

Annual Report

2021/2022



OUR MISSION

We advance the rights, interests and futures of Australians as we age.

OUR VISION

Ageing in Australia is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence.

COTA Tasmania acknowledges with deep respect the resilience and knowledge of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the traditional custodians of lutruwita, Tasmania.

We value the wisdom of Aboriginal elders past and present and the role they play in continuing to care for Country.

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About COTA Tasmania

Our values

- **Respect**
- **Diversity**
- **Collaboration**
- **Integrity**



Who we are

COTA (Council on the Ageing) Tasmania is a small, not-for-profit organisation made up of a team of staff and volunteers who are passionate about advancing the rights and interests of Tasmanians as they age, particularly those aged over 50 years.

As the peak body representing older Tasmanians, we stand beside our community, listen to their concerns and work to ensure that their rights are upheld. We promote a positive view of ageing and challenge age stereotypes, foster inclusion and participation, and support independence and choice.

COTA Tasmania is part of the COTA network that is represented in every Australian state and territory and at a federal level through COTA Australia.

What we do

Lobbying / Advocacy / Awareness raising

Speaking up and raising awareness of issues affecting all older Tasmanians, particularly those experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage.

Education

Our volunteer peer educators deliver free information sessions across the state, including remote and rural areas, and offer one on one digital mentoring.

Aged Care Navigation

A free, friendly and independent service to help you to understand and navigate the aged care system.

Policy

Contributing to discussions at the highest level of government both locally and nationally.

Consultation

Seeking out and listening to the concerns of older Tasmanians from diverse backgrounds.

Events

Delivering Seniors Week, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and year-round workshops and events that benefit older Tasmanians.

Strategic Plan 2020–2025

Strategic goals

- 1 We are well known and valued.
- 2 We connect with, listen to and learn from our community.
- 3 We are effective and enduring in all we do.
- 4 We attract, value and retain passionate people

Priority areas

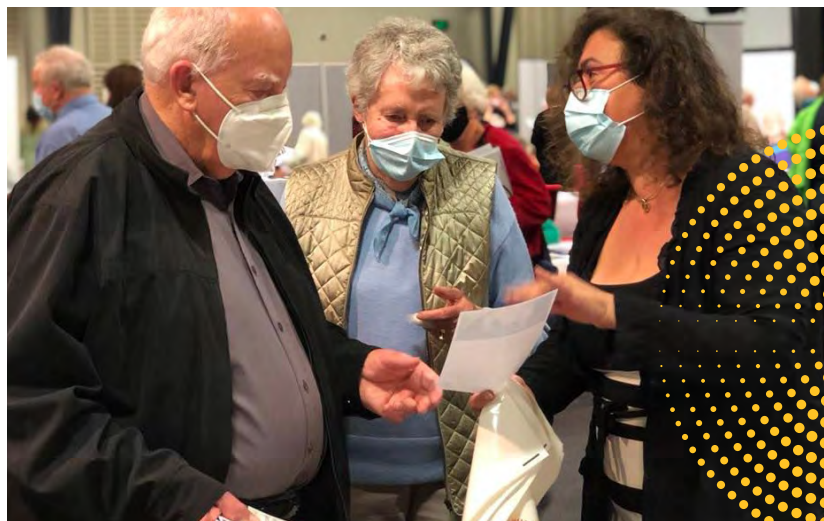
- Making ageism a thing of the past.
- Positive reform in aged care.
- Claiming a space for mature age workers in the workforce.
- Increasing online access for older people.
- Prevention of elder abuse.

For further information about our strategic plan please see our website www.cotatas.org.au.

COTA Tasmania gratefully acknowledges funding support from:



Department
of **Health**



Our People

Sue Leitch, Chief Executive Officer



Transition

'transition' - 'passage from one position, state, stage, etc., to another' — *The Macquarie Dictionary*

This year has seen many transitions for COTA Tasmania as an organisation. We have grown and that growth

has not been without its challenges. We have also been transitioning through COVID.

We found a new home for our important work in the south of the state in the CBD of Hobart. We value having three offices across the state, and our new site at Level 12, 39 Murray Street, has provided a great environment to work in and the bonus of sharing with our sister organisation, YNOT (Youth Network of Tasmania). Living our belief of the importance of intergenerational work.



It was from here that we finalised our work with EAAA (Elder Abuse Action Australia) for the 7th National Elder Abuse Conference (NEAC) 2022, bringing this important conference to Tasmania for the first time. My heartfelt personal thanks to Dr Lyn McGaurr for her time and dedication spent on this huge project and to our partners at EAAA.

We have also farewelled some key people at COTA Tasmania with Keree Rose retiring in June 2022 from her role as Peer Education Coordinator, and former Operations Manager and Senior Policy Officer Deb Lewis retiring with close to ten years' service at the end of June 2022.

As I write this report, I am close to finishing my time with COTA Tasmania as well and I can fondly reflect not only on this busy year, but ten years working with older people and communities in Tasmania. I have learnt so much from you all and will always treasure this time. There are too many issues and projects we have worked on together, always with my fantastic team of staff and volunteers at my side. It has been a many twisted path we have travelled but I am grateful for the memories. My deepest gratitude to my teams over the years, particularly Deb Lewis, and the wonderful Presidents and Board members I have worked with during my time at COTA Tasmania.

David Strong has led the organisation through this succession process, and I thank him for his steady hand over what is said to be the most important role of a Board, CEO Recruitment.





My deepest gratitude to my teams over the years.

The Board has continued to work with me on our Governance review, focussing this year of review on our Risk Management framework and policies.

Operationally, it has continued to be a year of disruptions with borders reopening and an often-confusing mix of onsite and offsite work juggling waves of COVID and other respiratory conditions within the team but also with our many contacts and organisations that we work with. It has resulted in delays in project planning and execution that cannot be ignored, and I feel committed to comment on.

Some highlights for the year in reflection include:

- Ongoing policy work in health, mental health and wellbeing and aged care
- Shifting policy over the COVID response, outbreak management and vaccinations
- Ongoing and increasingly urgent advocacy on digital autonomy as people are being left behind in our online world
- The Federal election and change in government
- Workers compensation consultation and advocacy; and importantly
- Ongoing work in Elder Abuse Prevention and Ageism.

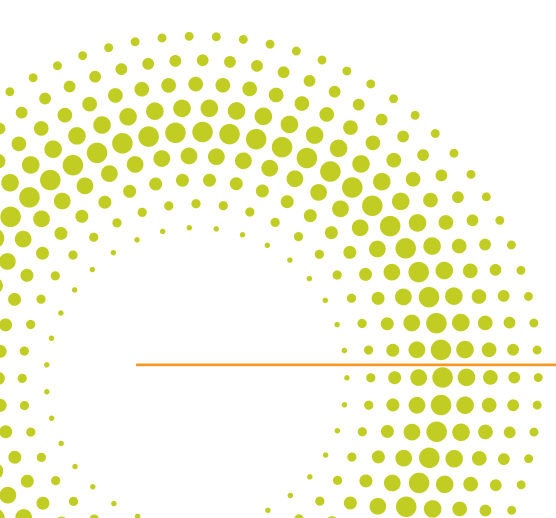
Our Aged Care Navigator System Trial team have been working very hard over the year and have seen increasing demand for their services. We have also been preparing to do ongoing work in this area if successful with the transition over to the CareFinder model as recommended by the Royal Commission into Aged Care.

Welcome to new team members. Firstly, Lisa Free as our new General Manager, although she is no stranger to COTA Tasmania serving on the Board and holding both Vice President and Acting President roles with us. Likewise, former Board member Glenda Daly joined the team working from our northern office as an Aged Care Navigator. Annette Horsler replaced Keree in the Peer Education role and also made the transition from volunteer to part of our paid workforce.

New Board members were welcomed at the AGM in November 2021 – Alison Wiss, James Versteegen and Erin Senz; and we welcomed back former Board member, Rita Meaney.

Retiring Board members over the period included John Pauley (President), Lisa Free (Vice President), Pip Shirley, Peta Cook and Ian Fletcher (Past President). My thanks for your service to COTA Tasmania.

I will be watching out for this wonderful organisation as I leave and into the future and I do remain firmly committed to the vision, values and priorities it has – I will be continuing this work as a director of EAAA (Elder Abuse Action Australia) and in my own private life.



David Strong, President



When I chaired my first Board meeting as President, I stated my fundamental goal for the year was to ensure a smooth transition for COTA Tasmania as we navigated the journey to find a new leadership team, while continuing to advocate for those

we represent and delivering on our projects and commitments.

There will be a theme through-out this year's report on transition.

At the time of writing this report, we are witnessing a significant transition occurring before us with the celebration of the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and ascension of her son His Majesty King Charles III. Through-out life events cause periods of transition, whether planned or unplanned. At this time, we are still transitioning to a post-COVID society where there will not be a return to the environment we lived in prior to its impact.

At the last AGM, we saw a significant change in the membership of the Board with eight of the ten Board positions being up for election, resulting in four incumbent members being returned and four new members. At the AGM John Pauley, Peta Cook and Ian Fletcher retired from the Board. I congratulate Carl Cooper, Pip Shirley, Deb Thurley returning with me, and Rita Meaney, Erin Senz Alison Wiss and James Versteegen. As a result of these changes in Board membership, there were changes in the Executive and Sub-Committees and I thank everyone for the roles they have taken on during the year. During the year our Vice-President Lisa Free resigned from the Board to take the role of General Manager and Pip Shirley resigned due to work commitments.

On behalf of the Board, I thank Lisa and Pip for their service and advice to the Board during their tenure. As a result of those resignations, Christina Holmdahl and Danielle Conlan joined the Board. The Board was fortunate that after concluding his time on the Board, our outgoing President John Pauley accepted the role of Chair of our Policy Council.

Through another difficult year our team, both employees and volunteers, have worked tirelessly to navigate the challenges before us to deliver on our commitments and projects funded by our stakeholders and sponsors. The COTA Tasmania brand is well recognised through our advocacy and representation. Our relocation to a new office in the Hobart CBD has created exciting opportunities to work with our co-tenants Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) as we both advocate for similar outcomes for our communities. During the year we have seen changes within Government, many policy changes and a Federal election, but at no time did the team lose sight of our ultimate goal and objectives, so well done. While our achievements are listed later in the report, I must congratulate the team with working with Elder Abuse Action Australia on delivering the 7th National Elder Abuse Conference (NEAC) 2022 in Hobart, and a special thanks to Dr Lyn McGaurr.

The Board was advised early in 2022 that Deb Lewis (Operations Manager and Senior Policy Officer) and Sue Leitch (CEO) would be retiring during the year. In addition to Deb retiring in June 2022, Keree Rose also retired from her role as Peer Education Coordinator. Sue provided the Board with six months' notice that she would retire in September 2022. That is collectively approximately 30 years of service and knowledge. In my short time on the Board, I have seen how the entire COTA Tasmania team work together under the leadership of Sue and Deb. It is a mark of how well bonded and supportive the team is under that leadership, that transition to a new leadership has been smooth.

The departure of two senior executives in a short period of time is a significant change and anxious period for all. I want to acknowledge the role everyone (staff, Board and volunteers) has played in engaging in open and honest conversations about the process and their concerns. The past two and a half years has been difficult navigating COVID impacts and our communities are increasingly concerned about cost of living pressures. Yet, the team has not wavered from the task of advocating on behalf of and assisting those we represent. Finding the right words to convey the appreciation we have for Deb and Sue for the past ten years of dedication, commitment and passion is difficult, but I will attempt by stating that without them COTA Tasmania would not be the organisation it is today. We will be forever grateful for foundations they have built along with their teams. Deb, you have provided valuable insights into policy across a broad range of policy areas, plus provided support to Sue and the COTA Tasmania team with your friendly approach. Deb on behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers I wish you all the best for the future and enjoy those planned travel trips.

Prior to Deb's departure a recruitment process was undertaken to find a replacement for Deb and it was pleasing that Lisa Free was appointed to the role. Lisa was previously the Vice-President of the Board prior to accepting the role.

The most significant transition phase commenced during the year and will conclude next year but given its significance and that it will be in place by the time this report is read I feel it is appropriate to be recorded in this year's report. This phase was the recruitment of a new CEO to guide us to our next phase.

The Board under previous Chair John Pauley reviewed processes to commence succession planning when Sue indicated her intention to retire. At the time of writing this report the

announcement of the new CEO, Craig Chadwick was due to happen, and Craig will commence in October and be at the AGM. I wish to thank Searson Buck and the Selection Panel members Philippa Roberts, John Pauley, Sue Leitch and Carl Cooper for their time in undertaking this task.

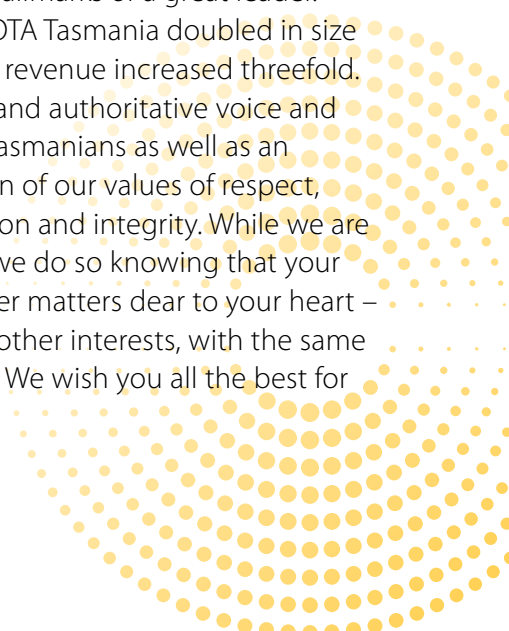
To everyone who has undertaken a role this year for COTA Tasmania: staff, Board, volunteer, committee member, member, advocate I say thank you.

It has been a challenging year, but as detailed in the rest of this report the challenge of transition was not our only achievement. We achieved considerably more, so congratulations to everyone.

Thanks to everyone for entrusting me with the task of representing COTA Tasmania as your President.

It is only fitting that my report ends with a final recognition:

Sue, your ability to create an environment to create inspiration, influence and impact are true leadership qualities few have attained. At the heart of your success lies compassion, authenticity and empathy. Your willingness to invest in the growth of those you engage with plus your willingness to listen and understand their motivations and challenges are the hallmarks of a great leader. During your time COTA Tasmania doubled in size in terms of staff and revenue increased threefold. You are the trusted and authoritative voice and advocate for older Tasmanians as well as an exemplary champion of our values of respect, diversity, collaboration and integrity. While we are sad to say farewell, we do so knowing that your focus will be on other matters dear to your heart – your family, art and other interests, with the same energy and passion. We wish you all the best for the future.



Carl Cooper, Treasurer



On January 9th, 2020, the World Health Organisation announced that there was a mysterious Coronavirus-related pneumonia in Wuhan, China. On February 24th this year Russia decided to start a military conflict with Ukraine with significant

loss of life and human tragedy not seen since the second world war. Although both incidents were fundamentally health and military conflicts, the ramifications on a global level have very much been financial in nature. Unfortunately, many in our community will be experiencing these financial repercussions well into this decade.

While we can always identify things that we would like to better, my report would firstly like to praise the work of all our hardworking team of staff and volunteers across this great state of Tasmania. Extensively we depend on external funding to maintain the level of services and support to our membership, and it is these individuals that help to maintain the organisation, identify the challenges and help the leadership of COTA Tasmania to deliver the message to this state. A not-for-profit organisation has to source funding but also is required to implement and deliver services that are targeted to areas of need in a professional and targeted manner – we are doing that effectively and are always looking to identify further opportunities.

We achieved a net deficit for the year of \$62,966 compared to the surplus of \$68,425 last year. This deficit increased significantly as the Auditors requested that we include on costs in staff leave entitlements, in previous years on-costs have not been included. Income for the financial year from Grants totalling \$1,145,762 a decrease of 18% from the previous year of \$1,394,337. Strong increases in Department of Health and Department of Health Tasmania funding were not matched by the revenue losses in funding associated with the Department of Communities, COTA Australia and State Growth from the previous year. In addition, the generous COVID- 19 Relief Funding (ATO) of \$88,379 was not provided this year.

Most of the revenue came from grants funding from the Department of Communities (\$583,000), COTA Australia (\$270,434), Department of Health (\$146,928) and Department of Health Tasmania funding (\$83,142). Our revenue for 2022 has decreased to \$1,145,762 and our expenditure has decreased slightly to \$1,208,728.

Most of the expenditure increases came from employee entitlements - salaries (\$829,592), superannuation (\$78,144) and leave entitlements for annual and long service leave (\$184,681). There was increased expenditure in many items including rent (\$73,098), sundry expenses (\$13,954), motor vehicles (\$11,930), client support (\$7,874), utilities (\$7,420), cleaning (\$7,140), and depreciation (\$6,730). Expenditure decreases included advertising and promotion (\$61,134), computer (\$15,644), consultancies (\$14,721), insurance (\$10,965), subscriptions and membership (\$6,858), governance (\$6,280), volunteer expenses (\$5,744), printing and stationery (\$4,042), health and safety (\$2,561), training (\$2,445), minor equipment (\$1,592), and meetings (\$1,196).

The increased rent is related to our relocation to the Hobart CBD and associated fit-out costs. We also entered into a sub-lease arrangement with the Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT) which assists with off setting the increased rental costs.

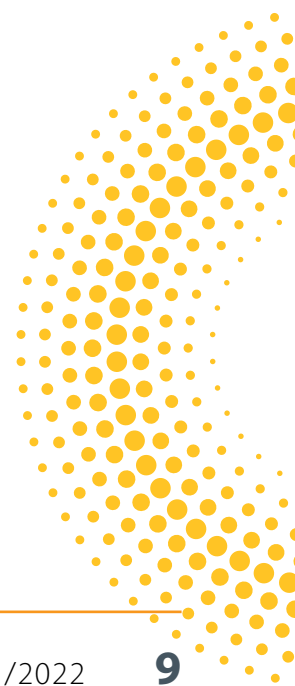
Our total equity decreased to \$141,186 as at 30 June 2022 from \$204,152 last year, a decrease of 31%. 'Total Current Assets' increased by 8% to \$576,880 from \$534,636 with increases in receivables of (\$79,268) and decreases of GST due from ATO of (\$14,029). Cash at Bank decreased by \$9,690 (27%), Term Deposits decreased by \$16,315 (\$432,931). Total non-current assets decreased by \$6,730. Total liabilities increased from \$398,123 to \$496,603, an increase of \$98,480 (25%). The increase is due to an increase in the Provision of Annual Leave (\$70,894), Provision for Long Service Leave (\$113,787), and Unexpended Project Funds (\$263,516) offset by a decrease in funds being held for Payroll Liabilities \$17,404. The increase in employee entitlements is due to annual accumulations of Long Service Leave plus the inclusion of superannuation on-costs for leave entitlements.

The revenue for COTA Tasmania comprises income from the sale of services, government grants, client contributions and donations. Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, collection is possible, the costs incurred or to be incurred can be measured reliably. Although there is no reason to believe that funding will cease, the viability of the Association as a going concern is dependent on continued grant funding.

The audited reports have been prepared and a payment to the auditor of \$2,085 (2022) and \$2,065 in (2021) was made for services rendered.

Although we would want COVID-19 to go away, the financial implications of the pandemic have still been very evident in the last 12 months. One only needs to try and negotiate interstate air travel to identify that internal systems, appropriate staffing levels, integrated services, time management and passenger capacity have all been struggling to cope. On a personal level, many people are frustrated with our circumstances and would like the world to return to how it was – unfortunately we all will have to be patient. We are well situated financially to deal with any impacts on the back of budget announcements that annual grant funding from governments will continue for current and new projects.

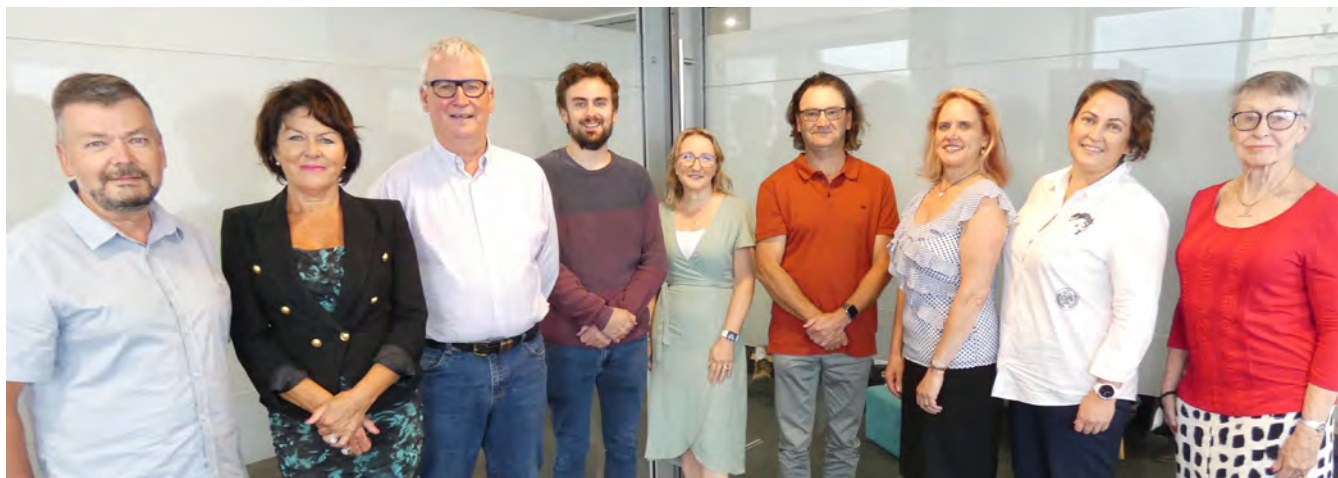
I wish to thank the team (Staff and Board) for their assistance and support as Treasurer in 2022. The FARM committee has been invaluable support to me in reviewing policies and reviewing financial statements. Natalie Lo (Administration and Finance Officer) for her preparation and knowledge of the preparation of financial reports. Finally, I would like to thank our outgoing CEO (Sue Leitch) for her energy and experience guiding COTA Tasmania and wish her the best with her personal endeavours.



Board of Directors

(as elected on Wednesday 17 November 2021)

L–R: James Versteegen, Debra Thurley, Carl Cooper, Rob Hill, Lisa Free (General Manager), David Strong, Alison Wiss, Erin Senz, Rita Meaney. Absent: Christina Holmdahl, Danielle Conlan.



David Strong

President

Treasurer (Jul to Nov 2021)

Executive Committee

FARM* Committee

CRC*** Committee

• 7 of 7 Board meetings attended

John Pauley

President

(leave of absence taken to 29 Jul 2021, term ended Nov 2021)

National Policy Council

Representative

Executive Committee

FARM* Committee

CRC*** Committee

Tas Policy Council

(Chair until Nov 2021)

• 2 of 2 Board meetings attended

Robert Hill

Vice President

(May to Jun 2022)

MC** Committee

Tas Policy Council (Chair)

• 5 of 7 Board meetings attended

*Finance, Audit and Risk Management

**Marketing and Communications

***Constitution Review Committee

Lisa Free

Vice President

(Acting President in John's absence, resigned May 2022)

Executive Committee

MC** Committee

• 6 of 6 Board meetings attended

Carl Cooper

Treasurer

FARM* Committee

Tas Policy Council

• 7 of 7 Board meetings attended

Kate Hiscock

Minute Secretary

(resigned Aug 2021)

Executive Committee

FARM* Committee

MC** Committee

• 0 of 1 Board meetings attended

Peta Cook

(term ended Nov 2021)

Tas Policy Council

• 2 of 2 Board meetings attended

Ian Fletcher

(term ended Nov 2021)

Tas Policy Council

• 2 of 2 Board meetings attended

Rita Meaney

FARM* Committee

Tas Policy Council

• 4 of 5 Board meetings attended

Erin Senz

MC** Committee

• 4 of 5 Board meetings attended

Pip Shirley

(resigned Apr 2022)

CRC*** Committee

• 2 of 5 Board meetings attended

Debra Thurley

FARM* Committee

(until Nov 2021)

MC** Committee

• 7 of 7 Board meetings attended

James Versteegen

FARM* Committee

• 3 of 5 Board meetings attended

Alison Wiss

MC** Committee

• 4 of 5 Board meetings attended

Staff

Sue Leitch

Chief Executive Officer

Deb Lewis

Operations Manager
Senior Policy Officer

Lisa Free

General Manager

Natalie Lo

Administration
& Finance Officer

Glenda Daly

Aged Care Navigator – North

Marguerite Grieve

Administration Support
Aged Care Navigator

Annette Horsler

Project Officer
Peer Education

Soula Houndalas

Project Officer
Aged Care Know How

Alexis Martin

Aged Care Navigator – South

Lyn McGaurr

Project Officer
Elder Abuse Prevention

Alex Mummery

Administration & Policy
Support Officer

David Rose

Project Officer
Communications
& Seniors Week

Keree Rose

Project Officer
Peer Education &
Digital Literacy

Heather Ross

Aged Care Navigator
– North West

Luke Summers

Coordinator
Staying Strong
COTA Learning

Margarita White-McColl

Aged Care Navigator – South

Brigid Wilkinson

Project Officer
Active Ageing

Sadly, in June 2022 we farewelled long standing team members Deb Lewis and Keree Rose.

Deb joined COTA Tasmania as Operations Manager in 2012. Across her ten years of service, she has been a strong and compassionate advocate for older people. We welcomed Lisa Free to the newly appointed General Manager role in May 2022.

Keree joined us back in 2013 in the Inclusive Ageing Project Officer role. After a false start to retirement, Keree transitioned to the Peer Education Coordinator role also taking on a new Digital Literacy support project. Annette Horsler, former volunteer Peer Education Coordinator, took over the role from Keree in June 2022.

We wish Deb and Keree all the best for their retirement and look forward to hearing about their travel adventures.

L-R: Deb Lewis, David Rose and Keree Rose.



Volunteers

Tas Policy Council

Erica Altmann
Julie Andersson
Carl Cooper
Ian Fletcher
David Henty
Robert Hill (Chair)
Rita Meaney
Kimbra Parker
John Pauley
Philippa Roberts
Mary Sharpe
Pip Shirley
Debra Thurley

Peer Educators

SOUTH

Susan Berry
Rhonda Claridge
Barry Heather
Martin Modinger
Peter Orpin
Maureen Rudge
Susan Walter

NORTH

David Henty
Marion Cassidy
Michael Cassidy

IT Support

Gerald Englebretsen
Peter Orpin
Rosa Walden

Below: Volunteer Peer Educator
David Henty presenting to a group.

Opposite: Living Longer Living
Stronger group, Beaconsfield



EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS





Piecing it Together – Glenorchy

July 2021 saw us complete our third intergenerational art project, this time partnering with Glenorchy City Council and Cosgrove High School. Piecing it Together (PiT) projects aim to challenge pre-existing stereotypes about what people can achieve, undertake and connect with due to their age – both from the participants involved, but also the community and general public who come by the street art site over the life of the project.

When partnering younger participants with adults to work collaboratively on a design brief, then execute it, people get to know one another at a deeper level, building trust and interest. Careful facilitation and guidance alongside this assisted to broaden the experience and provide participants with different ways to view things, as well as encourage ongoing connections beyond the project.

PiT #3 was slightly different than in previous years as we collaborated with a local high school. The school was keen to give something back to the local community after a difficult year with COVID-19 forcing school closures, and a fire later in the year also closing off connection to the school and wider community.

COTA Tasmania recruited a group of older adults to work alongside Grade 8 and 9 students to revitalise Cooper Street with participants choosing to brighten the area with eyes depicting our perceptions of others and the ageing process.

Once again, renowned Tasmanian artist Jamin led the project, this time assisted by Luke Emmerton.

Over the course of the 2nd week, when the painting on site commenced, participants sense of skill development, confidence in what they were undertaking, and pride as the images emerged on the wall was evident and a joy to watch unfold.

A follow up get together, over lunch, was organised and held at Cosgrove High School six weeks after the project, to again give the opportunity to connect and reflect on the process including the artistic outcome of the project. We were welcomed warmly by the school Principal and shared a meal prepared by Cosgrove cooking students while we shared photos and thoughts on the project.

Seniors Week 2021

Seniors Week in October was the 23rd annual activities program run for older Tasmanians and the 11th run by COTA Tasmania since it took over management from and on behalf of the Tasmanian government.

Seniors Week 2021 was again a challenging program to develop and administer due to the residual effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although numbers of events and organisers increased from the low of 2020, many traditional event organisers were again unable to participate.

Nonetheless, many of the usual favourites were available, including sporting and light exercise events, while creative and information-seeking patrons were well catered-for.

Importantly, many musical and choral events that were necessarily excluded from the 2020 program for health-safety reasons returned for 2021.

Fortunately, relaxed travel and social-distance protocols around COVID-19 presented a more enjoyable experience for both organisers and patrons during Seniors Week.

In keeping with COTA Tasmania's practice of creating a different overall theme for each Seniors Week, this year's theme was broadly "friendship". Bespoke imagery with a friendship theme was created especially for all Seniors Week promotional collateral by talented local graphic artists.

Our launch event took the form of a debate – 'Old friends are better than new friends' at Hobart's historic Playhouse Theatre. The all-star panel included renowned Australian comedian Rachel Berger, COTA Tasmania President John Pauley, ABC radio presenter Helen Shield, local entertainment legend Daryl Peebles, Hobart comedian Tori Hodgman and former ABC newsreader Peter Gee. The near full-house audience was treated to many laughs and in the end could not choose a victor, so it was agreed that 'the winner was friendship'. Yes, indeed.

COTA Tasmania gratefully acknowledge our Seniors Week supporters, foremost the Tasmanian Government's Department of Communities, which continues to support COTA Tasmania in presenting the annual Seniors Week program.

We also thank TasNetworks, Metro Tasmania, and Australia Post – the latter massively enhancing our statewide program availability and distribution process.

We also acknowledge the valuable assistance provided by local government, event organisers, volunteers and COTA Tasmania members. Without all these valued supporters COTA Tasmania simply could not facilitate this popular activities program for older Tasmanians.



Hobart Office Relocation

After more than 10 years in the Westella building, COTA Tasmania relocated its Hobart office to the CBD in November 2021 taking up residence at 39 Murray St. The larger space created an opportunity to share an office with The Youth Network of Tasmania (YNOT), the Peak Body for younger people aged 12 to 25. We are excited about the opportunities this partnership will bring and look forward to working together to improve the lives of older and younger Tasmanians.



L-R: YNOT CEO Tania Hunt, Premier of Tasmania Jeremy Rockliff, and outgoing COTA Tasmania CEO Sue Leitch.



L-R: Kate Shipway, Maxine Griffiths and Sue Leitch at the Voices of Seniors morning tea.



The Voices of Senior Families and Friends

COTA Tasmania and Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania (MHFFS) collaborated to raise awareness of the role that senior Tasmanians play supporting a family member or friends mental wellbeing.

Staff from COTA Tasmania and MHFFS worked together to explore the experiences of older Tasmanians as part of Mental Health, Seniors and Carers Weeks 2021, creating a short film which was launched at the COTA Tasmania office and followed by a morning tea.

The film tells the story of Tasmanians with lived experiences of supporting a friend or family member with mental ill health, and the impact their support role has had on them as they age. Set against landscapes from southern Tasmanian bush and farmland, the film gave a unique opportunity to support seniors to tell their stories, to feel valued for their efforts, and to highlight the importance of connection for those in the community undertaking these vital support roles. The film explores the themes of awareness, belonging and connection, and the important role friendship plays in supporting mental wellbeing at all ages and all life stages.

We wish to thank the Tasmanian Government and the Carers Small Grants program for making this film possible.

Link to film: www.cotatas.org.au/news-items/the-voices-of-senior-families-and-friends



L-R: Margherita Coppolino, President National Ethnic Disability Alliances; Melanie Joosten, Seniors Rights Victoria; Sue Leitch, CEO COTA Tasmania.

National Elder Abuse Conference 2022

In February 2022, COTA Tasmania co-hosted the 7th National Elder Abuse Conference (NEAC) with Elder Abuse Action Australia. This was the first time the prestigious conference had taken place in lutruwita, Tasmania and followed its 2021 postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference was a huge success, particularly in view of the challenges posed by a surge in COVID cases prior to the event and uncertainty about associated travel restrictions.

COTA Tasmania was part of the organising and program committees, providing extensive input into the evaluation of abstracts and development of the multi-stream program. It also hosted an online workshop to gather the views of members of the Tasmanian public, with the aim of ensuring their input.

The wisdom of the decision to go ahead with the in-person part of the hybrid event was evident in the strength of attendance: 199 people (including staff and volunteers) attended in person and 246 participated virtually.

The Tasmanian Government supported the conference and Tasmanian volunteers provided invaluable assistance. Tasmanians were strongly represented in the program, including in the Welcome to Country, Welcome to lutruwita, Tasmania, Welcome to the Conference, multiple presentations as part of the conference proper, and entertainment at the welcome function. COTA Tasmania also liaised with Government House to organise a Reception by the Governor for conference attendees.

Strong coverage of the conference by Tasmanian media and exceptional national media interest in the Ageing My Way project (which featured in the conference) contributed to the success of COTA Tasmania, other service providers and the Tasmanian Government in raising awareness of elder abuse in our state.

National Award Finalist

COTA Tasmania Project Officer, Soula Houndalas, was a finalist in the Dr Olga Kanitsaki AM Award for Individual Excellence for the Centre for Cultural Diversity in Ageing. Soula was nominated for her work with several multicultural groups in Tasmania facilitating the translation of several brochures into different languages to support people to live well at home during the COVID outbreak. Languages included Italian, Greek, Nepali and Simplified Chinese. The ceremony was held in Melbourne in June 2022. Soula was one of three finalists.



L-R: COTA Australia Deputy CEO Corey Irlam with Soula Houndalas.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), 15 June, COTA Tasmania hosted Walks Against Elder Abuse in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie, supported by the Tasmanian Government. Despite concerns about COVID and very bad weather in Burnie, approximately 150 people participated across the three events. In Burnie, representation by the Red Hat Ladies was again outstanding. In all three cities we had strong support from our Council partners, who provided venues and catering for morning teas, with the City of Hobart also providing a grant for \$1,000 to pay for the road closures in that city.

Mayors and COTA Tasmania representatives spoke at the Burnie and Launceston events. COTA Tasmania CEO, Councillor Zelinda Sherlock (representing the Mayor, who participated in the walk but had to leave for another engagement) and the Hon Jane Howlett (representing the Minister) spoke at the end of the Hobart walk, and a message from the Governor was read at all three.

COTA Tasmania achieved excellent media coverage of its Walks Against Elder Abuse. Large articles with substantial photographs appeared in the *Examiner* and the *Mercury* in print and online. The *Mercury* featured interviews with two members of the public who had participated in the walk and COTA Tasmania's CEO. The *Examiner* quoted both a COTA Tasmania staff member and a COTA Tasmania Board member, and also reproduced the text of banners made by Riverside High students: "Stand up against elder abuse! Respect, value and care for our older citizens!" and "Our Nans, Pops, Grandmas and Grandads must always be respected and valued!" The walk in Launceston was also covered in a substantial piece by 7 News, and by an ABC radio reporter in Burnie for a State-wide news radio news item.

Elaine Chevalier-Carter and Denise Warn were among the many powerful community voices speaking out against elder abuse and ageism at the Hobart Walk Against Elder Abuse this year.

COTA Tasmania thanks the Mercury for permission to reproduce this article, with words by Blair Richards and photo by Nikki Davis-Jones.



Retired Unionists of Tasmania, Member for Clarke Andrew Wilkie and YNOT CEO Tania Hunt at Hobart WEAAD walk.



H.E.A.R. Consultation

Overview

lutruwita, Tasmania is the oldest, and its population structure is ageing the fastest, of all Australian states or territories. As a result, there will be more older people living, working in, and visiting lutruwita, Tasmania than ever before. This is an exciting time for our state, our communities and our population as a whole.

Older Tasmanians make substantial contributions to their families, organisations, industry and the broader community, and with healthy longevity even more will do so in the future.

COTA Tasmania travelled across Tasmanian communities to listen and hear from individuals, groups and organisations about what was important to them in staying safe, healthy and connected as they age. Alongside that, we conducted a survey online and via postcards. This lived experience will shape the development of a new six-year Active Ageing strategy for Tasmania 2023-2029.

Consultation activities were undertaken between 30 January and 1 July 2022 with Tasmanian's aged over 40 years invited to share their views.

What did people say?

Thank you to all the Tasmanian communities that welcomed us into their spaces and places over the course of this consultation, as well as those that completed our surveys. When asked how they feel about their later years, 51.48% of those completing postcards felt positive, with 33.15% neutral and 15.37% of respondents feeling anxious or worried about their older age. Survey respondents also scored high on positivity at 46.96% with 34.78% neutral and 18.26% of respondents feeling anxious and worried about their older age.

This was also reflected in our face-to-face conversations with community members, who commented on how perspective and mindset assisted them to be resilient as they age, as well as supporting their ability to manage the pressure of COVID-19.

H.E.A.R. Community Conversation at Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre.



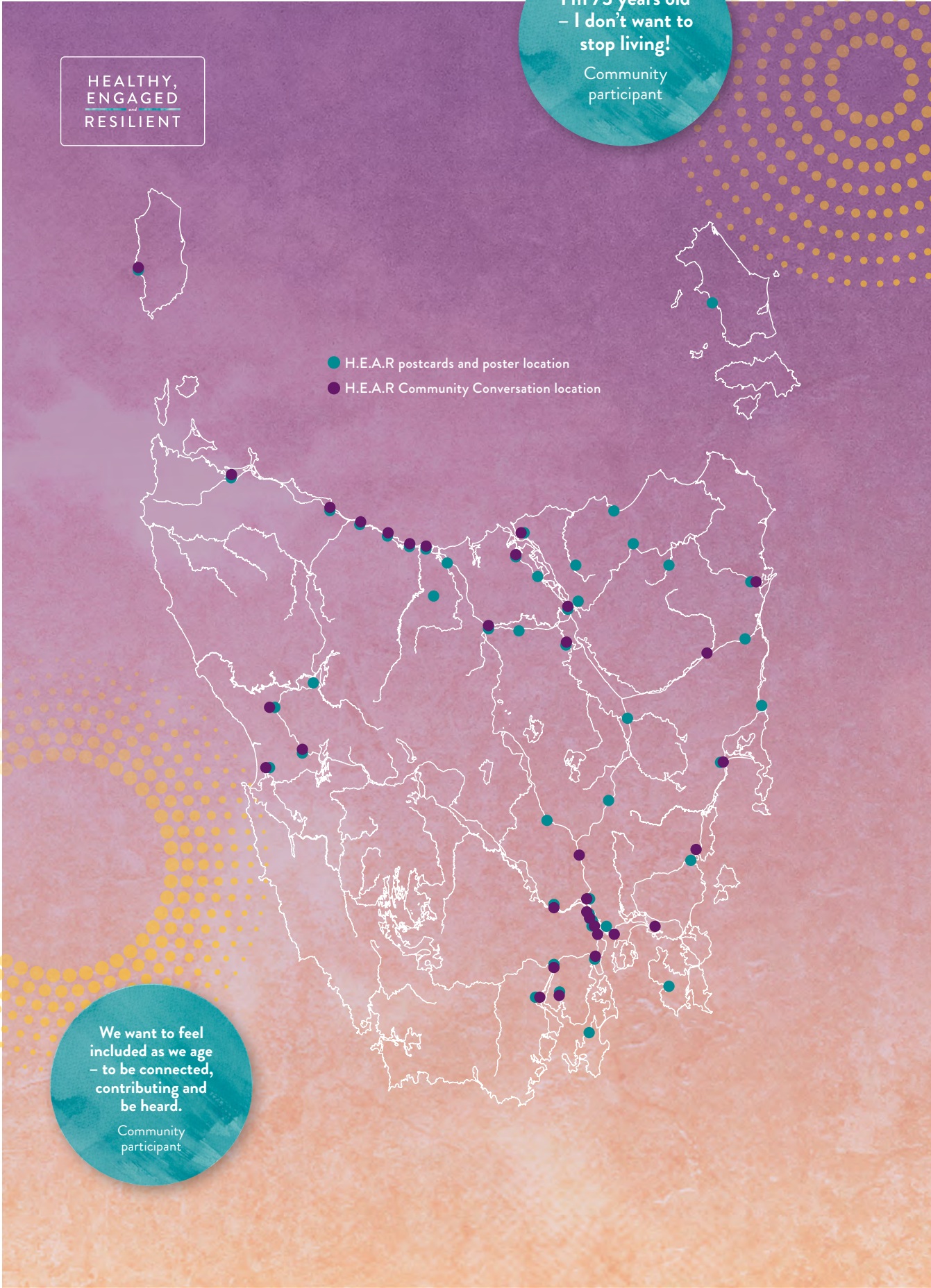
Who did we reach?

HEALTHY,
ENGAGED
and
RESILIENT

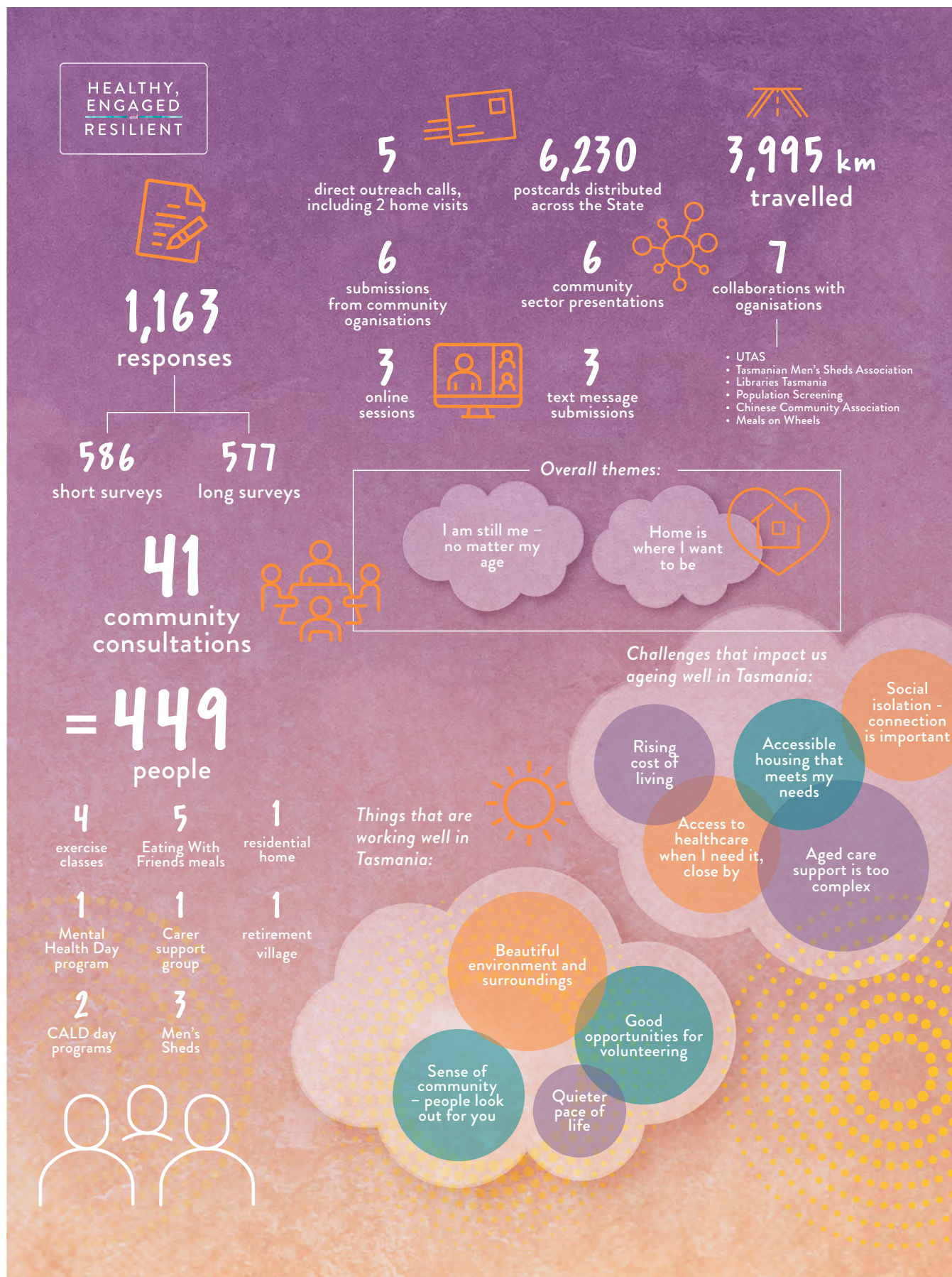
I'm 73 years old
– I don't want to
stop living!
Community
participant

- H.E.A.R postcards and poster location
- H.E.A.R Community Conversation location

We want to feel
included as we age
– to be connected,
contributing and
be heard.
Community
participant



CONSULTATION ENGAGEMENT at a glance



What does being actively engaged in life as you age mean to you?





PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Policy, Consultation and Advocacy

During the 2021/22 year the impacts of COVID-19 were still being felt and COTA Tasmania continued to advocate for clear and timely information for older Tasmanians around vaccinations and the impact of the opening of state borders. The longer term impacts of the pandemic on older Tasmanians will be felt for some time and COTA Tasmania is particularly concerned about the wellbeing of those who have experienced extended periods of social isolation.

The availability and affordability of housing has been a key issue during this period. Both the Tasmanian Policy Council and the National Policy Council of COTA have advocated strongly on a wide range of housing issues.

Affordable, appropriate and accessible housing that will meet Tasmania's current and future needs is critical to underpinning the wellbeing and success of our community. The increasing incidence of housing stress and homelessness being experienced in Tasmania has reinforced the critical need for an increase in the supply of affordable and appropriate housing in our state.

A long-term view and an innovative approach are required to ensure that we address our current challenges in the delivery of affordable housing and also respond proactively to the projected housing requirements of our ageing population. We will continue to reinforce this position through submissions associated with the development of the next Tasmanian Housing Strategy.

COTA Tasmania has made the following formal submissions during the financial year:

- State Budget Submission 2022/23
- Review of the Public Trustee
- OTTER Price Determination for Aurora Energy
- Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill 2022

As an organisation we maintain an active role in reviewing energy issues and their potential impact on older Tasmanians. We participate in the Aurora Community Consultation Forum, TasNetworks Customer Advisory Group and the Policy and Regulatory Working Group, the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (OTTER) Customer Consultative Committee. We also participate in COTA Australia's Energy Advocates group.

Following the passage of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill through the Tasmanian Parliament, COTA Tasmania has been represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group tasked with initiating the implementation of the Act.

We have been listening to older Tasmanians through the Healthy, Engaged and Resilient consultation and meetings of the Older Persons Reference Group and Meet and Greet sessions in Launceston. This input informs our advocacy and will provide important input to the re-development of the State Government's Active Ageing Strategy due in 2023.





Glenorchy H.E.A.R. Community
Conversation with the Bhutanese Elders
Group, Migrant Resource Centre.

Active Ageing

Funding Partner: Department of Communities

A major project within the Active Ageing space this year has been the planning, undertaking and evaluating of the H.E.A.R (Healthy, Engaged And Resilient) Active Ageing Community Consultation project. This saw us conduct traditional surveys, postcards and community conversation groups, alongside creative collaborations with several community organisations to listen and hear about people's experiences of ageing well in lutruwita, Tasmania.

The project was facilitated by COTA Tasmania over several months on behalf of the State Government, who will use the findings and recommendations from the report prepared by COTA Tasmania to inform the 2023-2029 Active Ageing Strategy for Older Tasmanians.

We are proud to be the voice of older Tasmanians and it was a wonderful opportunity to spend time with people across lutruwita, Tasmania during the consultation. We will use this information to continue to represent older Tasmanians and to continue to advocate for equity and recognition.

COTA Tasmania looks forward to working with the State Government to ensure the voices heard during the consultation are considered when the Active Ageing Strategy is developed.



L-R: COTA Tasmania Project Officers Luke Summers and Heather Ross.

Aged Care System Navigator Trial

Funding Partner: COTA Australia

COTA Tasmania has continued our work in the Aged Care System Navigator (ACSN) Trial during this period. The ACSN project focuses on providing tailored aged care navigation assistance to older people (including people who are vulnerable and/or have complex needs) who are accessing aged care for the first time or are transitioning between different types of aged care, such as Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), Home Care Packages, and Residential Aged Care.

During the 2021-22 financial year, COTA Tasmania provided the following services to older Tasmanians (including their families and other support people):

- 15 group information sessions were delivered to an audience of 256 people in total.
- 600 individuals were assisted to navigate the aged care system, often through face-to-face visits.

Feedback from participants has been very positive, with the majority finding the support invaluable in navigating the aged care system. We are incredibly fortunate to have a great team of highly skilled staff on the ground delivering this project. Our partnership with Working It Out continues to be successful and we greatly appreciate the role they play in delivering aged care support to the LGBTIQ+ community in Tasmania.

The current ACSN trial extends to December 2022. From January 2023, a nationwide Carefinders program will begin. COTA Tasmania is hopeful that we will be able to continue our work in the area of aged care navigation, if we are a successful tenderer for the Carefinders program.

“ I really appreciate your time today. Your understanding and knowledge of the system is phenomenal and I found so much value in talking to you.

Commonwealth Home Support Program – Sector Support Project

Funding Partner: Department of Health

The Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) provides entry-level support to assist older people to remain living at home and in their community. COTA Tasmania delivers activities within the Service System Development Sub-Program, supporting CHSP service providers to operate effectively in line with the objectives of the CHSP and within the context of the broader aged care system.

Our key areas of work aim to:

- increase knowledge among Tasmanians, their families and carers of wellness, reablement, and restorative care approaches within the Commonwealth Home Support Program and strengthen the capacity of CHSP service providers to deliver quality services that are responsive to client needs, including clients with diverse needs.
- Encourage and empower consumers to provide positive and negative feedback to Service Providers to improve the quality of the consumer experience.
- Support service providers to better engage with consumers and embed user friendly feedback mechanisms that will deliver customer service improvement.

COTA Tasmania has developed the Living Well at Home toolkit which aims to:

- embed 'wellness and reablement' thinking in the community.
- equip people to decide and plan to increase their wellbeing.
- explain systems and concepts in aged care assessment and the delivery of services.
- enable more 'equal' conversations between older clients, service providers and health professionals.

While wellness and re-ablement of community members remains our key focus, complementary work was also undertaken to support CHSP providers to continue to improve their Quality Assurance practices. This work supports Aged Care Quality Standard 6: Feedback and Complaints, and COTA Tasmania collaborated with TasCOSS to deliver the aptly titled "Conversations that Matter" workshops to support CHSP providers to embed appropriate practices around feedback and complaints in accordance with meeting this standard.

The accompanying "Caring Conversations" toolkit has been developed to support consumer voices being embedded in service design. The following support was delivered through this project:

- Despite the substantial impact of COVID-19 on social gatherings 22 face to face presentations were made, 14 for community groups with a further 8 for service provider networks, expos and for training delivery.
- 13 Living Well at Home community information sessions were held face to face with 1 session held online. For service providers and stakeholders, 5 of the 8 presentations were held online.
- A total of 2,880 Living Well at Home brochures were distributed in this period, with 150 brochures in Italian, Greek, Chinese and Nepali going to targeted communities via their service providers.
- 3 full day in person workshop Aged Care Quality Standard Feedback trainings were delivered to 26 providers, with 5 providers seeking follow up support, with client feedback workshops and evaluation activities.
- Over 50 partnerships and collaborations were established (or built upon) by providing information sessions, regular online networking events, face to face and online sector support training to providers along with the creation of new resources and offers of ongoing support.

COTA Learning

COTA Learning is an online learning platform for people working with older Australians.

COTA Learning is a collaboration between COTA Australia, COTA New South Wales, COTA Tasmania and COTA Victoria. COTA Learning is managed by COTA Tasmania on behalf of these states. The revenue generated from COTA Learning goes towards supporting the charitable activities of COTAs in representing the rights and interests of older Australians.

During the 2021-22 financial year, 126 people purchased courses through the COTA Learning platform.



Digital Literacy

In 2021 COTA Tasmania sought to continue to build local capacity to assist older people to develop their IT skills through the recruitment and upskilling of local volunteers as IT mentors. The objective was to build local capacity to undertake the Digital Clinic sessions through the recruitment of local volunteers as IT Mentors.

Through providing Pop Up IT help sessions and more structured information sessions, the Digital Clinic program aims to build the confidence and ability of older Tasmanians living in the West and East Coast municipalities to use information technology to remain connected and access timely, relevant information.

Nine clinics were conducted in Zeehan, Triabunna, Swansea, St Marys, Fingal and St Helens. We recruited 18 volunteer IT mentors from the areas and assisted 56 clients. Over the two years the program was running we developed IT Mentors in the following community groups: Mt Black Men's Shed, Rosebery; Swansea RSL; Swansea Online Access Centre; Swansea General Community 'The Village' Triabunna; May Shaw Nursing Home Coles Bay General locality; Fingal Neighbourhood House; Fingal Online Access Centre; St Helen Online Access Centre; St Marys Men's Shed; Break O'Day Choir; Hub 4 Health Gym; Break O'Day Spinners and Weavers; St Marys Op Shop; St Marys Library; Mathers House; and Huon Hub.

Growth of this program across the state was constrained by lack of continuous funding. However, a targeted Ethical Jobs Chuffed matched donation campaign helped us to raise \$4,400 in June 2022. This funding will be used to continue our one-on-one IT support in the south of Tasmania as we pursue ongoing funding to continue the program. We will look to partner with councils and Neighbourhood Houses to maximise our delivery.

Digital literacy continues to be an area of increasing concern for older people. Data from the latest Digital Inclusion Index shows no improvement in this area. Tasmanians continue to trail the rest of the nation in this space.

“Thank you so much to COTA and the vollies for this program...it is really helpful to get answers to my particular questions face-to-face. It helps me so much and I don't feel like I am holding up others in a group. I am very impressed with the program.”



Elder Abuse Prevention

Funding Partner: Department of Communities

Partnerships are the foundation of COTA Tasmania's work to prevent elder abuse. In 2021-2022:

- COTA Tasmania delivered the 7th National Elder Abuse Conference with co-host Elder Abuse Action Australia.
- COTA Tasmania coordinated and moderated a presentation at the conference by four other organisations represented on the Statewide Elder Abuse Advisory Committee (SEAPAC): Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA), Advocacy Tasmania, Relationships Australia Tasmania and the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. A key feature of this presentation was the work of Playback Theatre, which through its acting expertly interpreted the scenarios discussed by the panel.
- With the support and encouragement of respective local councils, COTA Tasmania again coordinated and delivered annual Walks Against Elder Abuse in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.
- Under an existing MOU with Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA), COTA Tasmania and TLA's Senior Assist service for people experiencing or at risk of elder abuse delivered free legal clinics in Hobart and Launceston.
- To learn how elder abuse is understood and experienced in diverse communities, COTA Tasmania is undertaking qualitative research with members of the LGBTIQ+ community, in partnership with Working It Out.
- COTA Tasmania has liaised extensively with Engender Equality and participated in the TasCOSS Lived Experience Community of Practice, to better understand how to design a best practice lived experience program.
- In recognition that ageism is a key driver of elder abuse, COTA Tasmania extensively promoted the anti-ageism messages and campaigns of EveryAGE Counts.

Following are several key examples of the many other activities undertaken by COTA Tasmania to help prevent and respond to elder abuse in 2021-2022:

- Despite interruptions by COVID-19 restrictions, COTA Tasmania's peer educators delivered 26 elder abuse information sessions across the state, receiving praise from community groups for their knowledge and ability to stimulate discussion.
- As well as attending routine SEAPAC meetings, COTA Tasmania participated in an extensive SEAPAC workshop to consider the revision of Tasmania's elder abuse strategy and reviewed a consultation report arising from that meeting.
- COTA Tasmania developed a comprehensive written submission to the Review of the Public Trustee and responded to a request to appear before the Commissioner. The final report of the review referenced COTA Tasmania's submission throughout.
- Media literacy enables media audiences and creators to reflect on media with a critical eye. It overlaps with digital literacy and eSafety. From COTA Tasmania's perspective, media literacy has the potential to improve older people's ability to gain trustworthy information that can help protect them from elder abuse. For this reason, COTA Tasmania was very pleased to contribute its expertise to a consultation considering media literacy as it relates to older people, who have been identified through a national survey as one of the groups requiring targeted attention.
- In December 2021, COTA Tasmania's elder abuse prevention funding from the Tasmanian Government was extended until 30 June 2023.

L-R: Hon. Jane Howlett with COTA Tasmania CEO Sue Leitch.



End of Life Planning

Funding Partner: Tasmanian Department of Health

Developed in partnership with Bill Godfrey, COTA Tasmania continued to educate older Tasmanians about the four primary end of life documents – Wills, Power of Attorney, Enduring Guardianship and Advance Care Directives. Information sessions were delivered by our Peer Educators and the popular End of Life Planner was made available to the public via our website and hard copy.

Peer Education

COTA Tasmania has been running a Peer Education program for over ten years. COTA Tasmania employs a Coordinator to promote the program, organise training for Peer Educators and manage session bookings. But the people who deliver the sessions are volunteers.

The task of standing in front of groups of people and engaging them in conversation is not for everyone. But over the life of the program COTA Tasmania has trained and retained many people in the role of Peer Educator. Some of our current trained Peer Educators have been presenting sessions for over ten years.

COTA's survey work on how older Australians can live healthy, engaged and resilient lives has demonstrated the importance of opportunities for social engagement that are meaningful and free. The Peer Education program is contributing to meeting this need for the participants who attend these sessions.

COTA Tasmania currently has five Peer Education session topics. Over 700 people participated in these sessions over the year.

Topic	No of session attendees
Home Fire Safety	114
Protecting Yourself from Elder Abuse	131
Protecting Your Finances from Abuse	158
Eat for Life	104
Getting Your House in Order	200

In the last year COTA Tasmania has successfully recruited a new person to the Peer Education team. However, the program needs more volunteer Peer Educators and recruitment will be a focus on the effort of the Peer Education Coordinator in the next 12 months.

Some of COTA's longest serving Peer Educators have retired from the program in the past year. Among these are Martin Modinger, Rhonda Claridge and Susan Walter. COTA Tasmania thanks them for their contribution to the program.

Seniors Week

Funding Partner: Department of Communities

Seniors Week was held 11-17 October 2021 with the theme "Friendship". It was the 23rd consecutive year of Seniors Week. Event and organiser numbers increased slightly after the low, COVID-affected numbers from 2020.

The program attracted 120 organisers, who conducted 270 separate events – about 30% down on 2019). Geographically, the events were split 56% South, 17% North East/East and 27% North West/West.

The official launch event featured the state's leading comedians, who participated in a comedic debate at a popular Hobart theatre. Patrons booked out the entire ground floor and were thoroughly entertained.

An estimated 4,000 people attended events statewide (compared to est. 10,000 in 2019 and 4,000 in 2020).

Free travel was available to eligible seniors on Metro buses during Seniors Week.



Staying Strong

Funding Partner: Healthy Tasmania

The purpose of the Staying Strong project is to increase the health and wellbeing of older Tasmanians through engagement in regular, affordable fitness programs that are accessible at home or through local groups.

Grant funding from the Tasmanian Government's Healthy Tasmania Fund Round 2 has allowed COTA Tasmania to undertake a range of activities that have positive impacts on the health and wellbeing of older Tasmanians.

Some highlights include:

- 224 Living Longer Living Stronger sessions were delivered by accredited instructors. Living Longer Living Stronger is a personalised strength and balance program for older Tasmanians.
- 24 fitness and allied health professionals completed the Living Longer Living Stronger instructor accreditation course.
- 1,588 printed resources were distributed, including the Staying Strong at Home booklet, an exercise program that can be done from home with little or no equipment.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has significantly disrupted the fitness industry and there seem to be longtail impacts in Tasmania, with some facilities now struggling to maintain operations. One provider ceased operations permanently and another reduced their service offerings, which included ceasing delivery of the Living Longer Living Stronger program.

“I appreciate the concepts, simplicity and outline of exercises suggested in the booklet. As flexibility and mobility decrease a guide such as this is most helpful. —Recipient of the free Staying Strong at Home booklet

“I am building strength and balance in a way that is appropriate for my particular needs. —Living Longer Living Stronger program participant



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement by members of the Board

The Board has determined that the entity is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial statements:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council on the Ageing (Tasmania) as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Council on the Ageing (Tasmania) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board, and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



President

27/9/2022
Date



Treasurer

27/9/2022
Date

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank, on Hand	26,747	36,437
Lease Bond	11,458	8,448
GST Due from ATO	8,682	22,711
Petty Cash	100	100
Term Deposits	432,931	449,246
Receivables	96,962	17,694
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	576,880	534,636
Non-Current Assets		
Computers at Cost	–	15,934
<i>Deduct</i> Provision Depreciation	–	(15,934)
Motor Vehicles at Cost	87,505	55,643
Additions	–	31,862
<i>Deduct</i> Provision Depreciation	(26,596)	(19,866)
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	60,909	67,639
TOTAL ASSETS	637,789	602,275
Deduct Current Liabilities		
Payroll Liabilities	17,404	26,520
Provision for Annual Leave	70,894	56,458
Provision for Long Service Leave	113,787	–
GST Due to ATO	26,957	25,587
Unexpended Project Funds	263,516	184,719
COTA Learning	4,045	–
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	496,603	293,284
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provision for Long Service Leave	–	104,839
Total Non-Current Liabilities	–	104,839
TOTAL LIABILITIES	496,603	398,123
NET ASSETS	141,186	204,152
Equity		
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	204,152	135,722
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(62,966)	68,430
TOTAL EQUITY	141,186	204,152

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Change in Equity

for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	Retained Surplus \$
Balance at 1 July 2020 brought forward	135,722
Surplus for the year	68,430
Balance at 30 June 2021 carried forward	204,152
Balance at 1 July 2021 brought forward	204,152
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(62,966)
Balance at 30 June 2022 carried forward	141,186

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Performance

for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Grants		
Department of Communities	583,000	671,641
COTA Australia	270,434	406,631
Department of Health	146,928	110,963
Department of Health Tasmania	83,142	–
Funding – other	9,942	4,528
Department of State Growth	6,988	40,402
Tas Fire Service	3,841	–
Department of Health & Human Services	2,395	29,669
City of Hobart	1,000	–
<i>Total Grants</i>	<i>1,107,670</i>	<i>1,263,834</i>
Other Income		
Fundraising/Donations	8,089	7,265
Advertising	7,769	11,950
Fees & Charges	6,168	5,302
Sponsorship	6,000	12,000
Interest	3,994	1,793
Insurance Royalties	3,221	3,814
Membership	2,669	–
Sundries	182	–
COVID 19 Relief Funding (ATO)	–	88,379
<i>Total Other Income</i>	<i>38,092</i>	<i>130,503</i>
TOTAL INCOME	1,145,762	1,394,337

	2022	2021
<i>Deduct Expenses</i>		
Salaries	829,592	803,614
Superannuation	78,144	72,306
Rent	73,098	53,598
Advertising, Promotion	61,134	84,614
Computer	15,644	37,056
Consultancies	14,721	106,283
Sundry Expenses	13,954	3,419
Postage, Freight	13,414	14,884
Telephone	11,945	11,000
Motor Vehicle	11,930	7,564
Insurance	10,965	13,700
Client Support	7,874	3,215
Utilities	7,420	2,566
Cleaning	7,140	4,302
Travel/Accommodation	7,063	7,008
Subscriptions, Membership	6,858	8,216
Depreciation	6,730	5,110
Governance	6,280	12,223
Volunteer Expenses	5,744	15,988
Printing, Stationery	4,042	7,806
Management Fee	4,000	3,005
Health & Safety	2,561	6,268
Training	2,445	11,980
Audit	2,085	2,065
Minor equipment	1,592	24,164
Meetings	1,196	1,929
Equipment hire, lease	1,157	2,029
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,208,728	1,325,912
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(62,966)	68,425

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022	2021
Cash Received from Operations		
Receipts from Grants	1,186,467	1,263,836
Receipts from other sources	-36,263	368,341
<i>Deduct Expenditure on Suppliers and employees</i>	(1,173,199)	(1,617,100)
Cash Surplus from Operations	(22,995)	15,077
Cash Used in Investing Activities		
Purchase of Motor Vehicle	–	31,862
Cash Deficit from Investing		
Bond Paid	(3,010)	(458)
Net cash increase/(decrease) for the year	(26,005)	(17,243)
Balance at start of year	485,783	503,026
Balance at end of year	459,778	485,783
Made up by:		
Cash at Bank	26,847	36,537
Deposit	432,931	449,246
Total cash at year end	459,778	485,783

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1964, the requirements of the Association's Constitution and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission. The Board of Governance has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity as defined in Statement of Accounting Concepts 1: Definition of the Reporting Entity. The Association has however, prepared the financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The Council on the Ageing (Tasmania) Inc. is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under the Accounting Standards.

1.2 BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements, other than the statement of cash flows, has been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

1.3 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting policies adopted are consistent with prior years.

2 Significant accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of these statements and are consistent with prior years unless otherwise stated.

- *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements*
- *AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows*
- *AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*
- *AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards*
- *AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.*

The following significant accounting policies have not been adopted in the preparation of these statements. AASB 16 Leases

3 Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Association is exempt from income tax under Div. 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The Association holds deductible gift receipt status.

4 Goods and Service Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australia Taxation Office (ATO).

5 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at bank, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

6 Revenue

Revenue comprises income from the sale of services, government grants, client contributions and donations. Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, collection is possible, the costs incurred or to be incurred can be measured reliably.

On the receipt of grant income the Association determines whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations. Where both attributes are present the revenue is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as a liability until the obligation is satisfied. Otherwise the grant is recognised on receipt.

7 Plant and Equipment

Motor vehicle assets are bought to account at cost less any accumulated depreciation. The carrying amount of fixed assets is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

Movements in carrying amounts	
Balance at 1 July 2021	87,505
Additions	–
Depreciation	(26,596)
Carrying amounts at the end of the year	60,909

8 Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line or a diminishing value basis over the useful lives of the assets to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The rate of depreciation on the motor vehicle is 10%.

9 Employee Benefits

9.1 SHORT-TERM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Short term employee benefits are benefits, other than termination benefits, that are expected to be settled within twelve (12) months after the end of the period in which the employees render the service. A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid if the Association has a present or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

9.2 OTHER LONG TERM EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The creation of a long service leave entitlement commences after 5 years of an employee's employment. It is accrued at 13 weeks over 10 years.

10 Cashflow information

Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with Surplus from Operations:

Changes in non-cash items	2022 \$	2021 \$
Operating Deficit for the year	(62,966)	68,425
Changes in non-cash items		
Depreciation	6,730	5,110
Employee entitlements	23,384	23,542
Payroll liabilities	(9,116)	6,608
Unexpended funds	78,797	(125,745)
Sundry debtors	(65,239)	33,871
Sundry creditors	5,415	3,266
	(22,995)	15,077

11 Economic Dependence

Although there is no reason to believe that funding will cease, the ongoing viability of the Association as a going concern is dependent on continued grant funding.

12. Auditor payments

Payments to the auditor were \$2,085 in 2022 and \$2,065 in 2021. No other payments were made in either year.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

In our opinion the financial report of Council on the Ageing (Tasmania) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional & Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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Responsibility of the Board for the Financial Report

The directors of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. The Association's responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the

related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

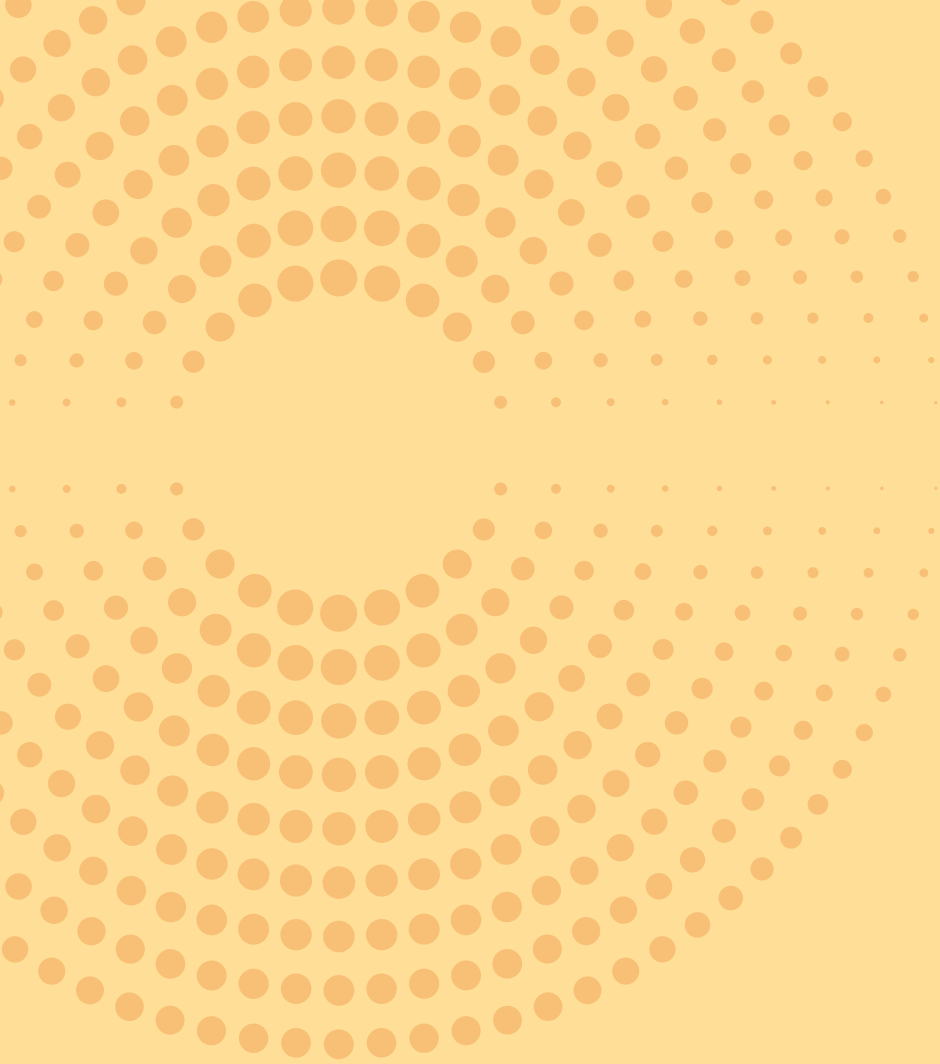
Wise Lord & Ferguson

WISE LORD & FERGUSON



JOANNE DOYLE
Partner

Date: 27 September 2022



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