

SAFETY AND SECURITY REBATE

477. Ms C.M. COLLINS to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant investment in protecting our community, in particular Western Australian seniors. Can the minister update the house on how the McGowan Labor government is ensuring our seniors can feel safe and secure in their homes?

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

I am delighted to once again be able to say what a great friend of seniors the McGowan government is, and I thank the member for the question.

Last month, the Premier, the Minister for Police and I joined the very hardworking member for Hillarys at the home of the delightful Fred and Belinda, two seniors, to announce the return of the safety and security rebate, which can be claimed for the purchase of safety and security equipment and the cost of installation by a licensed tradesperson. This rebate of up to \$400 per household is an excellent opportunity for seniors to make sure that they continue to be as safe and secure as possible. This \$12 million program delivers on the McGowan government's election commitment to ensure community safety and resilience as part of the 2021–22 budget. It is yet another election commitment delivered by this government. I will remind members of the eligible items for the rebate. They include the purchase and/or installation of home alarms and closed-circuit television systems, security door screens, deadlocks, security sensor lights, wi-fi video doorbells, residual current devices, mains powered smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blankets. It is no surprise, members, that in the first 10 days following the launch, the WA Seniors Card centre received more than 2 500 calls and almost 1 000 emails about the rebate. I urge all seniors to take up that opportunity, because the Seniors Card continues to be one of the great assets of this government, and delivers \$650 in total value aside from the \$400 safety and security rebate.

Which government in penny-pinching mode after suddenly realising it had stuffed up the state's finances axed the seniors rebate 2015? Which government?

Ms R. Saffioti: You tell us now!

Mr D.T. PUNCH: It was Hon Tony Simpson and a Liberal–National government that was penny pinching and ripping off seniors. It said that 45 000 seniors would be affected by that mean-spirited cut. That government was spending all over the place—spending on nice-to-haves—but what did it do? It stuck the knife into our seniors. What is more, it identified the areas that would be worst hit—the City of Wanneroo; City of Mandurah; City of Stirling; City of Joondalup; City of Swan; Shire of Mundaring; City of Armadale, member for Armadale; City of Albany; City of Greater Geraldton; and City of Busselton. There is one thing I am very happy about: nine out of 10 of those areas are safe in Labor hands!