

POLICY PROCESS

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COTA Over 50s policies are developed through participatory processes in which older people play active roles.

COTA Over 50s members develop and monitor processes to ensure that policy decisions:

- Are determined by seniors in the interests of seniors.
- Are informed by the views of a diverse range of seniors,
- Are supported by research evidence
- Enable seniors and their organisations to propose policy positions, elect people to the Policy Council/committee and to any regional/area policy structures.

To become involved in our policy work contact COTA in your state or territory or ARPA Over 50s Association.

Policy Councils are the bodies responsible for policy approval and are the forums for discussing policy directions, priorities and strategies.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Policy is developed within a framework of three inter-linked tiers.

Level one: the broad economic, social and environmental context

The capacity of Australia to successfully manage an ageing population in a way that is fair, equitable and sustainable depends to a very large degree on factors such as:

- a sound economy with low unemployment and with sustainable growth.
- a stable and harmonious society characterised by low levels of income inequality, inter-generational respect, racial tolerance, gender equity, and fairness in the distribution of resources
- a physical environment that provides for a high level of amenity and public health. For example, high levels of air pollution create respiratory and other illnesses.

Level two: the community context

The ageing of the population will be most successfully managed if the community settings are appropriate. This layer of policy action includes the areas of:

- Community and urban planning
- Transport systems
- Housing policies
- Social and cultural amenities

Level three: the program context

This covers areas over which governments allocate dedicated expenditure for specific purposes, including retirement incomes, health services, aged care, education and training.