

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1.6 Income Support for Seniors**

**Question No: SQ16-000423**

**Topic: Pension Assets Test Changes**

**Hansard page: 41-42**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

1. Have there been any conversations with any state or territory government about whether they will still grant pensioner rates on things like utilities and public transport to seniors who receive the Health Care Card?
2. Is DSS aware whether states and territories have agreed to continue granting these concessions?
3. Has there been any work done to determine how much worse people will be if they lose state and territory concessions?
4. Is any work being done by the department to ensure that community organisation who currently extend pension rates or concessions to pensioners will continue to receive those concession if they lose their pension and get a Health Care Card?

**Answer:**

While the Department is aware that the state and territory governments and community organisations use these Commonwealth-issued concession cards to target their concessions, the level of concessions and how they target them is a matter for each jurisdiction or organisation. The Department has not undertaken analysis on what concessions each state and territory government and community organisation provides holders of these concession cards.