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Presidents Podium



W.A. Division President Don Keene
Photo courtesy of Mandurah Coastal Times

Hi all

This is the first issue of our WA Division Web based news sheet. Many thanks to Tom Rollo and Glen Cornish for the concept and hard work.

I will use this news sheet to keep you all up to date with current developments affecting us and as another tool in the information highway to complement AIR Active and the Independent Retiree, particularly on local issues. Branch Officers may use material from this sheet in their newsletters. However major edits must be approved by me prior to use.

As an example see the information alert on this page which is of major importance to holders of a CSHC

You are invited to send to Glen Cornish any items of interest, including the source, you pick up for possible inclusion in subsequent issues.

Regarding frequency, it will depend on what news is forthcoming, however I will initially aim for about every two weeks.

Don Keene

President

Association of Independent Retirees Western Australia Division

Web based News sheet

Information Alert

Many CSHC holders will soon receive a review form from Centrelink in the mail.

The form asks cardholders to provide their and their partner's tax file number and details of their income. They will also receive a reply paid envelope to return the form.

Centrelink is collecting this information because of changes to the *Social Security Act* in 2008. These changes mean information is required from cardholders to verify their eligibility for the CSHC.

What happens if cardholders do not return the review form within 28 days ?

It is important that Cardholders return their form by the due date.

If cardholders do not return the form by the due date (which is printed on the form) their CSHC will be cancelled. The cardholder will need to contact Centrelink within 13 weeks of the date of cancellation and provide the required information to have their card restored. If the contact is made more than 13 weeks after cancellation, the cardholder will be required to complete a new CSHC claim form.

What happens if the cardholder's income is above the threshold?

If the cardholder's adjusted taxable income is higher than \$50,000 for a single person or \$80,000 for a couple, they may have their card cancelled. If this happens the cardholder will have 13 weeks to appeal the decision to cancel their card

Source: This information was conveyed in a letter dated 11 March 2009 received from Hank Jongen PSM, General Manager of Centrelink's Communication Division.

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