



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Businessline

Action Required: For information only

To:

Assistant Secretary, Income Support Branch

Distribute to:

Director, Claims and Aged Care Section

For information:

Secretary
Deputy President
Deputy Secretaries
First Assistant Secretaries
Deputy Commissioners

SUBJECT: INCREASE TO THE INCOME LIMITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH SENIORS HEALTH CARD

Purpose: To inform staff that the income limits for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) will increase from 4 November 2022.

Key Points:

- From 4 November 2022, new income limits will apply to the eligibility for a CSHC.
- The CSHC income limits will be increased to the following amounts:
 - Single \$90,000
 - Couple (combined) \$144,000
 - Illness separated couple (combined) \$180,000

Background:

Legislation to increase the income limits for the CSHC received Royal Assent on 28 October 2022, with the changes commencing seven days later on 4 November 2022. These changes allow more veterans and their partners access to pharmaceutical and medical benefits that the card provides including:

- cheaper medicine under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- bulk billed doctor visits - this is up to your doctor
- a refund for medical costs when you reach the Medicare Safety Net

Your state or territory government and local council may also lower any of these expenses if you hold a CSHC :

- electricity and gas bills
- property and water rates
- health care costs, including ambulance, dental and eye care

- public transport fares.

There is no assets test for the CSHC.

Current annual income limits are:

- Single \$61,284
- Couple (combined) \$98,054
- Illness separated couple (combined) \$122,568

The CSHC income limits will be increased from 4 November 2022 to:

- Single \$90,000
- Couple (combined) \$144,000
- Illness separated couple (combined) \$180,000

Legislation:

The new income limits under the *Social Security Act (1991)* and the *Veterans Entitlement Act (1986)* were passed on 28 October 2022 with the changes commencing seven days later on 4 November 2022

Communication:

Questions and Answers have been provided to VAN staff to assist in answering client queries.

Articles on this measure have been published in VetAffairs, eNews, the DVA website. Posts have been uploaded to DVA's social media accounts in the lead up to the commencement date of 4 November 2022.



Brian Eastman
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Veteran and Family Policy Division

1 November 2022