



COTA **NEW SOUTH WALES**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**NSW BUDGET PROVIDES SOME POSITIVES FOR SENIORS**

“The budget handed down by the NSW State Government today is a positive one,” said CEO of COTA NSW Ian Day. “Overall, the Government demonstrates a commitment to strengthening the State’s economy, and this will serve all of the State’s citizens well.”

“We are most encouraged by signs in this budget that the Government is grappling with the reality of an ageing population. Over 33% of NSW is comprised of people aged 50-plus. Until now, this fact has gone unacknowledged in the State’s key planning and budgetary thinking.”

“In this instance we’re pleased to see that the Government is thinking about the access and equity needs of an ageing population. This is an infrastructure-focused budget. We’re gratified to see that a sizeable portion of infrastructure spending will be directed to making more public transport accessible for those with mobility issues, with the Government indicating that \$890 million will be invested in station upgrades and commuter car parks over the coming four years.”

Mr Day was also pleased to see that the Government is moving to address the crisis in affordable housing in NSW via the current budget.

“In the last 18 months COTA NSW has done extensive research into how older people are faring in the NSW housing market. Sydney is now the world’s third most expensive housing market, and many older people are now struggling to obtain or retain safe, secure and appropriate housing.”

“Given this, we’re pleased by the State Government’s announcement that it will invest \$342 million on capital works, including commencement of about 1,000 social housing dwellings in the coming financial year. We also understand that \$400 million will go into a Housing Acceleration Fund, to go directly towards infrastructure required in growth areas to bring housing to market as quickly as possible.”

“This budget demonstrates signs that some whole-of-government thinking has been applied to the realities of demographic ageing. We hope this is a sign of more of to come.”

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**CEO, Ian Day, is available for interview: 0417 210 234**

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