

COTA Tasmania An Age-Friendly State

To all political candidates,

Council on the Ageing [COTA] Tasmania is seeking your support for the attached priority policy areas facing older Tasmanians in this State election.

With almost **224,000 Tasmanians over the age of 50 years** (40.4% of Tasmanian population), this cohort is impacted by a range of factors for which COTA seeks your commitment.

50.6% of all eligible voters in Tasmania are 50yrs+ years of age (Census 2021) making them the highest proportion of voters in Tasmania.

We ask for your in-principle support for the following priority policy areas. A more detailed election statements paper is attached.

We would appreciate your response by 13th March by return email to Brigid Wilkinson, Acting CEO, on brigidw@cotatas.org.au

Your responses will be circulated to our membership base and publicised on our online platforms.

Thank you for your time and input.



Brigid Wilkinson (she/her)
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Board Chair and President
COTA TAS
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Key priorities:

Peak body sustainability

COTA has not seen an increase to existing funding grants for some time, absorbing the additional costs of managing the organisation without appropriate indexation. We seek your support for five-year funding to guarantee increased staffing and to expand existing programs and a commitment to indexation.

Digital literacy and inclusion

Tasmania has the second lowest digital literacy skills level in the country. We seek your support of increased digital inclusion strategies, ongoing support for online access centres and improved resources for libraries.

Housing support

Housing stocks in Tasmania are still desperately low. We seek your support for an increase in housing stock with targeted accommodation options for Tasmanians over 50, innovative approaches to address the needs of older Tasmanians in private rental and exploring the possibility of intergenerational shared accommodation models to support older and younger Tasmanians.

Social connection

Connecting with new people as you age is often harder due to mobility and other health issues. We seek your support for an investment in social connection programs, increased funding for Seniors Week, free transport for seniors and exploration of social prescribing initiatives.

Cost of living

Tasmanians are doing it tough with many older people on fixed incomes are stretched financially. We seek your support to extend the Ticket to Play Program to adults across Tasmania, introduce sustainable energy solutions for communities, free public transport for seniors, maintain taxi rebates, and commit to make the energy regulator truly independent.

Health and wellbeing

Consistent, available, and timely GP support is increasingly important to older Tasmanians. We seek your support for increased investment in primary health care services, a seniors' dental benefit scheme, increases to funding for simple modifications and equipment for older Tasmanians living at home, Mental Health support for older Tasmanians to increase health literacy and combat ageist stereotypes and a re-funding of COTA's Living Longer Living Stronger program.

Reframe ageing

There must be greater awareness and valuing of older Tasmanians. We seek your support to resource and finalise the next Older Tasmanian Strategy 2024-2029, commitment to establish an Ageing in Tasmania Advisory Committee, commit to data collection, analysis and reporting of data undertaken by Government that separates the over 60-year cohort to recognise the diversity of need at different ages, support COTA to expand its Ageism Awareness workshops, commit to developing a mature-age jobs strategy consultation and ensure any new policies and legislation developed address discrimination and inequality based on age ensuring the human rights of Tasmanians are protected.

I support the above key priority areas outlined by COTA Tasmania.

Name:

Party:

Dated: