



COTA **NEW SOUTH WALES**

MEDIA RELEASE

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NOTHING NEW FOR SENIORS IN NSW BUDGET

“Older people will see nothing new in the NSW State Budget today,” says Ian Day, CEO of COTA NSW. “We are pleased the State Government has plugged the hole the Federal Government created when they ceased to fund concessions for seniors. But there’s little else for older people in NSW to celebrate.”

“People over 50 make up 33% of the State’s total population. You’d never know it to look at today’s Budget.”

“What we’d like to see is something like an Ageing Impact Statement – something similar to an Environmental Impact Statement.”

“We see little evidence that governments of any stripe or at any level make a real effort to take a genuinely whole-of-government approach to the reality of population ageing. But we need governments to make a concerted effort to think about how spending within every portfolio area affects older people.”

Mr Day noted that the State Government has continued to fund three programs that target the needs of older people. “It’s good to see that funding for Tech Savvy Seniors, the Elder Abuse Hotline and Seniors Card continues. But we need to see deeper thinking about how the policies and programs that the State Government funds hang together to enable older people to continue to contribute to the economic and social life of NSW.”

END

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