

## **NSW State Election: Request for response on COTA NSW Policy Platform 2019**

COTA NSW is the peak body representing people over the age of 50 in NSW. We're an independent, non-partisan, consumer-based non-government organisation. We work with community leaders, policy makers, service and product providers as well as media representatives to make sure our constituents' views are heard and their needs met.

For older Australians to flourish, we need to ensure that supports and systems are in place. As the 2019 state election approaches, COTA NSW is highlighting the strategic investments that can make it happen.

COTA NSW has a vision that ageing in Australia is a time of possibility, opportunity and influence - of a community that values older people and the contributions they make, that supports them to stay engaged and actively participating.

We believe the next state election is a prime opportunity to start realising this vision.

COTA NSW is requesting a formal response from all major parties standing in the NSW state election to our published 2019 Policy Platform. Responses received will be publicly shared with COTA NSW members and supporters the week commencing 11 March.

Does your party **support** the following policy priorities for older people in NSW?

	COTA NSW Election Priorities	Yes / No	Further comments
Health & Wellbeing	Allocate funds for the development and implementation of diverse, scalable free or low-cost programs that offer a range of exercise options for older people as they age.	Yes / No	<p>Preventative health programs are an important tool in keeping residents healthy, active and social.</p> <p>The current <i>Walking for Pleasure</i> program is a good example of a community based exercise program, however staff and residents have noted that the program is poorly advertised and little support is available to boost participation.</p> <p>In government, Labor will explore options to promote and expand community based exercise programs.</p>
	Fund the expansion of NSW Health's Hospital in the Home (HITH) program and Clinical Nurse Specialist positions, with a focus on regional and rural areas with ageing populations	Yes	<p>Nurses are fundamental to our health system and Labor will give them the support they need to do their best work. Labor has committed to nurse to patient ratios to ensure patients receive quality care. This includes regional nurse to patient ratios so that regional hospitals have the same staffing levels as larger city hospitals.</p> <p>Overall, Labor's nurse-to-patient ratios policy will deliver 5,500 more nurses.</p> <p>A Daley Labor Government will also deliver 1,500 more paramedics; 2,240 more cleaning, support personnel and allied health workers; and 250 more security staff to protect patients and health workers.</p> <p>Labor will also support mandatory Registered Nurses in high aged care</p>

			<p>accommodation 24/7.</p> <p>Hospital in the Home (HITH) is an important program to provide care outside of a hospital setting. Labor will investigate options to support and expand community health programs such as HITH.</p>
Housing choices	<p>Decrease the eligibility age from 80 to 67 for inclusion on the NSW Housing priority waiting list for public housing.</p>	Yes / No	<p>In the past eight years the wait for social housing has grown longer while the government sells off thousands of public housing properties.</p> <p>The productivity Commission reports that there are 1,300 less social housing properties than there were when the Liberals and Nationals were election in 2011.</p> <p>The number of social housing properties left vacant has also increased, with almost 2,000 vacant properties across NSW. Under Labor in 2011 99.9% of social housing properties were being used to support those in need.</p> <p>A Daley Labor Government will be reviewing the priority housing list.</p> <p>Only Labor will ensure that social housing provides the necessary safety net for people in need of affordable housing, working in partnership with community housing providers.</p>
	<p>Set standards to include an annual target of 75% of new social and affordable housing dwellings designed to a minimum Gold Livable Housing standard.</p>	Yes / No	<p>The current planning system is weighted towards developers making quick profits, instead of delivering high quality housing at affordable prices.</p> <p>In the wake of the OPAL apartment crisis, Labor announced a number of changes to current planning and certification systems.</p>

			A Labor Government will continue to put people first, instead of developer profit.
	Fund the establishment of a state-wide older people's housing information and support service to bring together fragmented resources and reduce the risk of homelessness.	Yes / No	<p>A number of existing services, such as the Seniors Rights Services, Tenants' Union, and Elder Abuse Hotline, provide important contact points for information and advocacy.</p> <p>Ensuring that these services are working effectively and collaboratively will be a priority for an incoming Labor Government.</p>

	COTA NSW Election Priorities	Yes / No	Further comments
Housing choices	Reduction in stamp duty for people 70+ purchasing owner occupier properties that have been built to Livable Housing standard.	Yes / No	Labor will support a sensible taxation system that delivers the services people need. An example of changes Labor will make include the funding of more nurses through a tax on luxury yachts.
	Create a legislative and regulatory environment that supports innovative housing models which allow older people to choose where they live.	Yes	<p>The current planning system is weighted towards developers making quick profits, instead of delivering high quality housing at affordable prices.</p> <p>In the wake of the OPAL apartment crisis, Labor announced a number of changes to current planning and certification systems.</p>

			<p>Labor has also announced the creation of an Ombudsman to oversee residential villages and retirement homes, giving residents an advocate when issues arise.</p> <p>A Labor Government will continue to put people first, instead of developer profit.</p>
Getting around	Double annual funding to the Accessible Transport Program to \$266 million to expedite the completion of train station accessibility upgrades.	Yes	Labor has committed \$1 billion to a station upgrade fund, delivering accessibility upgrades well as more commuter car parks.
	Create an Active Transport Infrastructure Commissioner responsible for ensuring that planning for all new and existing community residential developments pay attention to active transport infrastructure, particularly footpaths.	Yes	A Labor Government will reinvigorate Active Transport NSW as an active transport advocate to work with councils to review their DCPs, support the development of rail trails and be the lead agency to ensure projects are delivered, and ensure active transport is considered in major road projects.
	Provide funding to local councils to improve access to transport and shopping precincts by upgrading unsafe footpaths and streets and other impediments to safe access.	Yes	<p>Following a recent NRMA report into the quality of council owned roads, Labor has announced a \$900 million fund which will fund half the cost of fixing all 'poor' or 'very poor' classified roads.</p> <p>Labor has also announced dedicated funding for main street upgrades, matched by councils, to ensure footpaths in shopping precincts get the attention they need.</p> <p>These commitments will ease the pressure on Councils, and help reduce the maintenance backlog for councils across NSW.</p>

	COTA NSW Election Priorities	Yes	Further comments
Inclusive communities	Provide and promote information in a range of accessible formats and languages to older people in NSW.	Yes	Labor supports the provision of information in a range of languages and accessible formats.
	Reinstate funding for Sector Support Officers to support the implementation of the NSW Ageing Strategy through community development initiatives, realisation of local ageing strategies and capacity building of service providers.	Yes / No	<p>The implementation of the NSW Ageing Strategy is currently the responsibility of the Department of Family and Community Services' Inclusion and Early Intervention directorate.</p> <p>Given this strategy crosses a number of portfolios, Labor will move the responsibility for NSW Ageing Strategy to the Department of Premier and Cabinet so that it can be given whole of government consideration.</p> <p>A Daley Labor Government will also under take an Upper House inquiry into age discrimination.</p>
	Provide recurrent funding (3-5 year funding period) for community-based social support programs that target isolated and vulnerable older people experiencing loneliness.	Yes / No	<p>Social isolation and loneliness is a growing social issue worthy of further investment. A number of local health districts are currently running trial programs or grant schemes to support local programs.</p> <p>A Labor government will evaluate current grants programs and consider opportunities to improve the funding of these programs.</p>

Party Name: Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch)

Name of authorised representative: Kate Washington MP

Signature:



Shadow Minister for Ageing



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