

**Media release**  
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## **Report highlights chasms in aged care system**

A report on findings from consultations in the community with older people about aged care, which revealed some worrying signs, was released today by Council on the Ageing Tasmania (COTA Tas).

COTA Tas CEO Maxine Griffiths said the findings of the report show there is still much work to be done in ensuring older people are getting the right access to information and care when they need it.

“What this report shows is that people are often confused about which care options are available to them and that they find the system hard to navigate,” said Ms Griffiths.

“The concept of a single point of entry into the aged care system was supported by all participants in the consultations.

“Older Tasmanians want a gateway into aged care that demonstrates an understanding of the local community and the services that exist in the area, and that can provide them with local information and a more coordinated approach.”

The report found that older people in the community believed that the lack of coordination and integration of services and the lack of respect for timing of services being delivered strip them of their dignity.

The report addressed the issues of care and support, housing of older Tasmanians, transport, residential care, and carers and volunteers.

“We had one individual who told us they were left sitting in their night wear all day waiting for a carer to arrive to give them a shower, never knowing what time of the day that would happen,” said Ms Griffiths.

“Others in more remote areas of our State reported no aged care services provided on weekends and public holidays, with one individual going for several days without a shower over a holiday period because there was simply no access to care.

“This report shows we have a long way to go when it comes to aged care reform in our State and it is our hope that these sort of findings help to shed light on the chasms in the system.”

COTA is a leading advocate and source of trusted information, giving older Tasmanians a voice.

**ENDS**

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