

MEDIA RELEASE

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New service to give Territorians better access to aged care system

COTA Northern Territory is part of a consortium of 31 consumer-focused organisations rolling out Aged Care System Navigator Trials. COTA NT will be delivering two trials in the Greater Darwin and Alice Springs regions over 18 months with two Aged Care Navigators providing information and community hubs services for Darwin, Alice Springs and surrounding communities such as Batchelor, Katherine and Nhulunbuy.

The Aged Care Navigators' service is designed to help older Australians, their families, carers and friends get better access to aged care services. The consortium will deliver 62 trials across Australia and will help identify which types of supports achieve the best outcomes for older Australians. The Aged Care Navigator service is predominately a face-to-face service with some telephone and online support and involves a mix including group and individual support sessions. These may involve assistance with access to My Aged Care, filling in forms and other needs.

“COTA NT is proud to be part of the Aged Care Navigators Trial helping Territory seniors get better access to the aged care system,” said Sue Shearer, CEO of COTA NT. “We know there are very real problems facing older seniors particularly in getting access to aged care due to geography, cultural backgrounds, limited access to internet and computers, health issues and sometimes a reluctance to seek aged care support without someone else's support. Being able to talk to someone about individual circumstances and getting the help and information you need is the best way to ensure that later years are the best they can be.”

“Aged Care Navigators are here to help all Territorians who needs information about aged care options or help to access aged care supports provided by government. For anyone wanting help in accessing aged care services, they should call COTA NT on 08 8941 1004 and we will put them in touch with one of our Aged Care Navigators based in Darwin or Alice Springs.”

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Media contacts: Sue Shearer, CEO, COTA NT 08 8941 1004

Further Information:

- Janet Brown, Aged Care Navigator - Program Manager (Darwin) **0466 544 552**
- Debbie Pepper, Aged Care Navigator - Program Manager (Alice Springs) **0423 828 558**
- Aged Care Navigators in the Northern Territory,
<https://www.cotant.org.au/programs/aged-care-navigators/>
- A consortium of 31 consumer-focused organisations, led by COTA Australia will deliver the Aged Care System Navigators Trials across the country.
- 62 trials will be delivered across Australia (totalling 32 information hubs, 21 community hubs and 9 specialist support workers trials in specific locations).
- The trials are funded by the Australian Government until June 2020
- Information relating to the trial, www.AgedCareNavigators.org.au