

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use – 23 August 2014

Seniors peak body welcomes retention of concessions

COTA Tasmania has commended the State Government for its commitment to continue part-funding a range of concessions for seniors in its first budget to be brought down this week.

COTA Tas was grateful for the government's announcement earlier this year that it would fund the concessions until at least August following the Federal Government announcement that it would discontinue concessions funding.

COTA Tas has since been in dialogue with the state government urging it to continue funding beyond August given that its abandonment would significantly disadvantage many senior Tasmanians.

COTA Tasmania Chief Executive Sue Leitch says concessions aren't luxuries; rather, they allow seniors and others on low incomes to enjoy reasonable standards of living.

"People on low incomes, including seniors, rely on concessional prices to be able to afford necessities of life and essential services such as electricity, rates, water and sewerage, drivers licences and public transport," Mrs Leitch said.

"Importantly, the concession also assists people with healthcare, education and recreational expenses.

"COTA Tasmania is pleased that the new government has recognised the value and importance of this scheme and we are particularly pleased that concession funding has been also included in the forward estimates.

"This is indeed good news that will be especially welcomed by the seniors community," Mrs Leitch said.

The concessional benefits are published in the official Discounts & Concessions Guide, available at Service Tasmania. A revised edition is expected to be published later this year.

Ends

More information or interview: Sue Leitch CEO, COTA Tas 0448 281 897