

SENIORS CARD

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.56 pm]: I want to acknowledge the tremendous campaign waged by seniors in my electorate who put their energy towards forcing the Barnett government to expand the eligibility for the Seniors Card to encompass seniors who work 25 hours or fewer a week, up from the previous limit of 20 hours. I want to especially acknowledge Thornlie senior Dr Wolfgang Frick, who came to me because he was concerned that the Barnett government was continuing to discriminate against working seniors by denying them access to the card. Dr Frick wrote to me in April last year after I accused the government of dragging its feet to save money by burying a review of eligibility for the Seniors Card. Many active seniors of pension age in Gosnells and other areas undertake productive work, exceeding the 20 hours previously set by the government as the cut-off point for the Seniors Card. This was not fair because the Seniors Card was never meant to be means tested; it is purely a recognition of the important contribution older people have made to the state during a full working life.

I would also like to acknowledge the following seniors from my electorate who helped with this campaign: Albert and Lucy Calder; Suzanne and Michael Devereux; Doreen and Murray Harrison; Fred and Mavis Holland; Geoffrey and Kathleen Robinson; and Charles and Valerie Stephen. Their contribution to this campaign has helped it succeed. Thanks to their campaigning effort the government has been held to its election pledge to widen eligibility for the Seniors Card.