



NEWS RELEASE

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COTA WELCOMES GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOR SENIORS

Australia's peak organisation for older Australians, COTA Australia (Council on the Ageing) has welcomed today's announcement by the Prime Minister on a range of policies to benefit seniors.

COTA Chief Executive, Mr Ian Yates has welcomed all the measures announced, most of which COTA has called for in its election platform or in direct representations to government.

"Pensioners who work part time will applaud significant improvements in the pension bonus scheme, which will benefit over 30,000 pensioners and encourage even more to accept part time work", Mr Yates said.

"The improvements mean that they keep all of the first \$250 they earn in a fortnight, not half of it. In periods when they are not earning, they will be able to "bank" the \$250 or the part of it if they don't earn and then claim it all when they are. This would benefit people who, for example, do seasonal work a few weeks a year."

"This could benefit them by up to \$6,500 per year."

"We also welcome the strengthening of the government's "Experience Plus" program with new training grants up to \$4,000 targeted at people over 50 to enable them to improve their skills to stay in the workforce."

"COTA applauds the announcement of a full time Age Discrimination Commissioner, which we called for in our election platform" Mr Yates said.

"This will help get some real action against age discrimination, which is still widespread"

"The announced increased consumer protection measures for reverse mortgages will provide people with extra protection and make them better informed about these products, which can play a useful role in retirement.

"Finally, extra support to Grandparent Carers will be welcomed by the groups that support the growing number of grandparents who have full time responsibility for grandchildren and struggle with getting information and support."

Further Information:

**Ian Yates
Chief Executive
COTA Australia**

Ph: 0418 835 439