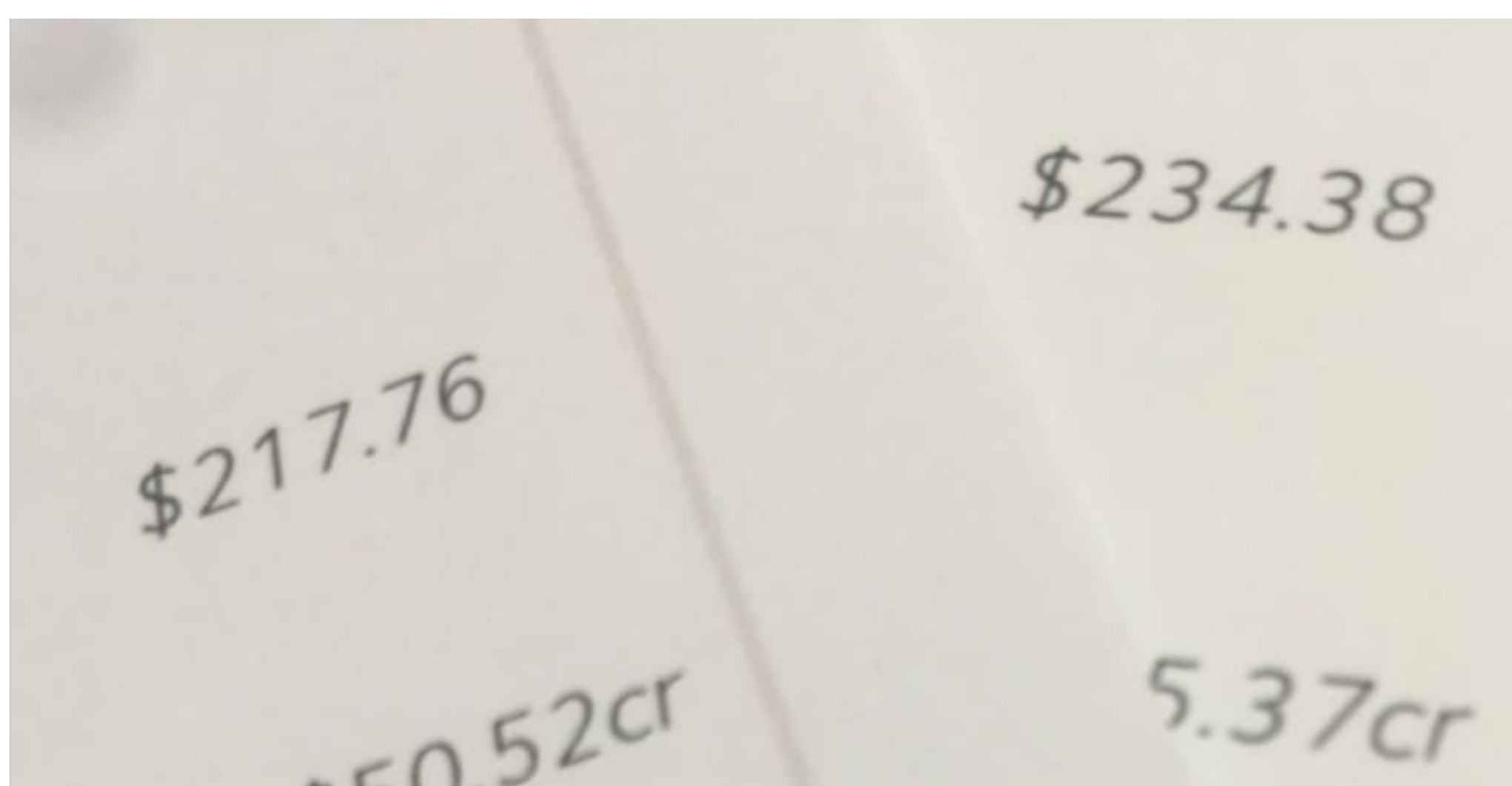


NEWS | Feb 09 2021

Energy supplement to support vulnerable Victorians

By Simon Ruppert



Low-income households can now access a one-off \$250 payment to help with their energy bills. Photo: Mark Condon.

Victorians from low-income households can now access a one-off \$250 payment to help with their energy bills.

State Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said the Power Saving Bonus would be available to eligible concession cardholders in Northern Victoria until January 2022, providing immediate energy bill relief to those who needed it most.

"The Power Saving Bonus is the government's latest initiative to provide energy bill relief for households who need it most," Ms Symes said.

"Victorian Energy Compare is saving households hundreds of dollars on energy bills every year.

Man injured at Benalla factory LS Precast in critical condition

"I encourage everyone in Northern Victoria to visit the site and find a better deal on their gas and electricity."

The bonus is available to anyone with a gas or electricity account who holds a pensioner concession card or receives JobSeeker, Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance.

Eligible Victorians are encouraged to apply via the Victorian Energy Compare website.

That site is designed to help consumers take charge of their energy costs by finding the best energy deal available.

Police seize \$1m cannabis crop in Benalla

Seven out of 10 people save money by using the website, with typical annual household savings of \$330 on energy bills in the first year alone.

Electricity bills are the top cost of living issue for consumers and about 20 per cent of Victorian households requested financial assistance with their energy bills last year because of the impacts of COVID-19.

To ensure the bonus is accessible to those who need it most, including those from marginalised communities and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, the Victorian Government has enlisted the support of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Consumer Policy Research Centre.

Mask sales support Benalla's Breast Cancer nurses

The Power Saving Bonus is part of the \$797 million household energy affordability package that was announced in the recent State Budget.

• Eligible cardholders can access the Power Saving Bonus at [this link](#) or, if assistance is required, by phoning 1800 000 832.

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