

MEDIA RELEASE

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Comprehensive profile of older Tasmanians identifies challenges for government

A longer-living Tasmanian population will create special infrastructure and service provision challenges for all tiers of current and future governments according to data revealed in ***Facing the Future***, a comprehensive baseline demographic profile of older Tasmanians released today by Tasmania's peak seniors advocacy body, Council on the Ageing (COTA).

Facing the Future is the first and underpinning research project in a series of five to be delivered by COTA Tasmania as part of the State Government's Inclusive Ageing Strategy announced last year.

The 203-page document (with Executive Summary!) was designed to be and is destined to be the most credible information source of its type currently available.

COTA Tasmania CEO Sue Leitch says that ***Facing the Future***, which researched Tasmania's regionally and culturally diverse older population, will be an invaluable information and data source for governments, media and organisations involved in senior's welfare and aged care planning.

"Australians are living longer and Tasmania has the oldest population of all states and territories. In 2011, one in six Tasmanians were aged 65 or older; in 2030 it's projected that one in four - 25% - of Tasmanians will be aged 65-plus.

"So all levels of government - local, state and federal - face particular challenges in planning for an ageing population in terms of things like the provision of infrastructure and services."

Mrs Leitch said COTA has worked very hard on the ***Facing the Future*** project for over almost a year and has collaborated with some of the State's experts in this field in the development of the document.

"COTA is pleased that the State Government entrusted us with this important task and we are very proud of the results.

"Facing the Future is timely, relevant and useful so it's critical that we not lose this momentum.

"The data must be maintained and updated on a regular basis - Census time at a minimum - if future users are to continue relying on this very important and instructional piece of research as the pre-eminent source of reliable and contemporary data on older Tasmanians."

Ends
