

tight on the state's budget

Cash relief for people doing it tough

LOW INCOME EARNERS - Pensioners, eligible low income earners and self-funded retirees holding a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card who own their home or rent will receive up to \$200 a year under a new cost of living concession.

It replaces the federal government's scrapped \$190 council rate concession, which supported pensioners, low income-earners and self-funded retirees who own their own home.

Under the new agreement, pensioners and low income earners who own their own home will receive \$200, an increase of \$10.

Pensioners and low income earners who are tenants will now receive \$100 - something they didn't get before.



Helen Withers

Self-funded retirees who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card who own their own home will still receive the \$100 they got previously. But those who are tenants - who previously were ineligible for the concession - will

now receive \$100.

Middleton resident Helen Withers is president of the Association of Independent Retirees' Fleurieu Peninsula branch.

She said the state government's money is welcome. But she is concerned about the federal government's proposed changes to criteria for the aged pension asset test. Through that, she sees self-funded retirees becoming poor. *The Times* will report on this more next week.

Mrs Withers said the state government funding effectively makes the payment redundant.

"It's helpful, but the major issue is the impact on self-funded retirees," she said.

Local Liberal pollies have their say on Labor's work

HAMMOND/FINNISS - Politicians representing the Fleurieu Peninsula have shared their views on the state budget. Member for Finnis, Michael Pengilly, said he will go through the department budgets to further investigate what it holds for us locally. Mr Pengilly said he had tried to lobby to have some money spent on the 'cut hill' section of Victor Harbor Road, but has not found any information about this in the budget.

Mr Pengilly welcomed the \$35 million announced to spend over four years on growing tourism, particularly from overseas visitors. But he noted there was little investment in the state and did not think there was much help given to small business.

"It's not a budget designed to help South Australia and my electorate in particular," he said.

Member for Hammond, Adrian Pederick, said the budget had little benefit for the people of his electorate.

"The 2015/16 budget falls short of funding regional services, it fails in responding to agriculture funding and fails with funding prominent regional projects," Mr Hammond said.

"There is no extra money for the regions or extra jobs and agricultural production in the region."

"This hasn't been a helpful budget at all, especially in light of issues around health reform which have a huge impact on clients of the Goolwa region."

Mr Hammond noted the increase of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and the impact these costs will have on all families. In regards to the River Murray Levy, Mr Hammond said he has been concerned for quite some time that this money may fall into general revenue.

"They are making out they are doing SA a favour by dropping the River Murray Levy but they have still increased the ESL," he said.

Mr Pederick said the end of the Hindmarsh Island Bridge Levy "came as a surprise", especially as the Chapman family - owners of The Marina Hindmarsh Island - contributed millions of dollars to the bridge.

"Only a few re-subdivisions have been caught up with payment of the levy and I can only presume that those affected probably chose to pay the levy in yearly instalments instead of a lump sum payment.

"These will now cease, and in fact may not have made full payment."

Mr Pederick said there was no consultation with him on the levy ceasing.

ABS Field Interviewers – Port Willunga and Mount Gambier Ongoing (Permanent, part-time) positions

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has Ongoing vacancies for Field Interviewers in the Port Willunga and Mount Gambier areas. The job is ideal for people who prefer working flexible hours from their home-based workplace.

The work involves interviewing selected households to collect official statistics. Interviews are conducted over the phone or by visiting households. You will ask survey questions and record the answers on a notebook computer. Computer skills are required to be able to complete the work.

Interviewers often work outside normal business hours. Availability on weekdays, weekday evenings, Saturdays and school holidays is required. An ongoing field interviewer can expect a minimum of 2 weeks of work each month.

If selected, you will attend training in early October, with field work following on from this. You will be paid to attend the 7 day training course in Melbourne.

If you would like to apply for this position, you must first read the Applicant Information Kit located at www.abs.gov.au/careers. Applications must be lodged via the ABS Online Application System.

Applications open Monday 22 June 2015 and must be received by 11:30pm (AEDT) Sunday 5 July 2015. For further information contact Angela Lazzaro on (07) 3222 6472, Amy-Marie Wilkinson on (03) 9615 7802 or email angela.lazzaro@abs.gov.au.

Please quote reference no. 15/PSOSA02 in all correspondence.

**To be eligible for employment as an interviewer with the ABS, you must be an Australian Citizen, have a current Driver's licence, and have unlimited use of a reliable, lockable and comprehensively insured car.

For more conditions please see the Applicant Information Kit**

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Stamp duty changes welcomed

SMALL BUSINESS - From July 1, 2018, stamp duty will not have to be paid on non-residential property transfers, and transfers of units in unit trusts. Nick Gornley is the president of the Victor Harbor & Districts Business Association (VHBA), which has more than 100 members from the Fleurieu and beyond. His views below are his own and not necessarily those of the organisation as a whole.

Mr Gornley said the seasonality of trade on the Fleurieu can be a challenge for some businesses, however others are not affected by this and are thriving.

He said abolishing stamp duty on non-real property transfers (for example

non-fixed plant and equipment) by 2018 and not having to pay stamp duty on commercial property purchases, would have the biggest impact on the Fleurieu.

Mr Gornley said this would make buying and selling equipment and property more attractive to business operators. But he had his doubts about the government sticking to its word.

"Like any budget the proof is in the pudding," he said.

"Quite often you see things in a positive light and only one situation has to change and the baby gets thrown out with the bathwater.

"The repair (hospital) is a prime example."

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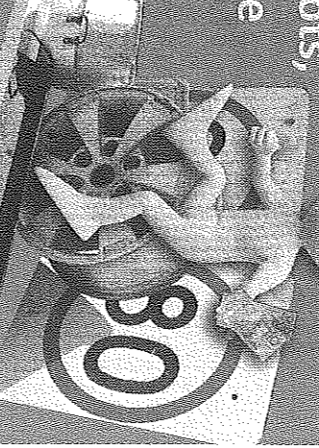
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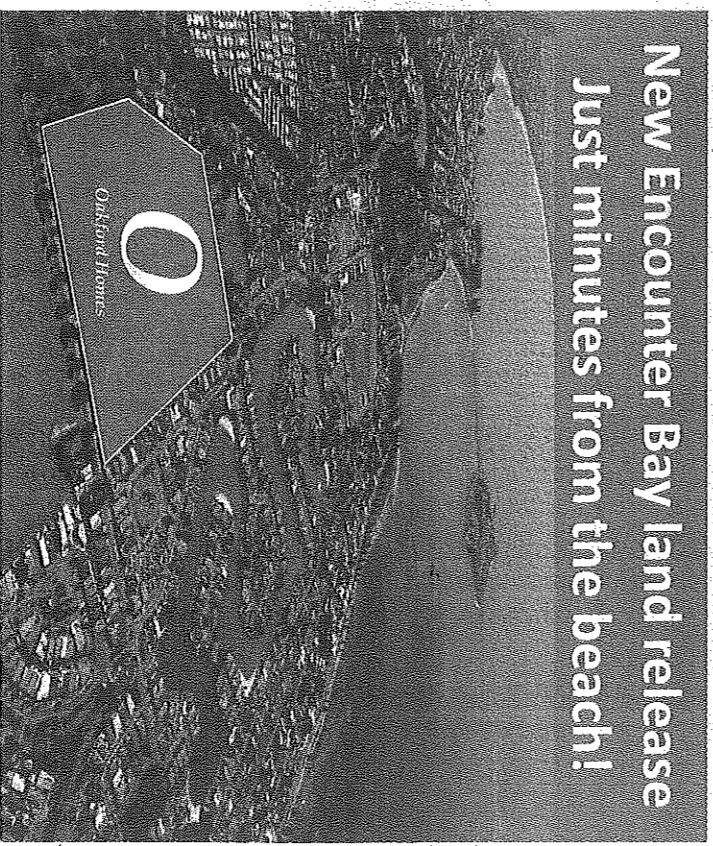
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