

From the Desk of the CEO

COTA NT NEWS Issue 13: February 2018

NT SENIORS CARD PROGRAM

COTA NT has been busy representing Territory Seniors and we are just about set to fully take over the NT Seniors Card. The membership form has been revamped and we are contacting Territory businesses regarding their inclusion in the NT Seniors Business Directory, which will be available online as well as printed in an A5 format with different categories for ease of use and reading.

SENATE ENQUIRY INTO MOTORISED SCOOTERS

We were contacted by the Department of Infrastructure regarding the Senate Enquiry into motorised scooters. COTA NT's advice was that there should be a minimum speed required in shopping centres and populated pedestrian areas such as 10ks on open pathways and only 5ks in shopping centres etc.

POWER AND WATER CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL

We also attended the Power and Water Consumer Advisory Council, where their submission to the Australian Energy Regulator for their four-year tariff structure was presented plus their overview of their five-year plan was presented. I would urge seniors to visit the [Power and Water website](#) to have a look at these documents as there are some pleasant surprises in the tariff structure for consumers.

ELDER ABUSE PRESS RELEASE AND SURVEY

COTA NT recently did a joint press release with Darwin Community Legal Services (DCLS) regarding Elder Abuse in our community. It was interesting watching the news recently to see that even the four big banks are noticing an increase in financial abuse with their elderly customers. The banks have called for information regarding relatives who have power of attorney to be available to the banks, so they can check accuracy of these details. This kind of abuse is the saddest as often the victim will not want to do anything for fear of losing contact with their family. We are also helping DCLS to promote their *Elder Abuse Prevention Project Survey* (see below).

[ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECT SURVEY – Takes just 5 minutes to do, closes tomorrow](#)

This survey seeks to engage with care givers and service providers in the sector and to draw on their experience in developing ways to prevent abuse and to protect older people. It will also provide an indication of the prevalence and type of abuse experienced by older people in the Northern Territory.

De-identified results will be included in a report, along with recommendations, to the Office of Senior Territorians when this Project ends in September 2018. Results may also be used to raise awareness through the media about the mistreatment of older people in the community and prevention strategies. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ElderAbusePreventionProject>

PACIFIC LABOUR SCHEME

COTA NT also had a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the new Pacific Island Workers Scheme from the Federal Government. This scheme aims to attract workers for the tourism and aged and disability sector. Did you know that the aged and disability sector will experience growth of over 250,000 jobs by 2022 – this is only four years away! Already with My Aged Care there are no Level 4 packages with over 100,000 Australians waiting for Level 1, 2, 3 packages.

NT ALCOHOL POLICY REFORM

We also received a phone call from the Federation of Alcohol Reform who are based in Sydney regarding the NT's Alcohol Policy Reform. This organisation is pushing for a minimum unit price on all alcohol – which equates to \$1.50 for a standard drink. Many of us enjoy a tippie and this would bring the price up for the purchase of alcohol and for our fixed-income seniors, i.e. self-funded retirees and pensioners, this could impact their weekly shopping bill.

RETAIL TENANCIES ACT AND FAMILY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

Other submissions that COTA NT have been asked to comment on are the Retail Tenancies Act and changes to the Family Domestic Violence Act, so it has been rather busy in the office.

ELECTION PLATFORM 2019 – SURVEY

Fairly soon we will also be conducting a Territory-wide survey, so we can ascertain the needs and future needs of senior Territorians. This will also form the basis of COTA NT's election platform for 2019. We will be in shopping centres throughout the Territory and we will be sending the survey out by e-mail, so please take the time to fill the survey in so can collate all the data which will provide COTA NT with factual statistics in which to lobby local, state and federal governments on your behalf.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Details of COTA's programs and upcoming events will be sent by Stephanie in a separate email, but are listed as always on the online calendar,

<http://www.cotant.org.au/territory-seniors-calendar/cota-nt-event-calendar/>

This month we are hosting a Hipster Morning Tea (free to members), Harmony Day and Digital Safety presentation in addition to the regular programs. We look forward to seeing you at these. Please note, for the first-time tickets for Harmony Day tickets will be available via EventBrite only and places will be limited to 40. Watch your inbox for the event invitation!

Take care

Sue Shearer, CEO COTA NT