

SENIORS CARD, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

60. Dr E. Constable to the Minister for Seniors

I refer to the eligibility criteria for WA Seniors Card applicants and ask -

- (a) why is eligibility for the WA Seniors Card conditional on an applicant working 20 hours or less per week instead of his or her level of income;
- (b) is the Minister aware that some highly paid professionals working less than 20 hours per week are WA Seniors Card holders yet individuals of the same age who are earning less and working more than 20 hours per week remain ineligible;
- (c) does the State Government plan to address the equity issue identified in (b); and
- (d) if not, why not?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

- (a) The WA Seniors Card was established by the State Government in 1988 as a retirement card acknowledging seniors (people aged 60 years or more) for their long service to the community by providing access to private sector business discounts and to help keep retirees involved in the community. The working hours criteria was inserted to link to retirement.
- (b) Due to the structure of the card's criteria, this is possible.
- (c) The Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering routinely reviews all of its programs and services, including the Seniors Card and criteria.