



COTA QUEENSLAND

PO Box 15525
City East QLD 4002
ABN 13 465 280 311

Level 1, 25 Mary Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
www.cotaql.org.au

P: (07) 3316 2999
P: (07) 1300 738 348
E: info@cotaql.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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Making Queensland Age-Friendly: A top priority now and into the future

COTA Queensland, the seniors peak body representing 718, 000 Queenslanders aged 65 and over, has called on all parties contesting the State Election to make ageing a policy priority.

By 2036, it is projected one in five Queenslanders will be aged 65 and over.

“We’ve been advocating for an age-friendly Queensland since the World Health Organisation initiated the concept in 2005.” said COTA Queensland Chief Executive Mark Tucker-Evans.

Our aim is to help create a more just, equitable and caring community in which older people are actively involved and have access to appropriate support, services and care. These principles are consistent with the World Health Organisation (WHO) age-friendly communities approach.

An age-friendly community is where older people are valued, respected and actively engaged in their community. They can stay in touch with people they care about and find the services and support they need.

“By creating age-friendly communities, we are creating communities that are more liveable for everyone, enabling people of all ages to actively participate in community life.

“People have a right to maintain personal independence, be treated with dignity and respect, live without exploitation, abuse or neglect and feel safe. Be provided with information, have personal privacy, make decisions, have choice and support if required.

“COTA Queensland recommends that the incoming Queensland Government continues to support and encourage the adoption of an Age-friendly Queensland. The eight age-friendly domains should be addressed in an integrated approach. All stakeholders, including state government agencies, local government, employers and the broader community need to embrace and enable age-friendly communities.

COTA Queensland is strongly urging all candidates to support the 25 recommendations detailed in the 2017 COTA Queensland State Election Priorities.

These recommendations include:

- Making Queensland more age-friendly
- Improved housing for seniors

- Health provision improvements
- Transport initiatives for seniors
- Concessions and seniors
- Energy initiatives for seniors
- Digital Inclusion for seniors
- Mature age employment

You can access COTA's State Election Priorities at www.cotaqld.org.au.

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