



Shire of
Katanning
Heart of the Great Southern

A Guide to Understanding the Pensioner/Senior Rebate





Local Government Rates Rebate

Pensioners/Seniors Concession Scheme provides pensioners and seniors with a rebate or deferment of their local government rates charges, water service charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity charges.

To qualify for a rebate, you must own and occupy your house as at 1st July each year.

To *own* means an applicant must:

- Be the registered owner or co-owner of the property on the Certificate of Title; 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.

AND you must be a holder of a valid:

1. Pensioner Concession Card issued by Centrelink/Veterans Affairs; OR
2. WA Seniors Card issued by the Office of Seniors Affairs AND a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card; OR
3. WA Seniors Card only; OR
4. State Concession Card

Note: Health Care Cards not accepted

Entitlement of the Concession

The amount of the concession depends on the type of concession card an applicant hold:

Pensioner Concession Card OR State Concession Card

- Receive up to 50% rebate limited to a maximum (capped) amount of \$750.00.
- The option to defer rates may be available if the required criteria is met.
- Receive a rebate on water usage charges, limited to a maximum (capped) amount.

WA Seniors Card AND Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

- Receive up to 50% rebate limited to a maximum (capped) amount of \$750.00.
- The option to defer rates may be available if the required criteria is met.

WA Seniors Card

- Receive up to 25% rebate limited to a maximum (capped) amount of \$100.00.
- There is no option to defer rates.

Rebate and Deferment

Rebate: Pay the required Net Due amount on the notice by 30th June of the current financial year, or the due date on the water services bill.

Rates for any year must be paid by 30th June of that financial year.

Note: If payments are received after the due date, you may lose the rebate for the financial year and must pay the full amount.

Deferment: Local Government rates charges and emergency services levy will be automatically deferred if the amount required to be paid on the rates notice is not paid by 30th June of the current financial year. Service charges on the notice do not get deferred and will have to be paid by 30th June.

Note:

- Deferred rates remain as a debt to the property until paid;
- Are not required to be paid until the entitlement to defer ceases (i.e applicant moves out, sells the property, dies and leaves no surviving spouse/de facto);
- May be paid at any time, but a rebate cannot be claimed when they are paid; and
- Do not incur interest charges

Concession on Water Service Charges

How to Apply

Register your entitlement as soon as you receive your concession card.

Apply by contacting Water Corporation on 1300 659 951 or www.watercorporation.com.au.

The Water Corporation will notify the relevant local government authority.

Registration will take effect the date that it is registered by the Water Corporation.

An applicant can only claim a concession on their local government rates charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity charges on ONE property in any one financial year. This must be the property owned and occupied on 1st July.

An applicant can claim a concession on their water services charges on the property they own and occupy at the date of application.

If your local government rates charges and emergency services levy charges are in arrears, you may still be able to obtain a rebate or deferment IF a satisfactory arrangement to pay the arrears is entered into, otherwise your concession may get rejected.

Contact the Shire on 9821 9999 to organise a payment arrangement.

Further Information

For further information regarding the Pensioners and Seniors Concessions Scheme, see:

- www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-finance/subsidies-rebate
- Water Corporation on 1300 659 951
- Office of State Revenue on 9262 1373, or
- your local government authority.



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).

Change in Circumstances

Applicants must IMMEDIATELY advise Water Corp if they:

- Are issued with a new card or their card is cancelled/expired;
- Have changed any of their details that were provided on the original registration;
- Sell or transfer an interest in all, or part, of the property or move to another address;
- Have a spouse who ceases occupation of the property;
or
- As a WA Senior Card holder, become an eligible pensioner or the holder of a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

The Water Corporation will notify the relevant local government of changes.



Commercial/Farming properties

The concessional arrangements are targeted at residential property owned and occupied by pensioners and seniors. If the property is owner-occupied by the applicant and is also partly used for commercial purposes, the rebate may be apportioned according to the ownership interests and the extent that the property is used as a residence.

In such cases, the Water Corporation and/or the relevant local government authority will make a determination on the extent of the entitlement to a rebate.

Multi-Residential Properties Not Strata Titled



If an applicant has land with multiple homes which have not been strata-titled (e.g. duplex properties, group housing complexes), rebates may be apportioned according to the ownership interests and the extent the owner uses the property for residential purposes (i.e. what part of the land is occupied by the pensioner and/or senior for their use).

Useful Contacts

The following contacts will be able to assist with further enquiries:

Shire of Katanning Rates

Ph: 9821 9999

www.katanning.wa.gov.au

Centrelink Pensioner Card

Ph: 132 300

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au

Concessions WA Rates Rebate

Ph: 9262 1373

concessions.communities.wa.gov.au

Water Corporation Concessions

Ph: 13 13 85

www.watercorporation.com.au

State Government Concessions

Ph: 9262 1373

www.wa.gov.au



Street Address: 52 Austral Terrace, Katanning WA 6317

Postal Address: PO Box 130, Katanning WA 6317

Phone: 9821 9999

Email: admin@katanning.wa.gov.au

Website: www.katanning.wa.gov.au

www.facebook.com/ShireOfKatanning