

Independent Seniors Round Table

Two recent meetings of the Independent Seniors Round Table (ISRT) were chaired by COTA NT. The chair welcomed COTA NT Coomalie Branch President, PROBUS representatives from Darwin and Palmerston branches, the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DoSS) Northern Territory, Palmerston Seniors' Advisory Committee, the NT President Country Women's Association, Carers NT, U3A, National Seniors and COTA NT staff.

What's being discussed

Issues discussed around the table included:

- Review of pensioners and carers' concession scheme
- Lack of public transport for rural-based seniors resulting in a reluctance to go to hospital
- Availability of accessible age care in remote regions
- Need for home carers to get a rest before aged care home options considered
- Need for more age care accommodation locally
- Need for more seniors' housing
- Vital requirement for clearer, readable and simpler communication between government agencies, service providers and seniors;
- Future of Seniors Card, Seniors Month, Seniors Calendar and the Seniors Business Card.

Council on the Ageing NT advocates and works for all senior Territorians

Contact Us

Give us a call or email us for more information about our services and events program

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Contributions

We welcome all donations that support our work

Every single dollar left in the collection tin is much appreciated and helps towards our running costs



COTA ~ NT NEWS

Council on the Ageing (Northern Territory) Inc. Newsletter

Issue 1 November—December 2014

Newsletter Launch

We are delighted that the Minister for Senior Territorians, the Hon. Peter Styles, is helping us launch the first edition of **COTA NT News** this month. In it you'll find news about issues, projects, programs and events for Territory seniors.

Ways of keeping up to date with COTA

- www.cotant.org.au or Facebook—COTANorthernTerritory
- **Join our emailing list**—Send your name and email to events@cotant.org.au for newsletters and event invites
- Come to see us— 10am—4pm, weekdays at Spillett House

Happy Christmas and New Year from all of us at Council on the Ageing Northern Territory. See you soon!



"We're stars, you know. Different, distant, young and old, but we're all made of the same stuff. We all shine just as bright as the next."

- Dannika Dark



COTA NT advocates for seniors' rights - By joining COTA NT, your voice can be heard

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Territorians Rod and Chris Edwards share their story with COTA NT and the NT News

Tales of Tracy

As part of the 40th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy, the City of Darwin invited the community to hold a commemorative event. Following consultation with seniors, COTA NT ran a 'Sharing Stories and Digital Scrapbooking Workshop'. The workshop encouraged people to share their stories which will be published in a book educating and reminding future generations about what the impact of a cyclone can be on family, friends and community.

Workshops

The first workshop was in September, the second will be on 14th November. Participants listened to an outline of how the book would be created, shared stories and looked through photographs and newspaper clippings. It was a great opportunity for people to share their memories with each other and celebrate the spirit of comradery, survival and community that existed in 1974.

Sharing stories

If you have stories to share, contact Stephanie at COTA NT 8941 1004 or email events@cotant.org.au. You can mention the project to Tracy survivors who no longer live in Territory.

Stats Amazing

- During the last 9 months, COTA NT has run over **138** events, workshops, activities
- Our email database has increased by **300%**
- Our Facebook page 'likes' increased from 33 to **101** and COTA NT was able to 'claim' a customised Facebook web address
- NT Seniors Month in August included **20** events and workshops organised by COTA NT
- **987** seniors attended COTA NT events during Seniors Month
- **14** (wonderful) volunteers helped COTA NT staff in Seniors Month



Seniors Month 2014

Challenges for COTA in 2015

The challenges ahead for COTA NT in 2015 include:

- Securing adequate operational funding for the association's costs as well as staffing
- Pursuit of submissions to the NT Government proposing that COTA NT manage Seniors Month, Seniors Card, the Seniors Calendar and the Seniors Business Directory



Council on the Ageing NT's 2014 AGM at Spillett House

COTA (NT) AGM

Our AGM was attended by existing and new Board members, guest speaker the Minister for Senior Territorians the Hon. Peter Styles MLA and COTA members.

Our Chairman Ken Cohalan OAM welcomed and thanked new and existing Board members and reflected on contributions made by Robyn Lesley and former Chairman Brian Hilder, who both passed away this year.

The Chairman reported on the association's activities during 2014, and thanked the Minister for the support and funding from the NT Government which enables the organisation to carry out advocacy for all Senior Territorians.

The stand-out successes for COTA NT in 2014 were a well-attended Seniors Month in August and the re-establishment of the Independent Seniors Round Table. This Round Table comprises of like-minded seniors' organisations meeting in an environment of goodwill and co-operation to advocate on seniors' issues across the Territory. COTA NT has also been allocated two representative places on the recently established Ministerial Advisory Council – Senior Territorians.