

Pensioner Information Sheet



1.7.19

State Government Pensioners and Senior Rebate Schemes

Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992

The purpose of these schemes is to provide concessions to pensioners and seniors on their annual local government rates and service charges levied where only the charges of rates, emergency service levy and underground electricity charges are eligible for either a rebate on, or the deferment, of these charges.

How do I apply for a concession?

To register your entitlement for a rebate, you may apply using either of the following methods:
Phone the Water Corporation on 1300 659 951, even if your home is not serviced by the Water Corporation, they accept all applications on behalf of all Local Governments.

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- On-line at the Water Corporation website:
<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/my-account/i-want-to/concessions>

Your registration will take effect the date that it is received by the Water Corporation. For a rates concession you can only claim a concession on one property in any one financial year, being the property owned and occupied on 1 July.

Concession Eligibility

To receive a concession you must:

- hold an appropriate Pensioner OR WA Seniors card and;
- on 1 July of the current financial year own and occupy the property as your "ordinary place of residence".

To own means you must:

- be the registered owner or co-owner of the property on the Certificate of Title (Note: where the property is co-owned a partial concession may apply); or
- have a right to reside or life tenancy at the property under the terms of a Will (probated) and be responsible for the payment of rates and charges raised against the property; or
- hold a long-term lease (greater than 5 years) in a retirement village, park home, lifestyle village or caravan park.

To Obtain a Rebate

Registered Owners

You must pay the amount of annual rates by **30 June** of the current financial year.

Leaseholders in Retirement Villages, Park Home Parks, Lifestyle Villages or Caravan Parks

You must pay according to the terms of your lease.

Note: if payments are not received after the due date, you may lose the rebate for that financial year and must pay the full amount

Arrears

Where arrears on your local government rates exist, a rebate or deferment may only be available where you enter into, and comply with, a payment arrangement to clear the arrears.

Change in Circumstances

You must immediately advise both the Water Corporation and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, if your circumstances change at any time as penalties may apply for providing false or misleading information. For example, notification is required if:

- you are issued with a new card or your card is cancelled or expires;
- your original application details will change or have changed;
- you sell or transfer an interest in all, or part, of your property or move to another address;
- you or your spouse ceases occupation of the property; or
- as a WA Seniors Card holder you become an eligible pensioner or the holder of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

Pro-Rata Provisions

When applicants become eligible pensioners or seniors during a financial year, it is important that they register with the Water Corporation as soon as possible. The pro-rata provisions allow for a rebate based on the date of registration during that financial year (i.e. calculated on how many days of that year an applicant was registered).

To Defer your Rates

Your annual rates, underground power and emergency services levy will be automatically deferred, where you are eligible, if the amount required to be paid to receive a rebate is not paid by 30 June of the current financial year.

Kerbside Collection and Waste Facility Maintenance fees are NOT deferrable and must be paid before 30 June of the current financial year, otherwise your rebate will be lost and you will be required to pay the full amount prior to acceptance of any further entitlements.

The deferment option is not available where the property is:

- occupied under a life tenancy or right of residency under the terms of a Will of a deceased estate;
- subject to co-ownership (other than spouse/de facto); or
- subject to a long-term lease in a retirement village, park home park, lifestyle village or caravan park.
- Owner occupier is a holder of a Seniors Card only

Please note, if the deferment option is not available, and you do not pay your rates or charges before 30 June of the current financial year, you will lose your rebate and you will be required to pay the full amount.

Deferred charges

- remain as a debt on the property until paid;
- are not required to be paid until your entitlement to defer ceases;
- may be paid at any time, but you do not receive any concession when they are paid; and
- do not incur interest charges.

Concessions available to card holders

The Amount of the concession depends on the type of concession card an applicant holds:



WA Seniors Card

- Entitled to receive up to 25% rebate (capping applies) on your annual rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy.
- The rebate will be limited to a maximum capped amount as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- The deferment option is **not** available.



Pensioner Concession Card



State Concession Card

The State Concession Card is provided to **specific Veterans' Affairs pensioners** who are not eligible for the Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card

- Entitled to receive up to 50% rebate (capping applies) on your annual rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy.
- The rebate will be limited to a maximum capped amount as determined by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- May be entitled to defer your rates, underground power levy and emergency services levy. Service Charges of Kerbside Collection and Waste Facility Maintenance aren't deferrable.



WA Seniors Card AND a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card



Concession cards not eligible for a Rates Rebate



Health Care Card

- No Entitlement to a Rebate



DVA Health Card (Gold Card)



DVA Health Card

TPI

- **Veterans Affairs Health Card:** These cards do not entitle the recipient to any rates rebates.
- Holders of the Gold Card **may** be able to apply for a SCC if they have not been issued with a PCC or a CSHC
- Factsheet on card entitlements: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/veterans-health-cards>



DVA Health Card

Specific Conditions



DVA Health Card

Pharmaceuticals Only

Further Information

Office of State Revenue

E: pensionerconcessions@finance.wa.gov.au

W: www.finance.wa.gov.au

P: 08 9262 1373

Water Corporation

W: <https://www.watercorporation.com.au>

P: 1300 659 951

Department of Veterans Affairs

E: GeneralEnquiries@dva.gov.au

W: <https://www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/veterans-health-cards>

P: 1800 555 254

Augusta Margaret River Shire- Revenue Team

E: amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au

W: www.amrshire.wa.gov.au

P: 08 9780 5234