Thousands have their say on concessions

29 August 2017

Thousands of Territorians have already had their say on how to improve the NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme ahead of public consultation closing this Thursday, 31 August 2017.

Minister for Territory Families Dale Wakefield said Government listened to early feedback from the community which is why all aspects of the scheme are up for discussion.

“The Labor Government respects carers and senior Territorians and we understand and value the critical role they play in our community,” Ms Wakefield said.

“They – like all Territorians – deserve a Government that puts them first and listens and consults before taking decisive action.

“We are delivering on our election promise to consult on the NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme.

“The current scheme is expensive to manage and unfair to many.

“This is not about making cuts. In fact, our Government has invested $2.1 million more into the scheme this year.

“We want to create a scheme that is fairer, more flexible and that can suit a range of different circumstances.”

So far more than 4,000 surveys have been completed. Feedback has been mixed, with many respondents suggesting that a cap to power and water is an appropriate response to the high concessions claimed.

Minister Wakefield said no changes would be made until all feedback from the consultation is received.

“The only thing that has been decided is that everyone 65 years or older who were excluded under the CLP will now be included,” Ms Wakefield said.

“If anyone says that government has already made up its mind, it simply isn’t true.

“I urge everyone to have their say so that we can create a better, fairer scheme for all Territorians.”

Public consultation closes Thursday 31 August 2017. There are many ways to provide feedback:

- Visit your nearest electorate office or Territory Families office
- Go online to www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au
- Phone 1800 777 704
- Email ntconcessions@nt.gov.au

Media contact: Aimee Cadan 0400 277 244