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MEDIA RELEASE

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Seniors invited to become Community Ambassadors

COTA (Council on the Ageing) Queensland is a not-for-profit organisation giving older Queenslanders a voice on issues that affect them and providing avenues to create positive social change together.

To support seniors advocate for their rights, needs and interests COTA Queensland are developing a new volunteer network called COTA Community Ambassadors.

Launching the program COTA Queensland Chief Executive Mr Mark Tucker-Evans said COTA Community Ambassadors, who will be seniors themselves, will inform COTA's policy and advocacy by researching what is happening in their community and how it impacts on seniors and their community.

"We will collate this information, support it through research before sharing it with their communities and then developing solutions with older people" said Mr Tucker-Evans.

The COTA Community Ambassador program will initially be established seven areas - Brisbane, South Burnett, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast (including Bribie Island), Gold Coast, Rockhampton and the Central West (Longreach, Barcaldine or Blackall).

"We are inviting any older person interested in working with COTA as a volunteer Ambassador for their community to apply now", Mr Tucker-Evans said. "This is an exciting opportunity to work together with older Queenslanders to make our State more age-friendly."

Age-friendly cities and communities is a World Health Organisation initiative and supported by the Queensland Government's strategic direction statement Queensland: an age-friendly community launched last week by the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

The COTA Community Ambassador program will be evaluated with older people before expanding it across the whole State.

Apply to be a COTA Community Ambassador and find out more by visiting www.cotaqld.org.au or calling COTA Queensland on 1300 738 348. Applications close Wednesday 4 May 2016.

END