



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill
Minister for Multiculturalism and
Minister for Disability Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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INCOME DOORS OPEN FOR SENIORS IN CASTLE HILL

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP says new social connections and additional income are among the benefits waiting for Castle Hill seniors as the NSW Government announces a new partnership with home sharing platform Airbnb.

To continue NSW Seniors Festival celebrations the NSW Government has launched an Australian-first pilot program where NSW Seniors Card holders can receive a \$100 cash reward when they sign up as an Airbnb host and successfully complete their first booking of three nights or more.

"I encourage Castle Hill seniors to consider opening their homes to this opportunity. It is a great way for older people in our electorate to supplement their income and meet new people," Mr Williams said.

NSW Seniors Card holders will also be eligible for a \$20 Airbnb credit when they book as a guest for the first time via the Airbnb website. Minister for Ageing Tanya Davies said the partnership not only creates real economic opportunities for NSW seniors but also keeps them socially connected to their communities.

"This is about connecting seniors with likeminded people, offering cost effective ways to travel and new ways to keep the cost of living down," Mrs Davies said.

Airbnb Australia Country Manager Sam McDonagh said to help NSW seniors take full advantage of the rewards on offer, free digital literacy workshops will take place over the next six months in Manly, Parramatta, Liverpool, Penrith, Orange, and the South Coast.

"Older people are the most 'loved' or highest rated hosts on Airbnb. With 85 per cent of these stays receiving five-star reviews, we want to encourage more seniors to turn their empty nests into income engines," Mr McDonagh said.

The success of the 6-month pilot program will be evaluated with a view to form a 12-month partnership that will offer further benefits to NSW Seniors Card holders.

The partnership supports the *NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020* which identifies housing, social inclusion and travel as key priorities for seniors. More than 5,700 businesses offer over 8,000 discounts to Seniors Card holders across the state.

To access the Airbnb offer or view Terms & Conditions visit www.seniorcard.nsw.gov.au.

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