



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 16 September 1999

SENIORS CARD

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (10.24 a.m.): I urge this Government to investigate the possibility of seeking corporate sponsorship for our Seniors Card so that we can provide our senior citizens with greater benefits. Recently, I met with senior citizens in Nicklin who told me that they were concerned that the provision and entitlements of a Seniors Card in this State were lagging behind those provided in the rest of Australia.

Consequently, I researched this matter and discovered that their claims were true, and I table that research. For example, to be eligible for a Seniors Card in New South Wales, a person must be aged 60, not work more than 20 hours a week and be a permanent resident of the State. To be eligible for a Seniors Card in South Australia, again, a person must be aged 60, not work more than 20 hours a week and be a permanent resident of Australia.

Those conditions differ greatly from the conditions under which a person becomes eligible for a Seniors Card in this State, where to be eligible for a Seniors Card a person must be a Queensland resident, must have turned 65, must not work more than 35 hours per week, or must be 60 years of age and over and receive a Commonwealth pension or benefit and not work more than 35 hours a week.

One of the ways in which the other State and Territory Governments are able to provide services to a greater number of their senior citizens as Seniors Card recipients is through corporate sponsorship. In fact, GIO is a major sponsor of Seniors Cards in New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

It saddens me that, at this time, during the Year of Older Persons, Queensland's seniors are quite clearly the poor relations to seniors in other parts of Australia. We need to recognise the invaluable contribution that our senior citizens have made to this great State of ours. One way in which we can do this effectively is by bringing our Seniors Card into line with those offered in the rest of Australia.

Consequently, in the near future I will be moving a motion that this House investigates seeking corporate sponsorship for Queensland's Seniors Card to bring it into line with Seniors Cards in the rest of Australia.
