

For immediate release
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COTA Tasmania welcomes Government commitment to address funding certainty

COTA Tasmania has welcomed today's commitment from Community Services Minister Roger Jaensch the State Government will provide funding surety by installing funding agreements of at least five years for the organisation and the community sector.

CEO Brigid Wilkinson said that while COTA welcomed yesterday's State Budget which showed a small increase to COTA's funding over the next two years, along with new funding to explore digital inclusion strategies for older Tasmanians, the organisation's peak funding had remained the same for several years.

"More investment and funding surety will allow COTA to deliver on its role as a peak body, to ensure we connect with all areas of Tasmania, run our flagship events each year and respond to increased requests for stakeholder input and policy consultation.

"We heard this morning from Minister Jaensch that going forward, the State Government is committed to a focus on longer term funding cycles and with that, a focus on outcomes-based frameworks within community sector grant contracts. This is welcome news, and we look forward to working with the Minister and the Department of Cabinet to make this goal a reality for our organisation.

"Longer funding terms will assist us to meet our obligations to our staff and to the Tasmanians we represent, in creating collateral to help empower people make informed choices as they age and, on their behalf, to challenge ageism within our systems and society," Brigid Wilkinson said.

"The additional funding in the Tasmanian Budget is a small step towards assisting COTA, as a peak body, to meet increased costs experienced by the community sector but is still not high enough to meet the needs of the sector and we have concerns about how the efficiency saving expectations within this budget will impact community and frontline services that older Tasmanians rely on.

"Tasmania is currently the fastest-growing aging population in the country. With almost 228,000 Tasmanians over the age of 50 which is almost half the State's population, we owe it to older community members, as well as to our future selves, to act on the issues impacting their lives. We need a greater focus and commitment to supporting the unique needs, contributions and experiences of the older age group and to plan for the services and infrastructure needed to support them and us as we age."

Brigid Wilkinson said COTA Tasmania remained committed to engaging with the State Government and continuing representations around these critical areas.

"We will strive to ensure the Government understands the importance of supporting initiatives that enhance the lives of our ageing population and contribute to a vibrant and cohesive society," Brigid Wilkinson said.

For media inquiries, please contact:
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About COTA Tasmania:

COTA Tasmania is the peak body representing the interests of older Tasmanians. With a commitment to advancing the rights, well-being, and social inclusion of older individuals, COTA Tasmania actively engages with government, community, and business sectors to drive positive change.

By promoting the value of seniors and advocating for equitable policies, COTA Tasmania strives to create a society that celebrates and supports aging Tasmanians.

