

Councillor Martin - MoN - Aged and Disability Support Pension Rate Rebate

Tuesday, 26 March 2024
Council

Council Member
Councillor Phillip Martin

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Acting Chief
Operating Officer

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Phillip Martin will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That Council requests that the Administration:

1. Places on the agenda for the 2024/25 Budget and Business Plan discussions the reinstatement of a rate rebate for property owners in the City of Adelaide in receipt of an aged or disability support pension.
2. Calculates the cost of such assistance, including the difference between the financial benefit to pensioners provided by the City of Adelaide under the previous scheme and any other compensation provided by any other level of Government, particularly where it was considered to be in lieu of the rate rebate.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. In 2015 the State Cost-of-Living Concession replaced the council rate concession to help a range of people on low or fixed incomes (including pensioners) with their general living expenses - eg council rates, energy and medical bills.
2. The City of Adelaide continued to provide a concession rate rebate of \$100 per year for eligible Pensioner Concession holders until the 2021-22 financial year, until Council approved the removal of the rebate, arguing:
 - 2.1. The City of Adelaide would be one of the last remaining councils to continue to provide a rebate since the introduction of the State funded allowance;
 - 2.2. Continuing to provide an additional rebate could be considered double dipping and not fair and equitable for the wider community.
 - 2.3. In addition to the Cost-of-Living Allowance, eligible ratepayers pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1999*, can apply to the City of Adelaide to postpone payment of rates against their property.
3. In the year leading up to this decision, 354 eligible pensioner concession holders received a \$100 annual rate rebate totalling \$35,400.
4. For the 2023-24 financial year, the State Cost-of-Living Allowance provides eligible Pensioner Concession Card holders who are owner-occupiers including those on the Aged and Disability Support Pension with an annual payment of \$243.90.

5. The City of Adelaide does not hold pensioner concession information. A Council pensioner concession rate rebate would need to be provided through application and eligibility confirmed by presentation of a valid pensioner concession card.
6. Should Council support the proposed motion Administration will present information for consideration around the reinstatement of a rate rebate for property owners that receive an aged or disability support pension, including the potential costs of providing a rate rebate and details relating to assistance currently provided by other levels of government.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Not applicable.
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Potential legal advice may be required.
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable.
Capital investment	Not applicable.
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	2-3 weeks.
Other	Not applicable.
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 4 hours.

- END OF REPORT -