

benefits & entitlements

The following is a summary of the benefits and entitlements that may be relevant to carers. Fact sheets on some items are available from the Commonwealth Carer Resource Centre or website www.carersnsw.asn.au

■ FOR CARERS:

■ Carer Payment:

You receive:

- ✓ *a fortnightly Carer Payment from Centrelink*
- ✓ *a Pensioner Concession Card – see below for benefits of holding a Pensioner Concession Card*
- ✓ *a Pensioner Education Supplement (PES) if you are studying*
- ✓ *access to a Centrelink Jobs, Education and Training Adviser (JET) to enter or re-enter the workforce*
- ✓ *Pharmaceutical Allowance – paid automatically with your Carer Payment*
- ✓ *Telephone Allowance – paid automatically with your Carer Payment*

You may also receive:

- ✓ *Rent Assistance*
- ✓ *Remote Area Allowance*

For more information, phone **13 27 17** or visit www.centrelink.gov.au

■ Carer Allowance:

Caring for a child under 16, you receive either:

- ✓ *a fortnightly Carer Allowance, plus a Health Care Card, issued in the name of the child*
OR
- ✓ *a Health Care Card, issued in the name of the child only*

Caring for an adult aged 16 or over, you receive:

- ✓ *a fortnightly Carer Allowance*

For more information phone **13 27 17** or visit www.centrelink.gov.au

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■ Pensioner Concession Card:

Holders are entitled to:

- ✓ **Council Property Rates and Charges** - Most councils will grant a reduction in property rates and domestic waste management charges.

For more information, contact your local council

- ✓ **Electricity and Gas bill rebate** – an energy concession per year applies to the cost of electricity and/or gas. This is paid in instalments through your energy bill.

For more information, phone **1300 136 888** or visit www.deus.nsw.gov.au

- ✓ **Water bill rebate (Sydney Water)** – you are entitled to a rebate on your Sydney Water bill. Outside this area, contact your water supplier directly re pensioner rebates.

For more information, phone **13 20 92** or visit www.sydneywater.com.au

- ✓ **Dog and cat registration rebates** – Contact your local council re pensioner discounts on registration fees.

- ✓ **Vehicle registration** – You are entitled to registration of one vehicle, registered solely in your name, for no fee (you must still pay for the green slip).

For further information, contact RTA on **13 22 13** or visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- ✓ **Free Licence Renewal** – a yearly licence renewal is issued free of charge to Pensioner Concession Cardholders.

For further information, contact RTA on **13 22 13** or visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

- ✓ **Discounted travel on public transport** – Pensioners & Seniors can access public transport (trains, buses, ferries) on a Pensioner Excursion Ticket @ \$2.50 for all day travel around Sydney and Newcastle.

- ✓ **Countrylink Train Travel** – All Pension Concession Card holders, residing in NSW, are entitled to four single or two return Countrylink trips within the state per annum. A booking fee applies.

- ✓ For further information, contact **13 22 32** or visit www.countrylink.com.au

■ FOR THE PERSON YOU CARE FOR:

- ✓ **Continence Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS)** – Provides financial assistance to people who have permanent and ongoing incontinence as a result of a neurological condition or severe intellectual impairment. Available for people between the ages of 16 – 64 only.

For further information, contact **1800 807 487** or visit www.health.gov.au

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- ✓ **Program of Appliances for Disabled People Scheme (PADP)** – Provides appropriate equipment, aids and appliances to enable people to continue living at home and avoid premature or inappropriate admission to residential care.

Your local public hospital can give you the contact number of your closest Lodgement Centre or visit www.health.nsw.gov.au

- ✓ **Mobility Allowance** – For people with disabilities who are looking for work, have eight hours a week of employment, voluntary work or training and cannot use public transport without substantial assistance.

For further information, contact **13 27 17** or visit www.centrelink.gov.au

- ✓ **Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme** – Taxi transport vouchers enable people with qualifying severe and permanent disabilities to travel for half the standard meter fare.

For further information, contact freecall **1800 623 724** or visit www.transport.nsw.gov.au

- ✓ **Mobility Parking Scheme** – Provides parking concessions to people with mobility disabilities. It is free for Pensioner Concession Cardholders and will cost \$31 per 5 years for non-pensioners.

For further information, contact RTA on **13 22 13** or visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

■ POSSIBLY FOR BOTH OF YOU:

- ✓ **Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS)** – provides some assistance with costs where you need to travel more than 100 kms (one way) to obtain specialist medical treatment.

- ✓ For further information including eligibility, contact your local IPTAAS office, Transport for Health, Area Health Service.

- ✓ **VisionCare Program** – VisionCare NSW administers the means tested NSW Spectacle Program. The provision of free spectacles is subject to an applicant arranging their own eye examination and meeting a means test and other eligibility criteria. Your Optometrist must be a participating provider in the Program.

For further information, contact **02 9344 4122** or freecall **1800 806 851** if outside the Sydney Metropolitan area

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- ✓ **Carer Concession Card (QANTAS)** - The QANTAS Carer Concession Card is issued to people with a disability and high level support needs who require the full time assistance of a carer whilst they are on the plane. Cardholders and their nominated carer will receive 10% discount on Business class airfares (J Fare Class), 50% discount on Business class airfares (D Fare Class) and 10% discount on Fully Flexible, Flexi Saver and Super Saver Economy class airfares. Discounts not available on Red e-Deals.
- ✓ The card is a photo ID card and is valid for three years and costs \$27.50 (incl GST)
For further information, contact NICAN freecall **1800 806 769** or visit www.nican.com.au
- ✓ **Commonwealth Hearing Services Program** – provide free hearing assessment, hearing rehabilitation and selection and fitting of hearing aids if necessary.
For further information contact the Office of Hearing Services **1800 686 126** or **1800 500 496 (TTY)**

NOVEMBER 2006

REFERENCES:

Centrelink: "Are you caring for someone who is frail aged, ill or who has a disability?" (October 2002)

Centrelink: "Are you someone who is ill, injured or has a disability (October 2002)

RTA (NSW Gov): Website information on Licence/Registration concessions

RTA (NSW Gov) brochure: "What You'll Need to Park Here (MPS)" (2004)

Sydney Water: Website information on Pensioner rebates

Councils (various): Website information on Pensioner Concessions

Electricity/Gas (NSW Gov): Website information on Pensioner Concessions

Countrylink: Website information on Pensioner concessions

IPTAAS (NSW Health) brochure: "NSW IPTASS Information"

CAAS (Dept of Health & ageing) brochure: "CAAS Application Guidelines"

PADP (NSW Health) brochure: "Consumer guide PADP"

Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (NSW Ministry of Transport) brochure: "Application Form"

VisionCare NSW (NSW Dept of Community Services) brochure: "Patient Information:

NICAN Inc brochure: "Information on recreation, tourism, sport and the arts for people with disability"

Information contained in this fact sheet was supplied by the relevant authorities and is believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Whilst every care has been taken in its preparation, this fact sheet contains only guidelines in relation to its subject matter.

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