

## **SENIORS COULD MISS OUT ON \$750 STIMULUS PAYMENT**

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National Seniors Australia says hundreds of thousands of older Australians now qualify for a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC), and probably don't realise it.

The country's peak advocacy and consumer group for seniors says they would also qualify for a \$750 stimulus payment if they are an eligible CSHC holder on July 10.

National Seniors Chief Advocate, Ian Henschke says the reason so many more seniors would qualify is because of the recent cuts to the deeming rates.

"Lower deeming rates mean more retirees fall below the income test threshold for the card."

"There could be hundreds of thousands of older Australians eligible and they don't even realise," Mr Henschke said.

The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card provides a range of concessions including up to \$1,180 a year due to a lower Medicare safety net and similar savings via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It also offers retirees access to some state and territory concessions and the likelihood of being bulk billed by a doctor.

"Not only that, but if they don't apply and are not a Seniors Health Card holder by July 10, they could miss out on the \$750 stimulus payment."

To qualify for the card, you must have reached the pension age, meet an income test, are not receiving any payment from Veterans Affairs and are an Australian resident living in Australia.

To meet the income test you must earn below the following income thresholds:

- \$55,808 for singles
- \$89,290 for couples
- \$111,616 for couples who are separated by illness, respite care or prison.

**ENDS**

**Ian Henschke is available for comment, call 0488 047 380**