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7 April 2014

Social Services Investment Framework Consultation
Social Services Reform Program
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Dear Project Team

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Draft Social Services Investment Framework*.

COTA Queensland is strongly supportive of the Framework's commitment to values of transparency, partnership, and sustainability. The investment of government expenditure clearly needs to be used strategically to maximise the existing resources and social capital of the health and community services sector.

COTA Queensland, as the Seniors Peak Service, is committed to building the capacity of organisations which receive government funding to support older Queenslanders. We are also mindful of the need to reduce the barriers for new providers planning to enter the marketplace of service delivery. We agree with QCOSS in supporting the Framework's intention to provide clarity around when government is purchasing and fully funding services, and when it is making a contribution towards service delivery.

COTA Queensland suggests the Framework would benefit from a specific and accessible plan of how its principles will be implemented. This will assist both government and non-government agencies make decisions about what services are needed in the future. Any future discussion about sustainability and value for money needs to be mindful of the true cost of service delivery as well as the challenges of balancing contestability and collaboration.

Finally, I would encourage the Reform Team to draw upon the expertise and networks of COTA Queensland in developing the *Social Services Investment Framework*. If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 3316 2903.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Tucker-Evans", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name and title are printed in a bold, black sans-serif font.

Mark Tucker-Evans
Chief Executive