



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,  
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by MS CAROLINE LE COUTEUR

Community Services Directorate Annual Report, Community Participation, Office for Veterans and Seniors

In relation to services for ACT Seniors:

- 1) Can you please advise what age Canberrans can access a Seniors Card?
- 2) Is this consistent with other jurisdictions such as NSW?
  - a) If not, why are they not consistent?
  - b) Does this inconsistency lead to potential cross-border inequalities?
- 3) The Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA) was appointed in May this year, however the Council has recently advertised seeking expressions of interest to join the body. Can you please advise why MACA is currently recruiting?
  - a) How many members were appointed in May?
  - b) Have there been subsequent resignations?

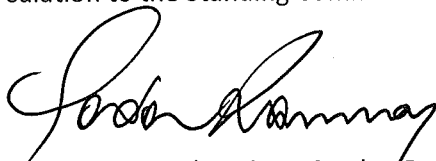
GORDON RAMSAY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

- 1) Canberrans aged 61 and over who work less than 20 hours per week can access a Seniors Card.
- 2) Access to Seniors Cards is not consistent across all jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions have set the access age at 60.
  - a) Each State and Territory is responsible for setting their own age limit regarding access to Seniors Cards.
  - b) Regardless of the age requirements, inconsistencies with Seniors Cards exist across all jurisdictions due to the nature and extent of each Seniors Card program. Programs and products available through the Seniors Card are region specific and dependent on businesses and organisations offering a benefit for seniors. The ACT Seniors Card is issued free and provides access to savings on a range of goods and services provided by participating businesses. A combination of government and non-government businesses make up the 300 participating organisations that provide a number of benefits and discounts on a wide range of goods and services in the ACT.

- 3) There are several vacancies on the MACA due to places being held open for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and a member of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community.
  - a) 8 members were appointed to the MACA on 1 June 2017.
  - b) Since the above appointments there have been no resignations. However, one member has passed away.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:



Date:

5/12/17

By the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, Gordon Ramsay MLA