



Discussion Forum

The comments and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Retirement Village Residents Association (RVRA) or its Members.

Energy Rebate:

Comment: Since the last post on this matter our committee met with our local member, Greg Aplin. He was receptive to our presentation and agreed to seek a response from the minister to the letter we presented.

That letter outlined the issue that residents were not being paid rebates (including the Life Support Rebate!) in villages where the power reticulation and metering are owed by the operator and residents billed by the operator from power supplied by a wholesaler because the government elected to make payments only through electricity retailers.

The letter noted that specific exception had been made for people in caravan parks who were not even metered!

The letter asked for this to be redressed forthwith, and if not, requested the detailed reference to the Act or regulation specifically preventing otherwise qualified pensioners from the rebate because they were supplied other than by a retailer. Note - a similar question to the head of the department sunk without trace)

We have since received a letter from Minister Hartcher to the effect our concerns have been noted and he has instructed his department to come up with options early in 2012 for payment of rebates in our circumstances.

We see this as a positive move from "you do not qualify" to "you qualify but we can't pay you, and will fix this ASAP"

Anyone else out there with a similar problem, I suggest a delegation to your local member. Anyone wanting a copy of our letter(s) is welcome. Just contact me.

John Thompson

9th January 2012
