



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon David Borger MP

Minister for Housing
Minister for Western Sydney
Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport

April 28, 2010

**** Media Opportunity ****

9.15am, Thursday, April 29

Minister Borger and Kogarah MP Cherie Burton will meet with pensioners who are applying for a new free photo ID card.

**Location: Rockdale Motor Registry
Shop 6 Mezzanine Level, Rockdale Plaza, 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive**

Photo Cards now free for Pensioners and War Widows

Pensioners and war widows applying for a NSW photo ID card will be exempt from fees from April 30.

The changes to the photo ID card concessions were announced in December 2009 and fees will no longer apply from April 30 when regulation changes come into effect, Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport and Roads David Borger said.

“The NSW Government has decided pensioners and war widows, regardless of whether they hold a pensioner concession card, will not be charged to obtain a photo card,” Mr Borger said.

“This change will help them access government services and commercial goods and services which require photo identification.”

Minister Assisting the Premier on Veteran Affairs, Peter Primrose, said as an added bonus to this scheme, War Widows will also be exempt from the photo ID card fee. War Widows are already exempt from fees on driver licence and vehicle registration following changes last year.

“This move is an added benefit for War Widows and very fitting that they are brought in line with pensioner concessions,” Mr Primrose said.

NSW War Widows' Guild CEO Patricia Campbell welcomed the announcement.

“The granting of free photo cards to all war widows is greatly welcomed and will make the lives of these war widows a little easier.

“I am pleased that the NSW Government has recognised their sacrifice for the nation.”

A NSW Photo Card is a voluntary card for people who do not hold a current NSW driver license, or other form of photo identification, to help them prove who they are. It was introduced in December 2005 and replaced the Proof of Age card.

War widows under 60 years of age currently receive concessions on their driver license and vehicle registration – this change will mean that all war widows will be able to receive these concessions which will make driving cheaper.

Previously war widows older than 60 needed to hold a pensioner concession card to continue to receive the concessions.

Member for Kogarah Cherie Burton said there was some confusion last year when the ID concessions were first announced and some pensioners applied for their cards early.

“I have lobbied the Minister on their behalf and I am please to announce that we will be offering refunds to anyone who mistakenly applied for their ID card early,” Ms Burton said.

“Eligible pensioners who applied for ID Cards after December 17 and were charged the \$44 can go into their local RTA and apply for a refund. It is best if the affected customer can attend their local RTA after 1 June 2010 to apply for their refund as from this date the processing of their refund will be automated”

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