



## From the Desk of the CEO

COTA NT NEWS Issue 9: October 2017

### **AGM and Board**

As you may be aware COTA NT held their AGM on Thursday 12 October. Let me introduce our newly elected Board:

Chair - Jan Jewel

V/Chair Bernie Trinne

Treasurer: Mike Walker

Directors: Joe De Luca, Christine Simpson, Dr Vino Sathianathan, Dr Sadhana Mahajani, Ida Anderson and John Whyte

### **Ministerial Advisory Council for Senior Territorians**

As you may be aware – COTA NT is a member of the Ministerial Advisory Council for Senior Territorians and will be attending a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. We will be advocating and pushing strongly for the NTPCCCS review to be released and a decision to be made. The indecision is weighing heavily on Seniorss and we need answers. COTA NT was also part of the petition along with AIR, National Seniors, and Palmerston and Rural Seniors, which collected over 6,500 signatures. The Office of Territory Families also received over 4,000 replies to have their “Have Your Say”. This is an overwhelming response and congratulations to Territory Seniors and if evidence of people power.

### **Consumer Advisory Council for Power and Water**

COTA NT is also part of the Consumer Advisory Council for Power and Water. At a recent meeting a decision was made regarding smart meters. Instead of charging \$500.00 up front – consumers will now be charged \$15.00 a year for their meter.

### **Homelessness Strategy for Territory Housing**

COTA NT was also part of the Homelessness Strategy for Territory Housing. With a 9 year wait list for Territory Housing and the NT Government not adding to their decreasing stock levels, it has reached a critical point. You may have noticed that Territory Housing have advertised for housing stock with six (6) year leases in the local papers. With a 7% vacancy rate, this approach will assist in easing the stock shortage for seniors, while also allowing private owners to have long term leases. It was stressed to Territory Housing that these private houses are often a superannuation asset for investors, so ensuring that Territory Housing takes all the risk is also a must.

The above are just snippets that COTA NT advocates for and we will endeavour to keep you informed of our lobbying and advocacy each month.

Sue Shearer, CEO COTA NT