



Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Limited

ACN 102 164 385

MEDIA RELEASE

A.I.R. Welcomes Reversal of Decision on CSHC Eligibility

President of the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Limited, Theresa Kot, welcomed the Government's decision not to proceed with the proposal announced in last year's Budget to change the eligibility threshold for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC).

In 2009-10 Budget Press release No. 10, issued tonight by the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, announced that *"The Government has also decided not to proceed with proposed changes to include gross tax-free superannuation income in the income test for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, which was due to come into effect on 1 July this year."*

Ms Kot said she commended the Government for revising its thinking on this proposal and for taking heed of the submissions made on the proposal by A.I.R. and by its members.

"The withdrawal of the proposed legislation is a victory for fairness and for commonsense," Ms Kot said.

"It also highlights a feature of our democratic system where organisations such as A.I.R. and its members can campaign against proposals seen to be discriminatory and unfair, and see their campaign rewarded by political change," she added.

Ms Kot also commended the announcement made in the Budget to modestly extend concession allowances available for eligible self-funded retirees to \$790.40 a year for singles and \$1190.80 a year for couples.

"Combining a number of allowances into the one "Senior Supplement" paid quarterly is also a good move forward," Ms Kot said.

For further information, contact Theresa Kot on 0406 204 435, or the A.I.R. National Secretariat on (02) 6290 2599.

Website: www.independentretirees.com

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