

Media release
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COTA praises Government funding initiative

Council on the Ageing (COTA) CEO Sue Leitch has applauded a new joint initiative between the organisation and the State Government, aimed at increasing the capacity of older Tasmanians to be actively involved in community life.

The State Government's *Inclusive Ageing: Tasmania 2012-2014 Strategy* was launched today by Minister for Community Development, the Honourable Cassy O'Connor MP.

COTA will receive an additional \$500,000 in funding over the next four years to work collaboratively with the State Government on a number of new projects and initiatives.

Mrs Leitch said the strategy and additional funding would help COTA continue to address the needs of older Tasmanians.

"COTA Tasmania has been the voice of older Tasmanians for 60 years, and with this additional funding will be able to look at further ways to support older Tasmanians, particularly those who may be socially isolated or at risk of social isolation," Mrs Leitch said.

"Isolation can occur for a range of reasons and this funding will allow us to collect more data in the early stages of the projects to inform future development of the strategy."

Mrs Leitch said as part of the strategy, issues such as access to information and social connection as well as support for volunteers in the community and workforce participation would be examined.

"There will also be a focus on age-friendly communities and providing a voice for older Tasmanians on future planning to support both the development and sustainability of these communities," she said.

"Older Tasmanians are vital to our community and our focus at COTA Tasmania is to give older people a voice, and to recognise the contribution that they make to all our lives."

Council on the Ageing is a leading advocate and source of trusted information, giving older Tasmanians a voice.

The *Inclusive Ageing: Tasmania 2012-2014 Strategy* is available for download from the Community Development Division website www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/cdd.

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