

MEDIA RELEASE

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COTA NT releases its Recommendations to the 15th Assembly of the NT Parliament

COTA NT, the peak body and leading advocate for senior Territorians, has today released its Recommendations for the next Northern Territory government to advance wellbeing and social justice for Territory seniors.

The Recommendations cover 6 major areas of concern and include 30 recommendations for the 15th Assembly of the Northern Territory. These wide-ranging recommendations set out significant opportunities to improve the lives of senior Territorians for whomever forms government.

The key areas that need to be addressed include aged care, housing, cost of living, safety, health and wellbeing and civil rights.

COTA NT Chief Executive Officer, Sue Shearer, said the Recommendations set out a proactive, practical and timely set of opportunities for the next Assembly to improve the lives of seniors.

“As we hear of more seniors being moved out of the Territory by families concerned for their safety and their health, we know, more than ever, that immediate action is needed. The Territory population of those aged over 65 is increasing, more rapidly in fact than in any other state or territory in Australia. A whole of government approach and positive action on steps that will keep these senior Territorians safe, protected and more, importantly, at home in the Territory is needed as a matter of urgency,” Ms Shearer said.

“In a recent survey, we asked seniors how they felt about ageing in the Territory. Too many replied they were feeling scared, even terrified with concerns around employment security, declining health, living off pensions, facing loneliness and lack of support systems. We can and should be doing better for them.”

“COTA NT’s Recommendations include the development of a long-term *Ageing Well in the Territory* strategy and meaningful policies around aged care, health and housing, which ensure the needs of older Territorians are *recognised* and met. The Recommendations also include opportunities for direct and immediate action such as increasing concessions, investing in personal and community safety and upholding seniors’ civil rights, including the prioritisation of voluntary assisted dying legislation.”

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**This submission can also be accessed via the COTA NT website,
www.cotant.org.au/cota-advocacy/our-submissions/**