



Council On The Ageing (Tas) Inc

**Media release**  
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## **PC report calls for reform and recognition**

Council on the Ageing Tasmania (COTA Tas) today welcomed the release of the Productivity Commission's final report into *Caring for Older Australians* as a positive step forward for older Tasmanians.

COTA Tas CEO Maxine Griffiths said it was pleasing to see the positive contribution older Tasmanians make to their community recognised in the report.

"The report leaves no room for doubt about the need for long awaited reform of Australia's aged care system," said Ms Griffiths.

"Older Tasmanians want and need appropriate and timely support to live out their lives in a manner of their choosing and for most people that means support and care at home for as long as possible."

The Productivity Commission's proposal will mean:

- We move from a residential-based to a community-based system with most support and care provided in the home
- We move from a rationed system to one in which people have an entitlement to support and care, based on a professional and timely assessment
- People will no longer be forced to either sell their home or pay an accommodation bond, although many people will do both because it suits them.

"This report provides a sound starting point for changing the way services are delivered in the short term and well into the future," said Ms Griffiths.

"The introduction of a fair funding structure will ensure the system works and can be sustained to address the growing needs of our ageing population with government still paying the bulk of the costs.

"People, young, old and between, all seek to have control over their lives and no more so than when they need assistance to make the most of their life. This report returns control to older people and with it the capacity to maintain their independence, regardless of their financial circumstances.

"A flexible and sustainable aged care system is an integral component of a broader more inclusive agenda to foster the ongoing engagement and contribution of older Australians."

**ENDS**

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