



NEWS RELEASE

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CAUTIOUS WELCOME FOR COALITION POLICIES FOR SENIORS

Australia's peak organisation for older Australians, COTA Australia (Council on the Ageing) has cautiously welcomed most of the Coalition's Seniors Policy released today by Federal Opposition leader Tony Abbott.

However, COTA would like more information and more action in some areas.

COTA Chief Executive, Mr Ian Yates has welcomed the commitment to abolish the Superannuation Guarantee Levy contributions age limit from July 2013, as called for in COTA's election platform.

However he could see no reason for the delay and called for it to be abolished from 1 July 2011.

Mr Yates said the indexation of income thresholds for the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card would also be welcomed by seniors who just miss out at present.

"The income limits of \$50,000 single and \$80,000 a couple were generous in 2001 but have not been indexed since and should now be adjusted by CPI," he said.

"The creation of a Minister for Ageing and Seniors, another initiative called for by COTA, is also welcome. However we are seeking confirmation this would be a Cabinet position and mandated to tackle age discrimination and policy coordination across government as COTA proposed.

"COTA welcomes the Coalition's recognition that mature age employment needs action by government. However, while the employer subsidy of \$3250 is likely have some positive effect, previous experience with similar programs shows it will not be successful by itself but needs to be combined with a range of other measures.

"COTA also would like an expansion of the Gillard government's current Experience+ program to create a "one stop" Older Worker's Advisory Service offering career advice, training, and job placement; and a similar service for small and medium size employers on how best design workplaces and working conditions to attract and retain mature workers."

Further Information:

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