



Council on the Ageing (Northern Territory) Inc.

## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Monday 6 June 2016

**COTA NT is the peak Territory body advocating and working for Senior Territorians (over 50s)**

### Seniors Need to Have Their Say About the Northern Territory Seniors' Concessions Scheme

COTA NT launched a petition at their SENIORS EXPO on Friday 3 June to over 800 seniors. **This petition calls on the Government to urgently review the NT Pensioners and Carers Concession Scheme in order to redress inequities and unfairness inherent in eligibility and entitlements.**

There are over 55,970 seniors residing in the Northern Territory, and the current population of 16,411 seniors over 65 years and over is set to more than double by 2041. Before 2014, all Territory male residents over 65 years and Territory female residents over 60 years were eligible for the Seniors Concession Scheme.

When introduced in 1979, the Seniors Concession Scheme was promoted as an incentive to keep seniors in the Territory. This concept is now obviously lost on bureaucrats and Government. Although the total concession package is only a measly amount it does ease the financial load on seniors wishing to continue living on in the Territory after retirement. You know – those grandparents who now help look after their grandchildren and provide comfort and support to their extended families. These are the people who have worked hard, contributed to the local economy and community over many years and made this Territory the great place it is today to live work and play.

The Minister for Seniors says a review is under way – but it moves at glacial pace.

The COTA NT petition calls for these disenfranchised seniors to be re-instated into the Seniors Concession Scheme in an *immediate and urgent* review. **To make the campaign work, all Territory seniors are encouraged to sign up to convince Government that seniors are not invisible and want their voice heard.**

View details of the petition, <http://www.cotant.org.au/action-advocacy/immediate-and-urgent-review-of-nts-seniors-concession-scheme-demanded/>

Also being signed in hard copy at COTA NT's offices, Spillett House, 65 Smith Street, Darwin.

**For More Information from the Council on the Ageing (Northern Territory) Inc., on the petition contact:**

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