

1. BACKGROUND AND PRINCIPLES

Council adopted the policy for a concession for property owners who provide non-income-generating granny flats to support dependent relatives in the 1999/2000 financial year. Council sought to offer a concession on the extra service charges to those applicants whose residential property included a granny flat that was occupied by their relative/s who is/are pensioners.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to property owners within the Whitsunday Region whose property includes not only their principal place of residence, but also accommodation in the form of one (1) flat (granny flat) to house aged or invalid relatives.

3. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objective of this policy is to ameliorate the financial impact of additional service charges for property owners who provide at their residence, non-income-generating granny flats in support of dependent relatives.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Council shall grant a remission on the nett extra service charges for water, sewerage and garbage levied for a residential property in the Whitsunday Regional Council area, to applicants whose property includes not only their principal place of residence, but also accommodation in the form of one (1) flat (granny flat) to house aged or invalid relatives, providing that the following applies:

- (a) the property is the principal place of residence of the registered owner;
- (b) the registered property owner signs a binding undertaking to the local government that the benefit of the remission will be extended to the pensioner;
- (c) the flat (granny flat) to which the application applies is the principal place of residence of the approved pensioner, and no claim for a pension subsidy can be made on another property; and
- (d) the pensioner is a relative of the registered owner.

4.2 A remission shall not be granted for flats or any other form of accommodation for which rent or some form of income is received

- 4.3 A remission shall only be granted for charges levied on land, which Council considers is used for residential purposes.
- 4.4 Applications are to be made by the registered property owner and the recipient of a pension on the required form. Approved pensioner's cards shall to be accepted by the Chief Executive Officer as sufficient evidence that the person/s is/are applying is/are an approved pensioner, in accordance with the definition 1-5 of the Administrative Guidelines, for the Queensland Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme – amended 4 March 2004.
- 4.5 Applications must be received by 30th November in each year. Any persons applying after this date will have their application deferred to the following financial year.
- 4.6 A fresh application must be made in each financial year;
- 4.7 A remission shall not be granted where any rates are overdue in respect of the subject property.
- 4.8 The Team Leader Rates is responsible for the administration of the Policy and for processing applications in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Council's policies.
- 4.9 The Team Leader Rates shall ensure that public notice is given by 31st May each year advising of the terms of Council's policy.
- 4.10 The amount of the remission pursuant to this policy shall be the nett total of the extra service charges being the water, sewerage and garbage service applicable to the individual property.

5. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Local Government Regulation 2012 Chapter 4, Part 10, Section 123

6. DEFINITIONS

Pensioner shall mean a person/s who is the holder of:

- Queensland Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Human Services or Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- Queensland Repatriation Health Card – For all Conditions or a Gold Card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

7. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Pensioner Rate Subsidy Policy

Hardship Policy

Interest on Overdue Rates Policy

8. DATE REVIEWED

June 2017

9. NEXT REVIEW

June 2018