MINISTER FOR HEALTH

THE COUNTRY’S MOST GENEROUS PENSIONER CONCESSION SCHEME

14 May, 2013

The Northern Territory Government continues to provide the most generous pensioner and carer concession scheme in the country.

Health Minister Robyn Lambley said the scheme, which was first introduced to the Territory by the previous Country Liberals Government in 1979, provides a range of offsets and price reductions.

Pensioners, non-pensioner aged war service veterans, low-income superannuants and senior citizens are eligible for concessions.

So too are carers who are permanent residents of the Territory and are in receipt of the Commonwealth Carer’s Allowance from Centrelink.

“Budget 2013 allocates $22.54 million in subsidies and support to assist seniors, pensioners and carers meet a range of costs and expenses,” Mrs Lambley said.

“This year, the Government has provided an additional $7.9 million in support to offset the increase in utilities’ tariffs.

“The Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme provides support to eligible members for electricity, water, sewerage, council rates, garbage rates, spectacles, motor vehicle registration, urban public bus travel and drivers licence renewals.

“The cost of interstate and overseas travel is also extensively subsidised.

“Under our scheme eligible members are entitled to $500 every two years to meet the cost of interstate and overseas travel, effective from 1 July 2013.

“This travel concession is not offered anywhere else in Australia making the Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme one of the country’s most generous.

“The concession applies for fares by plane, bus, train and ocean-liner.

“The travel concession cannot be accumulated and remains at $500 every two years.

“The Country Liberals Government’s support for this scheme acknowledges the importance of pensioners and seniors to the social and economic fabric of the Northern Territory.”

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