



Seniors' Independent Alliance

An Alliance of Seniors Community Organisations

Submission to the Queensland Productivity Commission's Issue Paper, *Electricity Pricing in Queensland* (Issues Paper)

The Seniors' Independent Alliance (SIA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Queensland Productivity Commission's Issues Paper.

The SIA works in collaboration to promote, inform and clarify issues which impact on all seniors. Information and activities serve to enhance member organisations and the alliance's advocacy, information and research roles, and to circulate information to our individual memberships and seniors in general. Member organisations include Australians In Retirement (AIR Qld), the Australian Pensioners' & Superannuants' League Qld Inc. (APSL), Ethnic Communities Council Queensland (ECCQ), National Seniors Australia (NSA, Queensland), Older People Speak Out (OPSO), Older Women's Network Qld (OWN) and Queensland Retired Teachers' Association (QRTA).

Due to the opportunity for our member organisations to make comment, the alliance has limited its submission to support part of two (2) recommendations contained in Chapter 12 Electricity Concessions Framework.

Draft Recommendation 45, point 1

SIA supports the proposal to extend eligibility of the general Electricity Rebate to recipients of the Commonwealth Government Health Care Card. This extension would strengthen the concessions framework and promote greater equity through better targeting of vulnerable, low income consumer groups for the Electricity Rebate; those most in need of support and at risk of electricity payment default and disconnection.

Draft Recommendation 49, point 1

In regard to on-selling electricity, SIA supports a mandatory obligation on exempt sellers to apply for and administer electricity rebates and concessions for their customers, through changes to either the Australian Energy Regulator guidelines or the Electricity Act. Most residential on-sellers are owners of caravan and mobile home parks, blocks of flats or body corporate blocks, "retirement villages, social housing, and boarding houses"; many of which are likely to be accommodation options for vulnerable, lower income groups^{1 2}. Greater transparency is needed to ensure that individual customer's rebates are claimed and are reflected in their individual bill or portion of cost.

¹ Queensland Government, 2015, DEWS, On-selling electricity.

<https://www.dews.qld.gov.au/electricity/retailers/onsupply>

² QCOSS, January 2016, Submission to Regulatory Impact Statement.

https://www.qcoss.org.au/sites/default/files/QCOSS_Submission_DEWS_On%20Supply_RIS.pdf



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