

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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# NT Seniors Recognition Scheme expands to give seniors more choice

## **Territory Seniors now have more choice on how to spend their NT Seniors Recognition Scheme (NTSRS) money.**

COTA NT has been lobbying for improvements to the NT Seniors Recognition Scheme since its inception.

“The money provided on the debit card for the Seniors Recognition Scheme was never supposed to be an income management system,” said Sue Shearer, CEO of COTA NT. “It was intended as recognition for seniors who have contributed to the Territory. Up until now, it has been discriminatory - those Territorians who could not travel, and rural residents, were not able to fully utilise the annual \$500 provision. With the use of the NTSRS prepaid card expanding, the main restrictions to how people can use the provision are around businesses dealing in either alcohol sales, gambling or adult products.

*“This is a fantastic win for Territory seniors.” Sue Shearer*

“If seniors need to purchase white goods, pay a vet bill, motor vehicle rego, residential rates, bore repairs, pharmaceuticals and a whole lot more, they will now be able to do this,” added Shearer. “This is a fantastic win for Territory seniors. The business community will also benefit as these funds will be spent locally.

“Another improvement to the NTSRS is that Territorians aged over 65, temporary visa holders and holders of a Medicare card will now be included in the Seniors Recognition Scheme. For example, New Zealanders who have lived in the Territory for over 40 years were not eligible for the \$500 payment until now.”

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COTA Northern Territory is the peak advocacy and representation organisation for senior Territorians advocating for and working towards an age-friendly, just, inclusive and equitable society since 1969