



Frome Electorate Office

Hon Geoff Brock MP, Member for Frome



Media Release

Tuesday 19th May 2015

New Cost of Living Concession replaces Council Rate Concessions

Geoff is very pleased to see that the State Government is introducing a new cost-of-living concession of \$200 a year from July 1 this year.

This follows the Federal Government's decision not to reinstate funding for pensioner concessions.

Geoff has strongly advocated over a long period of time for pensioners to be supported and has received tremendous lobbying from constituents in Frome for the Concession on council rates to be continued.

The circumstances of many people would be affected in their efforts to make ends meet without this ongoing financial support.

Geoff is glad new arrangements have been put in place to reassure pensioners that they are not forgotten.

This new 'Cost of Living Concession' has been expanded and applies to pensioners, low-income earners who are tenants and self-funded retirees holding a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

This will replace the \$190 council rate concession and enable households to put up to \$200 towards their council rates, electricity, gas or water bills. Similar to the outgoing council rate concession, the new cost of living concession is per household, not per individual.

The concessions will be paid to recipients in 2015-16 by cheque. Payments are expected to be made to homeowners in about September this year and to tenants by early 2016. Homeowners who currently receive the council rate concession will not need to apply separately for this concession.

For further information on concessions and your eligibility call the Concession Hotline on 1800 307 758 or the Frome Electorate Office on 8633 1210.

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