

Invitation to Become a Peer Educator

Retirement Villages and Residential Parks

About this opportunity

Are you interested in helping others who are living in retirement villages or residential parks, or who are thinking of moving in, to understand the legislation and their rights and responsibilities?

COTA Queensland's Peer Education program is expanding and we are looking for people who are interested in volunteering their time and skills to facilitate interactive learning and discussion sessions with seniors in their community.

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Queensland is a state-wide not for profit organisation. Our programs support older Queenslanders to influence decision making and create positive social change. We advocate to Government on issues that affect us all as we age and we promote older people's rights. We also provide free education to the community to help people be empowered to make informed decisions.

We are about to start a new community education program focused particularly on the changes to the legislation governing retirement villages and residential or manufactured home parks, including the requirements for operators and the protections for consumers. This volunteer role will deliver facilitated education and discussion sessions for older Queenslanders to give them the information and tools they need to make decisions about living in a retirement village or manufactured home park, understand and seek advice on contracts, and seek help and advice where they need it.

This program is a collaboration with the Association of Residents of Queensland Retirement Villages (ARQRV), Associated Residential Parks Queensland (ARPQ), Tenants Queensland, National Seniors, and the Park and Village Information Link (PAVIL) at Caxton Legal, and is funded by the Queensland Government Department of Housing and Public Works.

We are seeking local peer educators to run sessions in Townsville and Toowoomba, and the surrounding areas.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

This is a great opportunity for someone who is looking for a volunteer role within a supportive and friendly environment that can fit around their lifestyle and commitments. You will work with a diverse range of people and be an integral part of our team.

Through the role you will have the opportunity to develop or maintain group facilitation and public speaking skills. You will gain general knowledge to help educate the community about topics important to us as we age.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend a two-day training workshop in mid-2018 (held in Brisbane or South-East Queensland) to learn the material you will be delivering at the sessions. Your travel costs will be covered.
- Facilitate interactive learning sessions with groups of seniors.
- At the sessions, collect information about current issues seniors are facing to inform our advocacy for an age-friendly Queensland.
- Commit to facilitating at least 10 sessions over a 9 month period.
- Participate in quarterly COTA Peer Educator network meetings (held in Brisbane or South-East Queensland). Your travel costs will be covered.
- Represent COTA Queensland in a positive and responsible manner.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PEER EDUCATOR?

- Aged 50 years and older
- Genuine interest in the health and wellbeing of others, a desire to work with and meet others from diverse backgrounds, and enjoy working with groups of seniors
- Friendly and approachable, with good interpersonal and clear communication skills, and a sense of humour
- Flexibility and adaptability with good problem-solving skills
- An interest in helping COTA Queensland to fulfil its Mission and a commitment to its Values
- Trustworthy and reliable, and able to maintain confidentiality of session participants and discretion when responding to questions
- Willingness and ability to learn and present information to groups accurately and to facilitate discussions in a group setting, and ability to adapt presentation and facilitation style to the needs of different groups

OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS ROLE

- A strong interest and/ or experience in the topic area around retirement villages and residential parks
- Access and ability to communicate via emails regularly.
- Available during business hours Monday to Friday to run sessions with community groups.
- Have own transport (a registered and insured motor vehicle) or access to public transport and able to carry a box of resources to all sessions. Travel reimbursement (kilometre allowance) is available to Peer Educators delivering the sessions to community groups.
- Willing to undertake National Police Certificate check.
- Willing to undertake a telephone interview as part of the application process.
- The position is voluntary (unpaid).
- Willing to undergo a trial period of one month and work within COTA's code of conduct, volunteer management and support processes.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

The application form is attached. Please contact COTA Queensland on (07) 3316 2999 or education@cotaqld.org.au with any questions.