



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**21 April 2010**

### **ACTION AT LAST ON HEALTH AND AGED CARE**

#### **FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS**

Australia's peak organisation for older Australians, COTA Australia (Council on the Ageing) has welcomed the Rudd government's national health reform agreement with states and territories and today's announcement of the terms of reference of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Aged Care.

COTA's national CEO, Ian Yates, said the health reform package was a significant step forward in tackling some of the major issues older Australians have with the health system as it currently operates.

"In particular the four hour target for emergency departments, the 95% target on planned surgery (there is nothing 'elective' about it) with funds to start getting there and extra funding for sub-acute care are very welcome and long overdue," he said.

"We have been urging the Commonwealth to take 100% responsibility for aged care and warmly welcome that agreement by COAG".

"We applaud today's announcement of the terms of reference of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Age Care.

"The Commission has been given full scope to produce a blueprint for an aged care system reorganised around the needs of older Australians on a sustainable basis.

"It looks like we now have real hope of meaningful reform early in the next term of government".

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#### **Further Information:**

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