

2020 State Election **Statement of Priorities**





The number of older Queenslanders will grow rapidly over the coming decades.

**ESTIMATED
826,780
QLDERS
ARE AGED
65
AND OVER**

**BY 2041:
APPROXIMATELY
1.5M
QLDERS
65
AND OVER**

**THATS
MORE
THAN
1 IN 5**

**MORE THAN
261,000
WILL BE
OVER
85**

Queensland Government Population Projections 2018 Edition

Older Queenslanders make up a large and growing proportion of the Queensland electorate.

This document is to inform political parties and candidates participating in the 2020 Queensland State Election about the needs, concerns, and interests of the large and growing number of older people in our state.

Queenslanders' wellbeing, participation, and continued contribution needs to be supported by age-friendly policies, services, and infrastructure.

We strongly support continued action towards an Age-friendly Queensland, including place-based approaches as well as support for Local Governments and businesses, and local community initiatives.

Urgent attention is needed to address ageism and relationships between the generations.

Specific actions are required to address elder abuse, age discrimination in employment, co-design of an integrated health system, access to affordable and appropriate housing, adequacy

of concessions, consumer education, choice, and protections around energy provision, digital inclusion, and affordability and accessibility of transport.

In many of these areas, there are important learnings and opportunities emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recovery efforts must prioritise the areas of greatest need and optimise the positive developments that have emerged. There needs to be a focus on local capacity and community responses and how these can be supported, drawing together the public, private, and community sectors.



We have a unique opportunity to build back better to create the change that is needed.

We strongly encourage the incoming Queensland Government to develop, under an Age-friendly Queensland Strategy, an integrated cross-departmental, collaborative, and cross-sector policy framework that provides stronger and more active support to Queenslanders as we age.

Our Vision

01 Queensland adopts a whole-of-Government age-friendly framework that is supported at all levels of Government and across all agencies. All Queensland Government agencies work collaboratively to consider policies, programs, services, and planning across all eight of the age-friendly domains.

02 The Government works collaboratively with communities to identify and solve issues and create positive change across systems. Local leadership, including the work of community groups and organisations, is valued. The Government provides support across sectors that is flexible and responsive to large- and small-scale community-led priorities across age-friendly domains.

03 The Government shows leadership in addressing ageism, taking a strong stand against stereotyping and ageist attitudes and language, and actively supporting initiatives that bring the generations together. As part of a commitment to human rights, all policies and programs are reviewed for inclusiveness, respect, and intergenerational fairness in language, intent, and consequence.



04 There are well-resourced, easily accessible programs to combat elder abuse and support those experiencing it including education, practical support, and redress.

05 The Government leads by example and through practical assistance to directly address age discrimination in employment. This includes the education and business sectors alongside older people in codesigning solutions that address the issue from multiple angles.

06 Queensland has an integrated health system for the whole of life that places people at the center of care. The system ensures equitable access, no matter a person's diagnosis, age, location, or resources. Health is seen as interconnected to other areas of communities including transport, housing, and participation, and the Government encourages, tests, and embeds integrated models that connect these domains. There are clear and navigable pathways to services for diverse and changing needs throughout the lifespan. The Queensland Government leads collaboration across Federal, State, and Local Government responsibilities including co-design with consumers to work towards an integrated system.

07 All Queenslanders have access to adequate, appropriate housing that they can afford and that supports their



wellbeing. Housing stock meets the diverse needs of Queenslanders at any stage of life. Housing and home modification programs are flexible to allow people to stay in their home and their community of choice. People have the information they need and are supported to make housing decisions that are right for their future. Homelessness support programs are equipped to ensure access to appropriate housing and other supports and to respond to diverse needs including specialised needs of older people.

08 Concessions are secure and they respond to increases in cost of living to reduce financial pressure on Queenslanders. People know what they are eligible for and there are simple, clear, coordinated pathways to access.

09 Affordable and accessible transport options are available no matter where in Queensland a person lives. Transport is designed with reference to all other age-friendly

domains to ensure it is accessible for people of all ages and abilities, financial and life circumstances, and effectively and meaningfully supports community participation and access. The Government facilitates and encourages a collaborative process between stakeholders, including consumers, to identify gaps and strategies at the local as well as state level.

10 All Queenslanders have access to energy supply they can afford and support to navigate the energy market and to increase their energy efficiency. Consumers have choice and equal protections to ensure they are not disadvantaged, no matter where they live.

11 Queenslanders have equitable and affordable access to reliable internet no matter their location or circumstances and supports are available to increase their capability. Those who are not online continue to have full opportunities for participation in social, economic, and civic life.



Recommendations in Brief

The 2020 COTA Queensland State Election Statement contains the detailed recommendations that provide a strong action plan for achieving an Age-Friendly Queensland.

In brief the recommendations are:



Break down silos to lead whole-of-Government and cross-sector collaborative action towards an Age-friendly Queensland.



Invest in liveable communities and support people to create and access housing that is affordable, right for people's needs, and supports their health and wellbeing long term.



Create more meaningful and sustainable change by using a place-based approach and providing funding and support for locally led action.



Ensure adequate concessions to address cost of living pressures and make it simple to access them.



Show leadership in addressing ageism within Government policy and programs and the broader community and promote positive relationships between generations.



Co-design an accessible, affordable transport system that leaves no Queenslanders behind.



Keep tackling elder abuse through programs for education, reporting, and redress



Provide greater choice, protections, and support in the energy market and improve affordability, energy efficiency, and education.



Lead by example to combat age discrimination in the workplace and support others to work with older people to change their own practice.



Invest in a statewide strategy to improve action to digital access, affordability, and skills while ensuring those who are not online have equal opportunities for full participation.



Lead cross-sector collaboration to create an equitable, integrated health system that meets diverse needs throughout life, and support people to understand and use it.



■ About COTA Queensland

We are Queensland's peak organisation for seniors, advancing the rights, needs, interests and futures of people as we age. With the large and growing number of older people in our state at the center, we've worked to influence positive outcomes for Queenslanders for over sixty years.

We provide a connection point for older people, their families and communities, organisations, and Governments at all levels to address issues for Queenslanders and co-create change.

We provide independent information and education for older people, their communities, and organisations as well as education and training, advice, and other services to the public and private sectors.

We work across diverse issues, including age-friendly communities, ageism, age discrimination, aged care, cost of living and concessions, digital inclusion, emergency services, employment, energy and essential services, health, housing, human rights and legal protections, mental health, palliative and end of life care, and transport.



We are part of the COTA Federation, comprised of all state and territory COTA organisations and COTA Australia.

We are a strong voice for Queenslanders as we age, actively campaigning against ageism, promoting and supporting research and projects on significant issues, and amplifying the diverse voices of older people in advice to Government and non-Government organisations and services.

We have been a particularly active voice for older people in Queensland's response to COVID-19. We are part of the Queensland Government's COVID-19 Seniors Taskforce, which oversees the work of the Care Army, the Queensland Health led Residential Aged Care COVID-19 Working Group, a cross-sector and government response, and engaged with Health Consumers Queenslanders in ensuring the consumer voice in health reform.





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