



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**Petition**

Registration No.	12
Title	Review of NT Pensioner and Carers Concession Scheme
Presented on	23 August 2017
Presented by	Hon Kezia Purick MLA
Referred to	Minister for Territory Families
Date referred	23 August 2017
Response due	14 February 2018
Response received	13 November 2017
Response to be presented	21 November 2017

**Petition**

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

We the undersigned respectfully showeth;

The below signatories concerned for NT Seniors respectfully demand that the NT Government immediately undertakes a genuine review of the current NT Pensioner and Carers Concession Scheme.

The review must embrace the original intent of the Scheme to assist with relieving cost of living pressures to help seniors remain in the Territory after retirement. The Review must NOT be a cost saving measure. The Government must also adhere to its pre-election commitment of Respect for Seniors.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT:

The Government urgently undertakes:

- A revision of the current NT Pensioners and Carers Concession Scheme. (NTPCCS) to become the Seniors Concession Scheme
- All seniors 65+ to be equally included in any future Scheme
- Review the eligibility of all other participants.
- Seniors with grandfathered entitlements are not penalised
- Concessions to remain attached to existing utilities and services
- Cap power and water concessions to (say) the regional average
- Savings to be redistributed to existing concessions and ensure future sustainability of the scheme
- Travel concessions to remain an entitlement for seniors only
- Intra-Territory travel to be included
- Engagement of **all** seniors in the review process

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, As IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

## Response

I would like to thank senior Territorians and the aforementioned organisations for their participation in the consultation process and their petition requesting that the government undertake the following actions:

- A revision of the current Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme to become the Seniors Concession Scheme;
- All seniors, 65 years and older, to be equally included in any future Scheme;
- Review the eligibility of all other participants;
- Seniors with grandfathered entitlements are not penalised;
- Concessions to remain attached to existing utilities and services;
- Cap power and water concessions to (say) the regional average;
- Savings to be redistributed to existing concessions and ensure future sustainability of the Scheme;
- Travel concessions to remain an entitlements for seniors only;
- Intra-territory travel to be included ; and
- Engagement of all seniors in the review process.

Our government is committed to supporting senior Territorians and ensuring that equitable and sustainable concessions are in place to bring the greatest benefit to seniors in the Northern Territory. A review of all concessions available to seniors, including the Northern Territory Pensioner and Carer Concession Scheme, is being undertaken to make concessions fairer, accessible and supported by improved administration.

To inform this review, public consultation has been an integral part of the reform process. Sixteen community forums have been held in eight regions; Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield, Coomalie, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs and Katherine. More than 1 00 email responses have been received, nearly 700 online surveys returned through the haveyoursay website and over 7000 survey responses submitted via mail. Face-to-face consultation has been carried out by Territory Families staff in many remote communities including; Hermannsburg, Palumpa, Lajamanu, Kalkarindji, Peppimenarti, Ti Tree, Yuendumu, Ngukurr, Gunbalanya, Anurugu, Maningrida, and Wurrumiyanga.

Territory Families is preparing a Public Consultation Report to outline the feedback provided by seniors, pensioners and carers during the consultation period. The contents of the petition will also be taken into consideration in informing the review.

I would like to thank senior Territorians once again for their valuable contribution to the consultation process.