

media release



Seniors Voice

COTA Seniors Voice

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RELEASE AGEING POLICIES

BEFORE ELECTION – COTA

With only a week to go before the State election, South Australia's leading seniors group, Council on the Ageing (COTA) has called on both major parties to release their ageing policies.

COTA's Chief Executive, Mr Ian Yates, said that while the Government had already announced its concessions policy, there were a number of other issues affecting seniors which had not yet been mentioned in the campaign.

"Nine out of every 20 voters in this month's state election are over 50 years, so seniors issues could be a key factor if the election remains close," he said.

"Key issues for seniors have already been set out in COTA's election statement "A Fair Go for Senior South Australians" and include:

- A better public transport system that meets the needs of seniors, plus equity for seniors outside Adelaide
- A major increase in health promotion funding of community programs directed to seniors
- Mandated accessible housing design and a housing program for older South Australians
- Stronger age discrimination legislation and other measures to promote and support mature age employment.

"A full copy of the election statement can be found at www.seniorsvoice.org.au."

Mr Yates said the Government's pre-election campaign announcement that maximum energy concessions would jump 25% on 1 July and then be indexed 5% a year, while caps on water, sewer and emergency services levy concessions will rise 5% on 1 July and then rise 5% per annum were welcome.

"This was a good start to reform of concessions," he said.

"However COTA believes all concessions should be indexed to actual price rises so that as energy prices double over the next few years so will the energy concession.

"The same principle should also apply to other concessions so they also keep pace with real costs.

"With water prices doubling over four to five years the water concession should be double from 20% of the bill to 40% and the cap also doubled and then increased in line with price increases.

"However seniors are also waiting for other policies to be announced in addition to concessions."

Further Information:

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