

## Media Release

### RETIREEES WELCOME INCREASE IN HEALTH CARD INCOME TEST THRESHOLDS

“Retirees welcome the passing of legislation to increase the Income thresholds to be eligible for the **Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC)**,” said Mr Wayne Strandquist, National President of the Association of Independent Retirees.

“The CSHC annual income test threshold has been increased for a single person to **\$90,000** and a couple to **\$144,000** in legislation passed by Parliament on 26 October 2022 and is **effective** from **4 November 2022**,” said Mr Strandquist.

“This change means more **self-funded retirees** can apply for the CSHC to access important health care concessions. These include cheaper medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, access to the Extended Medicare Safety Net, and bulk billed visits to a GP at the Doctor’s discretion,” said Mr Strandquist.

“This assistance comes when retirees are facing an increasing cost of living pressures and uncertain returns from their retirement savings,” added Mr Strandquist.

“To be eligible for a CSHC, applicants must be an Australian resident and be of **age pension age** and have annual taxable income less than the new income thresholds, not including withdrawals from superannuation,” said Mr Strandquist.

“It is **important** for self-funded retirees to note that there is **no asset test threshold to qualify** for the CSHC,” added Mr Strandquist.

“CSHC holders may also be eligible for further **concessions** or **discounts** provided by State, Territory and local governments and other organisations, including public transport, ambulance services, utilities, council rates and more,” said Mr Strandquist.

“The Association of Independent Retirees encourages self-funded retirees who have not applied or qualified for a CSHC in the past to review their situation in light of the new legislation and make an application through their **myGov** account or **Services Australia**,” said Mr Strandquist.

**For further information or for Media Comments please contact:**

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