

SENIORS CONCESSIONS

835. Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD to the minister representing the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering:

I refer to the government's frequently made claim that the state government still provides the most generous concessions to seniors in the country.

- (1) How is that calculated and when was that calculation made?
- (2) Is it based only on the number of concessions and discounts available, including those provided by private business as Seniors Card discounts, or is it calculated on the quantum of savings an average senior receives?
- (3) In monetary terms, how much directly does the state government give each senior?
- (4) How is the comparison with other states undertaken?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(2) The comparison takes into account a range of factors, including the number and value of state government concessions and the eligibility criteria for a Western Australian Seniors Card. The last comparison was made in July 2015.
- (3) A cost-of-living rebate is paid directly to Western Australian Seniors Card holders. In 2015–16 the payment is \$83.85 for individuals and \$125.78 for couples. Contributions are also made by the state for local government rates and water service charges rebates. These rebates are worth 25 per cent of local government rates and water rates, capped at \$298.51 for water rates and \$276.42 for local government rates. The rebate for pensioners is 50 per cent of local government rates and water rates. The rebates for pensioners will be capped from 1 July 2016 at \$550 for local government rates and \$600 for water rates.
- (4) See (1) to (2) above.