



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSUMERS SEE ACTION ON ELECTRICITY PRICES SAYS COTA NSW

“COTA NSW is pleased to see action following our latest Parliamentary Forum,” says Ian Day, CEO of Council on the Ageing NSW (COTA NSW).

“The Hon Chris Hartcher, Minister for Resources and Energy, gave the forum’s keynote speech and it’s clear that he’s listening to older consumers, who’ve been telling us they want to see action on the rising cost of electricity.”

“Yesterday he announced the Government’s Low Income Household Rebate would be increased by \$16 million dollars. This means eligible consumers will see their rebate rise from \$215 to \$225 from July 1, and then to \$235 in 2014. He also announced that for the first time, residents of retirement villages will also be eligible for the rebate.”

“We work directly with people over 50 and we’re continually asking which issues matter most to them. In our last COTA NSW Survey, 74% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement ‘rising energy prices will affect my ability to live comfortably as I age’ and 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement ‘I would like to find out more about available rebates for energy use.’”

“These findings prompted us to hold our Parliamentary Forum, which we held in partnership with the Total Environment Centre and with participation from The Public Interest Advocacy Group, the Energy and Water Ombudsman, and support from the Hon Andrew Constance, Minister for Ageing and Disability Services.”

COTA NSW will soon release its next survey on its website. “We want as many people as possible to complete the survey as we know there’s a reaction to the results.”

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