



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**COTA NSW CELEBRATES GRANDPARENTS DAY**

COTA NSW is delighted that NSW's first Grandparents Day will be celebrated on Sunday 30 October 2011.

Ian Day, CEO of COTA NSW, says "COTA NSW is pleased that the NSW State Government has established Grandparent's Day, recognising the important role grandparents have in our community.

"Typically, grandparents make a unique contribution to the life of their grandchildren. Not only do they play a vital role in the lives of their own grandchildren, grandparents tend to be highly involved in the wider life of our community. It's important that we - as a community - consider how we can support them."

"It's important to note that many grandparents don't just contribute to the care of their grandchildren - they take full responsibility for it. A very large number of grandparents in NSW are actually the primary carers of grandchildren."

"COTA NSW supports these grandparents through our Grandparents Raising Grandchildren initiative. It helps establish local support groups for grandparents that can then provide them with peer support, advice and links to services."

Mr Day adds "there are many reasons grandparents find themselves caring for their grandchildren. But usually they take on the care of grandchildren in crisis situations, stepping in when children's parents suffer a tragedy or profound physical or mental ill health."

"Reform in a number of areas could greatly improve the lives of grandparents raising grandchildren. For example, large numbers of grandparents have no legal status and lack access to financial support. Helping grandparents get recognition as primary carers would improve their access to important benefits and services and so enhance the support they can give to their grandchildren."

"We are committed to assisting the State Government develop its Whole of Government Ageing Strategy and have participated in very fruitful discussions at its recent Ageing Roundtable. We hope that this issue is addressed as the Ageing Strategy is progressed."

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CEO, Ian Day, is available for interview:

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