

Media release**March 2011**

Champions to tackle transport issue

Council on the Ageing Tasmania (COTA Tas) Champions will be uncovering concerns about transport for older Tasmanians in the Huon Valley following a Tassielink Transit commission.

COTA Tas Champions are people within the community that are passionate about issues affecting older people in Tasmania.

COTA Tas CEO Maxine Griffiths said that accessibility of bus transport played a major part in keeping older Tasmanians connected with their community and that involvement in the consultation process was imperative for the organisation.

“We are delighted that Tassielink have involved us in the consultation process through our Champions as we know it is a major issue for many older people in the community,” said Ms Griffiths.

“Staying connected and mobile in later life plays a big part in how people can contribute to society.

“The consultation process will benefit greatly from the knowledge our Champions have of the Huon Valley area and from their contacts within the community.”

The research will seek to understand the barriers that older people feel are in place to them using bus transport and how they might be overcome.

Tassielink have indicated that they are interested in undertaking similar research and consultation in other areas of the State to ensure that needs are met for older people within the community.

“We commend Tassielink for taking the time to consult and understand the community they are seeking to serve and COTA Tas can see major benefits for older people in Tasmania coming from the process,” said Ms Griffiths.

ENDS**For more information:**

Maxine Griffiths, COTA Tas, 0448 281 897

Callan Paske, Font Public Relations, 0406 868 122