

From the Desk of the CEO

COTA NT NEWS Issue 14: March 2018

NT SENIORS CARD PROGRAM

COTA NT has been busy with the NT Seniors Card - it is pleasing to see that we have already set a record for the month of March for replacement and new cards. We would remind Territorians that everyone over 60 is entitled to the NT Seniors Card.

Information about the NT Seniors Card can be obtained by ringing COTA's Seniors Card office Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm (excluding public holidays) on freephone, **1800 441 489**.

NT CONCESSION SCHEME AND THE SENIORS RECOGNITION SCHEME – INFORMATION SHEETS

We have been working with Territory Families regarding the fact and information sheets for the NT Concession Scheme and the Seniors Recognition Scheme. We have advised the Department that the email should be shorter, less confusing and easy to remember as ntconcessions@nt.gov.au instead of pensionconcessionunit@nt.gov.au and the fact sheets should be kept short and simple. As there is still confusion regarding the NT Seniors Card and NT Concession Card. We feel that photos of these cards on the information sheets would be of assistance.

ALL PENSIONERS REMOVED FROM ALP'S EXCESS DIVIDEND IMPUTATION CREDITS POLICY

COTA A, with support from each and every state COTA, has lobbied long and hard and now the Federal Labour Shadow Cabinet has signed off on a deal to remove all pensioners from the ALP's Excess Dividend Imputation Credits Policy. All COTAs throughout Australia disagreed with the original policy, which in principal caught almost 250,000 part and some full pensioners in its scope. So, with intense lobbying – it has now turned around and it is good news for those 250,000 who are now excluded.

EXTENSION OF GRANTS TO ASSIST WITH CYCLONE CLEAR UP REQUESTED

We have also approached the NT Government regarding the Smart Energy Grants available of \$1,000 for solar and requested that this be extended for gardening and maintenance repairs. This would be especially useful for seniors who have trees and other gardening refuse that need to be removed following Cyclone Marcus. COTA has been inundated with requests from seniors who do not have either the physical or financial capability to clean up their yards or to make repairs.

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING IN APRIL

The Ministerial Advisory Council has now been re-scheduled for the 11th April and we will have a few issues to discuss such as My Aged Care. (continued)

- **My Aged Care** - Even though this a Federal issue, the NT's Ministers need to lobby their Federal counterparts long and hard on all the issues regarding this programme.
- **Not for Profit Nursing Homes** - With over 40 Territorians residing permanently at the Royal Darwin Hospital, this situation is unacceptable.
- Community Safety, Economic Security and Elder Abuse are also on the agenda.

New ALICE SPRINGS REPRESENTATIVE - Fran Kilgariff

COTA NT is delighted to announce that we now have a representative in Alice Springs. Fran Kilgariff has taken up the mantle and will be COTA NT's Alice Springs Co-Ordinator. For information on Seniors Card etc, Fran will be available for two mornings at the Alice Springs 50 Plus Community Centre (at 11 Wills Terrace, at the northern end of Todd Mall) – these times and mornings will be confirmed soon, as will her contact number.

SENIORS EXPO 2018

If you also haven't registered your space for the 2018 Seniors Expo – time is running out as **registrations close on 31 March**. Come and be a part of the new look expo at the Palmerston Recreation Centre on the 1st June!!

Register online at,

<http://www.cotant.org.au/information/seniors-expo/seniors-expo-registration-2018/>

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Details of COTA's programs and upcoming events are listed as always on the online calendar,

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

Take care

Sue Shearer, CEO COTA NT