

## From the Desk of the CEO

COTA NT NEWS Issue 11: December 2017

### National Topics on the Agenda

COTA NT has been in Canberra for various meeting and some of the national topics that we focused on included, but were not limited to, Superannuation and gender equity, Newstart Allowance, Commonwealth Rental Assistance and Pension Adequacy. Another major topic was the My Aged Care Home packages, and how only 1% of Territorians are using these packages (*Tune Report 2017*). Another area of concern is that the providers do not have any upfront costs listed, so the consumer has no idea of the costs that they may incur - which we believe not professional behaviour. The system is also very hard to navigate, especially for non-English speaking Territorians and these are the issues that we will be working on.

### Population Growth in the Territory

COTA NT recently provided information to the Dept. of the Chief Minister regarding Population growth in the Territory, and how we can retain our aging population. COTA NT advised that secure affordable housing, economic security, education, safety and health services were of major importance to seniors. Maybe we need to offer incentives for teacher, nurses and allied health personnel as NSW is doing, especially for teachers to re-locate to regional areas? With this influx of professional workers, then maybe their parents would also re-locate, therefore increasing our population base two-fold.

### National Toilet Map

COTA NT is working on a project to update and promote awareness of the National Toilet Map. Who hasn't been caught short in the Darwin CBD? This map shows available ablution sites and will be extremely helpful to not only locals, but visitors especially. When the cruise ship season starts and we have older tourists exploring Darwin, they really need to know where all the ablution facilities are located. This project extends Territory-wide and COTA staff and volunteers will be contact all local councils to ensure their facilities are included, loading up data and offering assistance with loading and using the APP. – See more at <https://toiletmap.gov.au/>

### Power and Water Consumer Advisory Group

The Power and Water Consumer Advisory Group has a meeting next week and one of the questions that quite a few seniors would like COTA to ask is that why when they have converted to solar, their electricity bill is higher? They have received their “estimate” and it is higher that it has ever been. This seems a total anomaly as most consumers convert to solar to save money so either the “estimates” are incorrect or something else is not quite right. As one well-known Queensland politician said – “please explain!”

## End of Year Closure

COTA will be closed to the public from the 16<sup>th</sup> December until the end of January and we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a very healthy and happy 2018. We hope that those of you without family will have friends to share Christmas with and we look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Take care

Sue Shearer, CEO COTA NT