

Prioritising Older Tasmanians

COTA Tasmania: Key 2025 Election Points

COTA Tasmania urges all State Election candidates to consider their future selves, family members, neighbours, and communities when shaping their campaign commitments.

Demographic urgency

- Nearly one-third of Tasmania's population is expected to be aged 65+ by 2050
- Tasmania has the fastest growing ageing demographic in Australia
- We need a change in narrative around the ageing journey to one of possibility, participation and contribution.

We need decisive action now to prepare for this demographic shift.

Strategic Vision

- Create age-friendly communities across Tasmania
- Build infrastructure and support systems for all current and future older Tasmanians
- Make Tasmania a national leader in supporting positive ageing
- Focus on celebrating ageing and enabling full, connected lives where people feel safe, respected and independent.

This election is a time to act on what is needed to support us all, now and in the years ahead.

Prioritising older Tasmanians means preparing for Tasmania's future.

1.

**Governance
and Policy**

2.

**Sustainable
Funding
Commitment**

3.

**Preventive
Health and
Wellbeing**

1. Governance and Policy

- **Dedicated Minister for Ageing** - a practical necessity, not a symbolic gesture. Tasmania is the only state or territory in the Country that does not have a portfolio responsibility for seniors and ageing.
- **Remain committed to the establishment of an Ageing Advisory Committee** to ensure older Tasmanians' voices in policy development, recognising that they are experts in their own lives.
- A whole-of-Government commitment to fund initiatives within the Older Tasmanians Action Plan 2025-2029 with **an undertaking from each agency to review and include an age diversity lens** to their work and programs.
- Commit to **disaggregated data collection**, analysis and reporting of data to recognise the diversity of need at different ages .
- Ensure any new policies and legislation developed **address discrimination and inequality based on age**, protecting the human rights of Tasmanians.



2. Sustainable Funding Commitment

COTA Tasmania is calling on the next State Government to:

- **Fast-track the implementation of five year funding contracts** across the industry, accompanied by a funding review process that starts at least six months before the end date of a contract.
- Consult with the industry on the development of an **indexation formula that reflects the true cost** of doing business.
- Deliver a **Partnership Agreement with the Tasmanian Coalition of Community Services Peaks** that sets out a shared vision for government and industry working together, with appropriate resourcing for implementation.
- **Commit to a consolidated Peak Body funding model for COTA Tasmania**, pooling existing peak body and long-term project funding into a single core funding agreement that reflects the full breadth and strategic importance of COTA's work. This will enable stronger leadership, coordination, and responsiveness in representing older Tasmanians.

3. Preventive Health and Wellbeing

- Investment in Preventive Health is crucially needed and allocated long term for real change to occur, requiring a commitment to **at least 5% of the total health budget**.
- Increased focus on consistent, available, and timely primary health care services within the community, with a **focus on allied health**.
- Trial a dedicated **seniors' dental benefit scheme** through Oral Health Tasmania
- Explore a **stand-alone mental wellbeing support service** that targets the specific needs of older people, with a focus on life transition, grief and loss support.



Other key recommendations

Workforce Participation

- Commit to developing a **mature-age jobs strategy** which provides initiatives to address skills shortages and tap into the experience and expertise of older workers
- Target **workforce participation strategies** that will assist both employers and mature-age job seekers
- Challenge **ageist views about older workers** via an awareness campaign with employers



Community Infrastructure and Programs

- Provide **FREE public transport** for seniors across the state
- Expand **Seniors' Exercise parks** to all Local Government Areas
- Expand the **Ticket to Wellbeing voucher program** beyond the initial two year trial
- Invest in intergenerational programs to combat social isolation
- Fund a dedicated **Seniors Week grants program** to support community groups in hosting activities that increase participation of older Tasmanians
- Increased **digital inclusion supports** delivered by and for local communities
- Improved resourcing across the Libraries Tasmania network to ensure all locations can provide **consistent regular digital support to seniors**.
- **Live Well Live Long programs funded in all regions**, a proactive program supports older Tasmanians to learn and interact with local services to plan ahead for their later years.



Housing

- **Innovative housing models for over 50s.** Nearly one in five people seeking assistance from Tasmania's homelessness services are aged over 55 (*Shelter Tas 25-26 State Budget submission*).
- A dedicated **housing response for those who have experienced elder abuse** and do not have a safe home (this group is not currently included in the family violence response)
- Explore models for **intergenerational shared accommodation**, supporting older and younger Tasmanians.
- **Urgently review the Residential Tenancy Act 1997 and Retirement Villages Act 2004** to provide further protections to renters and residents.



The choices made this election will shape how Tasmanians age. Supporting older Tasmanians is not just good policy – *it's an investment in everyone's future.*