

Policy Principles

Members of COTA National adhere to five main policy principles:

1 – Maximise the economic, social and political participation of older Australians and challenge ageism

COTA National supports policies and programs that encourage and facilitate the inclusion of seniors in all aspects of Australian life.

2 – Promote positive views of ageing, reject ageism and challenge negative stereotypes

COTA National supports initiatives that recognise the capacities and contributions of seniors and actively combat ageism. COTA National believes that the impact of ageism, based on negative age stereotypes, restricts the participation of older people in all aspects of Australian life. This has adverse effects on the community and on older people.

3 – Promote interdependence and consciousness across generations

COTA National promotes policies that meet the specific requirements of seniors whilst taking account of the needs of the entire community for sound economic and social development. Senior Australians share an interest in long-term policies that serve the welfare of all Australians.

4 – Redress disadvantage and discrimination

COTA National believes that all people have the right to dignity, to security, to access high quality services, and to equality in participation in the community regardless of their income, status, background, location or any other social or economic factor. COTA National recognises that seniors are a diverse group with differing backgrounds and social, economic and health status and advocates strongly for those who are most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

5 – Protect and extend services and programs that are used and valued by older people living in Australia

COTA National develops policies and provides advice on maintaining and improving services and programs that seniors use and value. These include primary health care, hospitals, pharmaceuticals, employment services, utilities, public transport, residential care, housing and community care. It will seek to ensure that there is an adequate 'safety net' of services and income support, which all seniors can access according to fair and equitable criteria in order to maintain a reasonable quality of life.