost of the Power and Water Corporation’s new tariff regime.

Health Minister, David Tollner, said the Government will insulate Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession card holders from much of the proposed increases, meaning power tariffs will climb by only about half compared to non-card households.

“The Government has done everything it can to minimise the impact of the utility price increases on seniors and pensioners,” Mr Tollner said.

“Pensioners and seniors will experience half the increase in prices, as the Government pensioner concession is increased to lessen the impact on this group of typically low income Territorians.

“The remaining costs will be absorbed by the Government through a Community Service Obligation, which is administered by the Aged and Disability Program in the Department of Health and currently costs $14million a year.”

Those eligible for the pensioner and senior concession as it applies to electricity, water and sewerage tariffs include:

- Senior citizens including females 60 years and over and men 65 years and over
- Pensioners of all ages, who hold a current Centrelink or Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Concession Card or a DVA Gold Card

Concessions provided include subsidies on urban bus travel, spectacles, motor vehicle registration, driver’s licences, council property rates and garbage rates. Seniors and some veterans will also receive travel subsidies for 50 per cent of an economy airfare every two years.

Pensioners and seniors should contact Power and Water to get access to a whole range of services to help people better manage their bills and reduce their energy use.

Details of concession card eligibility can be found at www.health.nt.gov.au.

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