



## OVERVIEW

**The Country Liberals are committed to developing the Northern Territory for the social, economic and political benefit of all its citizens.**

**The Country Liberals believe that Seniors should be encouraged and afforded every opportunity to live with dignity, independence and security, including providing affordable housing and home support where appropriate.**

## CHALLENGE

The Northern Territory population is ageing; the proportion of Territorians aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 6.6% in 2011 to 14.3% in 2041. There are currently 25,000 members of the NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme (NTPCCS).

The Scheme (NTPCCS) is based upon Centrelink eligibility and includes:

- aged Commonwealth Human Services concession card holders (Centrelink) (65 years for men and women), or
- aged Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs concession card holders (60 years for men and women), or
- Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Veterans with a Gold Card.

Members of that scheme are able to receive financial subsidies to support their cost of living expenses for a number of services including power, water and sewerage, rates, spectacles, motor vehicle registration and drivers licence renewals, and interstate and overseas travel. The budget for the scheme is around \$30 million each year.

**While it is difficult to estimate the exact number of Seniors who are not eligible for the scheme, it is estimated that up to 3,000 households may currently be excluded from the scheme.**

## COMMITMENTS

A re-elected Country Liberals Government will:

- improve the current NT Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme to allow eligible Senior Territorians to also use their travel entitlement to travel intrastate and provide for the non-accruing entitlement for the travel subsidy to fall due on a fixed anniversary date of 1 September
- provide **\$500 every two years** towards the cost of local, intrastate, interstate or overseas travel (including taxis) for Senior Territorians who are currently not entitled to any concessions and provide for the non-accruing entitlement for the travel subsidy to fall due on a fixed anniversary date of 1 September
- establish a \$360,000 per annum **Sports and Lifestyle Scheme** to enable Senior Territorians to receive up to \$200 for their sport, recreation and lifestyle expenses
- undertake a scoping study for a dedicated seniors facility in the northern suburbs
- support the Senior Territorian Art Award into the future with \$30,000 per annum
- investigate the need for an aged-care facility for Ngukurr
- undertake studies to investigate the need for residential retirement facilities in the Territory
- encourage the development of private, public and affordable housing options for Senior Territorians
- establish a \$300,000 per annum **Personal Alert System Rebate Scheme** to enable Senior Territorians to receive up to \$380 towards the purchase an approved personal alert system for health reasons or as a personal safety measure under the Country Liberals Law and Order Plan
- encourage government agencies to apply an age-friendly approach when developing relevant new policies and initiatives, including urban planning and outdoor spaces, transport and other lifestyle-based services and activities
- continue to provide support to community organisations and initiatives through the Seniors and Community Support Grant programs, including Seniors Week.



# SENIOR TERRITORIANS

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Delivered the Our Strong Seniors: Seniors Participation Framework 2016-19 which sets out a framework for future policies around key areas including Community, Diversity, Children and Families, Housing, Economic Security, Education, Health, Community Safety, Lifestyle and Transport.
- Committed to the continued delivery of the popular Senior Territorian Art Award
- Introduced a Minister's Advisory Council for Senior Territorians to be an effective avenue for engagement between the NT Government and Senior Territorians.

## NT Pensioner & Carer Concessions Scheme (NTPCCS)

Members can receive concessions on the following items:

1. Electricity/Alternative Energy
2. Local Council Property rates
3. Water Rates
4. Sewerage Rates
5. Garbage Charges
6. Motor Vehicle Registration
7. Drivers Licence
8. Spectacles
9. Public Transport
10. Stamp Duty

**Interstate/Overseas Travel** - is available to people who hold valid concession cards

Members are required to have had at least two years of continuous permanent residency in the NT immediately prior to the date of their travel application. This information is required as a part of their application to support their travel claim.

These cardholders are able to use their travel entitlements to bring a friend or family member living interstate or overseas to visit them in the Northern Territory.

*NB: Concessions 2,3,4, 5 & 10 are only available to members' primary place of residence and are the legal owners.*

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT 16/17

**\$140.4m** over 5 years from 2016-21 to implement the Territory Government Housing Strategy, which will refresh the Territory's public housing stock and deliver a sustainable public housing program.

**\$24.2m** to Power and Water Corporate and Jacana Energy for CSO payments to fund subsidised electricity, water and sewerage tariffs for pensioners and seniors under the Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme

**\$9.9m** to continue supporting the head lease rental initiative of the Real Housing for Growth Plan, including head leases for both affordable and social housing

**\$3.8m** to continue providing support to community organisations and initiatives through the Multicultural, Youth, Seniors and Community Support grant program

**\$300,000** to investigate residential retirement facilities for senior Territorians

## KEY POINTS

- **The Country Liberals Government is committed to enhancing the lives of senior Territorians, ensuring they are respected and have every opportunity to enjoy their later years.**
- **The Country Liberals recognise the knowledge and experience our seniors have and wants them to be able to remain in the Territory and continue contributing to our great lifestyle.**

**PLAN. GROWTH. LIFESTYLE.**

see more at [countryliberals.org.au](http://countryliberals.org.au)



2/229 McMillans Road, Jingili NT 0810



(08) 8948 1744



[countryliberals.org.au](http://countryliberals.org.au)



[/countryliberals](https://www.facebook.com/countryliberals)

**COUNTRY LIBERALS**

THE TERRITORY PARTY