

## Question on Notice

No. 596

Asked on 7 August 2014

**MS BARTON** ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR NICHOLLS)—

### QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer explain how the government's decision to continue funding seniors concessions will benefit seniors in the Broadwater Electorate?

### ANSWER:

In its 2014-15 Budget, the Australian Government announced that it would unilaterally terminate the *National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Seniors Card Holders* from 1 July 2014. This meant that funding to Queensland to support a number of concessional arrangements for pensioners and seniors card holders would be reduced by approximately \$54 million in 2014-15, and \$223 million over four years to 2017-18.

Queenslanders made it clear to the Government that passing on the Commonwealth's cuts was not an acceptable outcome and that pensioners and seniors could not wear the cost of the cuts.

That is why the Queensland Government acted to reinstate the full level of concessions, and continue funding concessions at a significant cost to the State in spite of the Commonwealth unilaterally reducing funding.

We have worked to ensure that Queensland seniors and pensioners will not be worse off because of the Commonwealth's cuts. Therefore, seniors in the Broadwater electorate and across Queensland will continue to receive the benefits of concessions for which they are eligible. This includes concessions for such things as electricity, rates, gas and transport.

The Government provides a range of concessions across a wide variety of services, and pensioners and seniors are encouraged to find further information on the eligibility requirements and benefits of Government concessions at: [www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/cost-of-living-support/concessions)