

# Council Rates Pension Concession

This factsheet provides information about Council's Rates Pensioner Concession. The Pensioner Concession subsidy and the Queensland State Government Pension subsidy scheme aims to help pensioner property owners to remain in their own homes by reducing the financial impact of rates and charges levied.

## Who is eligible for a pension concession?

To be eligible for either the maximum or partial pensioner concession, you must be an owner or life tenant of the property.

A life tenancy can be created with a valid will. It is only effective after the death of the property owner/s, or by Supreme or Family Court Order.

You must reside on the property permanently and have one (1) of the following:

- a current Centrelink Queensland Pension Concession Card;
- a Veterans' Affairs Gold Card; or
- a Veteran's Affairs Pension Concession Card.

The cards that do not qualify for a rebate are Seniors Cards, Health Care Cards, Health Benefit Cards and Repatriation Health Cards for specific conditions.

## What other criteria must I meet?

Applicants for the pension concession for Council Rates must meet the following criteria:

- Your eligible card must be valid at the time of application;
- You must be the person responsible for the payment of the account;
- Your name must be on the title of the property, and it must be your primary place of residence; and
- Your name and address on the Council Rates account must match the concession card.

## How much is the pension concession?

The Queensland State Government will subsidise 20% (maximum \$200.00 per annum) of Council Rates for approved pensioners by way of a rebate.

Council also offers a subsidy of 20% (maximum \$200.00 per annum) off Council Rates for approved pensioners.

For new applications, Council can only apply the subsidy to the current six-monthly rating period.

No backdating of pensioner subsidy can be authorised by Council.

## Recycling charges

From January 2023, Council will introduce kerbside recycling to all current properties utilising waste collection services. Eligible Pensioners and concession card holders will be entitled to receive a 50% rebate in addition to the current Council Pensioner Rebate.

## How do I apply for a pension concession?

To make an application, you are required to complete a Pensioner Rates Rebate Application Form and provide a colour photocopy of your valid pension card.

Please note: If the details on your pension card need updating, this should be completed before applying for a Council Rates concession.

## Where do I lodge my pension concession application?

You can lodge your application:

- ✉ South Burnett Regional Council  
PO Box 336  
KINGAROY QLD 4610; or
- ☎ (07) 4189 9100
- @ [info@sbrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@sbrc.qld.gov.au)
- 👤 Visiting a Customer Service Centre

## How long does it take to process the application?

Applications for pension concession are sent to Council's Rates Section for processing. Applications must be received by the 30 June or the 31 December, to have the rebate displayed on the Council Rates notice for the subsequent period.

Pensioners submitting applications after these dates are advised to pay the full Council Rates amount by the due date in order to receive the 10% discount.

Accordingly, the pension concession / subsidy, if approved, will show as a credit on the next Council Rates Notice.

Upon confirmation of eligibility the entitlement to a subsidy will commence from either (whichever is the later):

- the card start date or payment grant date;
- the date of occupation of their principle place of residence; or
- the start of the current rating period.

## How many properties can I claim a pension concession for?

You can only claim a pension concession for one (1) property. This property must be your principle place of residence.

For the purpose of this pension concession the address on your valid concession card will be considered as your principle place of residence.

## What happens if I move, or my valid pension card details change?

Subsidies are not transferred from one (1) property to another.

If you receive a Council Rates pension subsidy on a property you have recently sold, the pension subsidy will discontinue. If you purchase another property within the South Burnett Regional Council boundary, you will need to apply for a pensioner subsidy for your new home.

You (as the applicant) must notify Council if:

- there is a change in the ownership of the property through sale or Estate;
- the applicant should leave the property but retain ownership (e.g., move to a nursing home or other accommodation); or
- the applicant becomes ineligible for a pensioner concession.

Please note: Centrelink / DVA and Council will need to be notified if your address details change.

## What happens in the case of joint ownership of your principle place of residence?

The subsidy is paid according to the proportionate share of ownership of the pensioner applicant.

In the case of married or defacto couples, if at least one (1) owner is a pensioner and both parties are residing on the property, they are entitled to 100% rebate.

If joint owners are in receipt of a pension concession, a separate form must be completed by each owner. The rebate amount granted will be proportionate to the percentage of ownership for the eligible pensioner for whom the application has been submitted.

In all other joint ownership cases, the rebate will be granted to eligible owner occupiers on a pro-rata basis according to their ownership equity in the subject property. The only exception to this condition is where a spouse/defacto spouse provides proof in the form of a court order or other legal document that they are solely responsible for all Council Rates and Charges on a property even through their estranged spouse/de facto spouse may be registered as a joint owner of the property. Please contact Council's Rates Section to obtain further clarity in this situation.

## Further information?

At the end of each financial year, Council confirms all pensioners' eligibility with Centrelink.

If eligibility is not confirmed, Council will not grant the subsidy on the Council Rates account for the new financial year and a new application will be required.

Please contact Council's Rates Section to obtain further information.