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PRESS RELEASE

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Broadband for Seniors

COTA Over 50s congratulates the Government for its initiative to fund the \$15 million Broadband for Seniors project. Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, has delivered on his pre-election promise to provide up to 2000 free Internet kiosks to seniors for over 3 years in key community locations, identified by the Government: "The Government wants more older Australians to enjoy the benefits of the Internet such as mastering new hobbies and accessing educational programs," Mr Rudd, 2nd November 2007. COTA Over 50s is confident that the Government initiative will make a difference to the seniors community. "While there is a push to support technology in schools, a similar initiative was long awaited to assist older people in Australia", says COTA Over 50s' Executive Director, Dr. Geoffrey Bird.

COTA Over 50s congratulates the winners of the bid, NEC Australia in partnership with Adult Learning Australia, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association, and the University of the Third Age Online. "COTA Over 50s promotes the interests of all seniors, but particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged. COTA Over 50s expects that the project will lead to equitable outcomes, not limiting the benefits of information sharing to skill training alone. There is a need in the community to break the isolation suffered by many older Australians. Technology can certainly assist in this process by providing a means for generating community activities and projects which can engage people, according to their needs and capacities", says Dr Bird. COTA Over 50s, with its offices all around Australia, is always ready to provide the interested parties with support and advice.

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