



OFTA: monitored alert systems

The State Government has announced criteria for the roll out of the personal monitored alert systems rebate promised during the State Election.

Minister for Ageing Jennifer Rankine said rebates would be introduced from April to help older people living alone to buy and maintain the systems.

“Most South Australian seniors want to stay as independent as they can for as long as they can – and for many, this means remaining in their own homes,” she said.

“Personal alert systems are a fantastic way to give older people who want to live alone, the security they need to do so safely. It gives their families and people who care for them more confidence too.”

Personal alert systems are a lightweight pendant worn on the wrist or around

the neck that can be activated to alert someone, such as neighbours, relatives, friends or a monitoring centre, in an emergency. By pressing a button on the pendant, a signal or message is sent and a pre-agreed response put into action.

The Personal Alert Systems Rebate Scheme – a Rann Government election promise to be delivered over four years - will provide a one-off amount of up to \$380 for purchase and installation and up to \$250 a year for ongoing monitoring services.

To be eligible, people will need to have a Centrelink Pensioner Concessions Card be living alone, or their carer is unable to provide assistance in an emergency be at high risk of falls, or suffer from a medical condition that requires an immediate, and urgent response in an emergency, and

have a referral from an appropriate health professional.

Priority, in the first instance, will be given to people over 85 years (65 years for Aboriginal people).

Ms Rankine said more than 500 people were expected to receive the rebate in the first year and 2,400 over the four years.

The rebate scheme compliments a range of other initiatives to support older South Australians to live safely and confidently in their own home. The State Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, has in place comprehensive fall prevention programs <http://www.fallssa.com.au/index.php> which deliver preventative interventions including home safety assessments, health management and vision assistance.