

SENIORS — SENIORS CARD — ELIGIBILITY

5480. Ms S.F. McGurk to the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering:

- (1) Why is the eligibility of the Seniors Card based on the amount of hours a person works rather than the amount of income they earn?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that a lawyer earning \$150 an hour but working 24 hours a week can access a seniors card, but a person on the minimum wage working 27 hours a week isn't entitled to the card?

Mr A.J. Simpson replied:

- (1) The WA Seniors Card is not means-tested. Means-testing requires assessment of any resources a person may have available to support themselves and, as such, requires comprehensive documentation on income and assets from various Commonwealth Government databases.

All other State Seniors Card programs are not means tested. New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania require an applicant to work less than 20 hours per week, while Victoria and Queensland require less than 35 hours per week.

The WA Seniors Card criteria for working hours has been derived from the results of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, which collects a range of socio-economic information on individuals. According to the HILDA survey, the majority of seniors worked less than 25 hours per week.

- (2) The WA Seniors Card is not means-tested and is available to anyone who meets the age, residency and working hours criteria.