

Take 40 Minutes Now to Influence the Government for your Future

Stand up with COTA to tell Members of Parliament how to improve Victoria
for everyone

What can you do?

URGENT ACTION

Send a letter by 2 September

The Victorian Parliament has an inquiry that affects all of us. An all party committee is working on ideas to improve our lives as older people. You can write to it before 2 September.

Write to the committee now to make sure that your experience and knowledge count.

Send a copy to your local MP, key Ministers and to COTA as well.

It doesn't stop there – we need to keep lobbying for change

Let government and opposition members know that we expect action not just a report.

Stay connected with COTA. Tell us what you are doing, and find out more about our activities.

Be ready to act with us on the recommendations.

Use the information in this guide to tell your friends, community groups and networks about COTA's priorities and how they can take action too.

What are our priorities?

**We need the Government to develop,
resource and implement a strategic 10 year
Action Plan to:**

- reject ageism, negative stereotypes and age discrimination
- maximise opportunities for equitable social, economic and political participation
- create age friendly environments
- protect against and redress disadvantage

Visit our website www.cotavic.org.au
to register for more information and
resources.

Key Dates

2 September

Closing date for letters to the
Inquiry Into Participation by
Senior Victorians

September 2011 to June 2012

COTA and Victorian seniors keep
letting members of parliament
know what we expect.

30 June 2012

Inquiry committee (Family and
Community Development
Committee) reports to Parliament

July 2012

Government responds to
committee recommendations

It's time for An Age-Friendly Victoria to bring benefits to Victorians of all ages

We all need to tell the Inquiry that an Age-Friendly society means

- affordable services and appropriate health care
- rejection of "one size fits all" approaches– older people are a very diverse population group
- being connected to communities and networks
- being able to live independently & make choices
- accessible transport
- economic security
- action on climate change
- affordable and accessible housing
- and lots more

This needs policy change, targeted programs, adequate resources and leadership.

Responding to the committee's issues

Write by 2 September

You can write to the committee on anything that you think is important.

Whether this is a one-page letter or a longer paper it is called a submission.

It will be a public document that the committee can quote or publish unless you ask for it to be confidential.

Send your letter - By mail to

The Executive Officer
Family and Community
Development Committee
Parliament House Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Or by email to

Janine.bush@parliament.vic.gov.au

Send a copy of your submission to your local MP, the Premier, and the Minister for Ageing, so they know we want this Government to act. Send a copy to COTA too.

30 possible questions to answer

The committee has posed 30 questions that it would like people to answer. It sets out a brief discussion of each.

Some of the key questions you might cover in your letter include:

- In what ways do senior Victorians contribute to society and the economy?
- What would you see as the top 3 concerns for senior Victorians?
- What do you see as emerging issues for senior Victorians over the next 20 years?

You can choose to answer as many or as few of the 30 questions as you like. You can write about your own views, tell your own stories and make your own suggestions.

Older people at a COTA workshop shared their ideas on what could be included in answers to these and some of the other questions. You can see what they thought on the COTA website www.cotavic.org.au

For more information about the Inquiry, the Terms of Reference, the Submission Guide with the 30 questions and how to make a submission go to:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc>

Register to stay connected and to keep COTA informed!

Phone: 9655 2106 or Email: policy@cotavic.org.au

Visit our website www.cotavic.org.au for more information and resources