



COTA QUEENSLAND

PO Box 15525
City East 4002
ABN 13 465 280 311

Level 1, 25 Mary St
Brisbane QLD 4000
www.cotaqld.org.au

P:(07) 3316 2999
P: 1300 738 348
F:(07) 3316 2900

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The Hon Campbell Newman MP
Premier of Queensland
Premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier

COTA Queensland appreciates the significant challenge of preparing the 2014-15 State Budget as you continue to strive to improve Queensland's economy.

I write in reference to the recent announcement by the Australian Government of the cessation of funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Seniors Card holders. I understand you signed the latest version of this agreement with the Prime Minister and other State and Territory leaders in December 2012, and that it provides the Queensland Government with approximately \$50 million per year to offset the state's costs in providing core concessions to all Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card holders as well as reciprocal public transport concessions for state and territory Seniors Card holders.

The provision of concessions on council rates, motor vehicle registration, energy and public transport are vital to Centrelink and Veterans' Affairs pensioners - and have been a significant part of the social safety net since the Premier's conference of 1994 which originally agreed to provide the same core concessions to all Pensioner Concession Card holders regardless of whether they received a full or part pension. Similarly, the agreement about recognising state and territory Seniors Cards on urban public transport throughout Australia was reached after repeated calls by seniors over many years about the importance of affordable mobility when visiting family and friends interstate.

I encourage your government to continue these arrangements even in the absence of the National Partnership Agreement for the sake of the seniors, pensioners, carers, people with a disability, and veterans who rely on concessions for their well-being and independence. COTA Queensland would, of course, be willing to participate in a wider review of state government concessions if there is a need to better target or simplify entitlements and application processes. If you would like further information about the work of COTA Queensland, please do not hesitate to contact me on 3316 2903 or 0411 389 946.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Tucker-Evans". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Tucker-Evans
Chief Executive