

From the Desk of the CEO

COTA NT NEWS Issue 16: June 2018

Since our last news snippets *From the Desk of the CEO*, we have had our 2018 Seniors Expo which was a resounding success. The NT Seniors Card Directory has been produced and distributed and the 2018 Seniors Month calendar is about to be distributed.

NT SENIORS CARD DIRECTORY

The NT Seniors Card Directory is available from all MLA offices in the Northern Territory, libraries and most seniors' outlets. Discount directory and more information online at, <https://ntseniorscard.org.au/>



SENIORS EXPO

Photos from the day can be viewed at the website at, <https://www.cotant.org.au/photos/>

NT CONCESSION SCHEMES

COTA NT was involved in organising information sessions regarding the new concession schemes. These schemes start on the 1st July. Do not worry, you have plenty of time to confirm your details or join the new scheme. COTA NT has the relevant forms available in its Darwin and Alice Springs locations.

- Darwin – Spillett House, 65 Smith Street, Darwin (Mon – Fri, 9am – 3pm ex public holidays)
- Alice Springs – Alice Springs 50+ Community Centre, Willis Terrace, Alice Springs (Tuesday and Thursday mornings)

There are TWO forms – one for current members to fill out and confirm their details; and one for new members.

Details of what information you need to hand before filling out the forms is available online at,

<https://ntconcessions.nt.gov.au/?q=Forms>

Visit the website, <https://ntconcessions.nt.gov.au/> - for information, forms, details of information sessions and events.



COTA NT will be visiting Katherine to talk to seniors in the region and will take forms and information down to them.

NATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL

COTA NT recently attended the National Policy Council in Canberra along with all state COTAs. Discussions centred on the Federal Budget campaign which COTA organised. The campaign was entitled “More Choices for a Longer Life” which was successful when you look at the additions to the Federal budget pertaining to aged care packages, superannuation, mature age employment and quite a few others. Whilst this is a start, there is still a lot more needed, especially in the aged care area. The Federal election was also on the table and how all COTAs will campaign for seniors’ issues throughout their states with their various Federal members. The issues on the table will again be health, housing and employment, all issues that are critical for healthy ageing.

OLDER CONSUMERS, CHOICES, CHALLENGES AND RIGHTS IN CHANGING MARKETS

The actual National Policy Forum in Canberra focussed on Older Consumers, Choices, Challenges and Rights in Changing Markets. Speakers included Dr Stephen King, Chairman of the Productivity Commission, Peter Kell Deputy Chairman of Australian Securities, Teresa Corbin CEO ACCAN, Investment Commission (ASIC), Gerard Brody CEO Consumer Action Law Centre and Dr Bronwyn Evans CEO Standards Australia to list a few. There was spirited debate on choices for the consumer, will this in fact drive down the price for consumers or could it lead to a market collusion?

[Medical Fee Variance](#)

Discussion also centred on the variance in the medical areas of specialists’ fees and how they vary. As an example, dentists’ fees, surgeons and anaesthetists’ fees all vary - should there be a scale that the fees adhere too?

[Royal Commission into Banking Industry](#)

Another area debated strongly with the Productivity Commissioner was the recent Royal Commission into the banking industry and the fiasco regarding their remuneration and subsequent way they sell their own products at all costs. It was a very informative forum and COTA NT have put in a bid to host it in Darwin in 2019.

Take care

Sue Shearer – CEO – COTA NT