



COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

Founded 1931.

Serving pensioners of all ages, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Consumer Protection Awards – 2002, 2003, 2004

28 October 2004

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: IID.100

No photo finish for older people at RTA!

“29 October marks a sad day for non-drivers in NSW. It is exactly one year ago that the previous Minister for Roads, The Hon Mr Carl Scully, MP, announced the introduction of a non-driver photograph card” said Mr Morrie Mifsud, Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc (CPSA).

“An estimated quarter of a million people in NSW do not drive because they have a disability, are too old, do not have the disposition to drive or simply never had the opportunity to learn to drive. People without a card with a name and photograph are stopped from doing every day things we take for granted.

“We have reports from people unable to buy a mobile phone, joining the local video store, the local library, posting a parcel overseas, entering a club for lunch and purchasing a ticket over the internet. There are also more serious problems such as difficulties in renting accommodation. People should not be prevented from participating in the community because they don't have a drivers licence.

“This problem is more frustrating because it is easy to fix. In NSW there is already an ID card, available through RTA, for 18 to 25 year olds. Why can't it be extended to those 26 and up? Three other States have 'over 18 cards'. If they can do it, what is wrong with NSW?

“We call on the NSW Government to meet their promises or simply lift the age barrier to accessing the 'Proof of Age' card currently available to 18 to 25 year olds through RTA offices. Until the age of 26 you can go into any RTA office and purchase a proof of age card. Something magical happens on your 26th birthday according to the NSW Government, you suddenly become a security risk and need special legislation to get a card. I don't understand the delay” said Mr Mifsud.

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