

Wednesday July 16, 2025

Dear Candidates,

As Tasmania prepares for the State election this Saturday, we write to you on behalf of COTA (Council on the Ageing) Tasmania to urge your commitment to addressing the needs of our state's rapidly ageing population.

Today's announcement by the Liberal Party to establish a dedicated Minister for Ageing represents a significant step forward that COTA Tasmania has advocated for over several years. This commitment, alongside promises to double and extend the Ticket to Wellbeing program and expand Care@Home services, demonstrates the kind of focused leadership that older Tasmanians deserve.

We are now calling on all sides of politics to make this same commitment.

Tasmania has one of Australia's oldest populations, with profound implications for health services, housing, transport, community infrastructure and social inclusion. For too long, ageing issues have been scattered across different portfolios without coordinated oversight. A dedicated Minister for Ageing will provide the strategic focus and accountability that is essential to tackle these challenges comprehensively.

The successful Ticket to Wellbeing program exemplifies positive ageing policy that recognises older Tasmanians as active community members and supports their physical and mental welfare. COTA strongly advocated for this initiative at the last State election, and we believe doubling and extending this program will provide vital support for older Tasmanians to maintain health and wellbeing.

A Minister for Ageing is essential to:

- Coordinate policy across government departments
- Ensure the needs of Tasmania's rapidly ageing population are properly addressed
- Bring strategic focus to ageing issues that have previously lacked coordinated oversight
- Provide the accountability that older Tasmanians deserve

We believe this commitment demonstrates recognition that older Tasmanians are not just service users, but valuable contributors to our community who deserve dedicated government representation.

As you campaign for election, we urge you to consider the significant demographic reality facing Tasmania and commit to establishing a dedicated Minister for Ageing in your government. This is not just about policy – it's about ensuring that one of our State's most significant demographic groups has a voice at the highest levels of government.

COTA Tasmania stands ready to work constructively with any government to advance policies that support healthy ageing, combat ageism, and ensure Tasmania is truly age friendly.

We look forward to your response and your commitment to Tasmania's older people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harrison'.

Ingrid Harrison
President and Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Crawford'.

Kate Crawford
Acting CEO