

45th ANNUAL REPORT 2002

including Financial Statements for the year ending 30th June 2002

***Presented at the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19th September 2002***

Council on the Ageing Queensland Inc.
ABN 13 465 280 311



The People for People over 50

*Suite 1D, Level 1,
Rowes Arcade
235 Edward Street
Brisbane Q 4000*

*Telephone (07) 3221 6822
Facsimile (07) 3221 6833
Email cotaq@cotaq.org.au
Website www.cotaq.org.au*

GOVERNANCE

PATRON

His Excellency the Governor of Queensland Major General Peter Arnison, AC CVO

BOARD

President

Judith Skinner OAM

(Electorate of Seniors)

Immediate Past President &

Vice-President Policy & Advocacy

Glenda McChesney-Clark

(Electorate of Seniors)

Vice-President Membership Services

Councillor June Colley

(Electorate of Seniors Organisations)

Vice-President Community Services

Coral Ordish

(Electorate of Seniors Organisations – resigned March 2002)

Treasurer

J Gary McNabb

(Electorate of Seniors – resigned February 2002)

Secretary (non-voting)

Julie Sultmann CPA

(appointed March 2002)

Members

Mark Tucker-Evans

(Executive Director and Public Officer)

Dr Mary Daly AM

(Electorate of Seniors)

Elizabeth (Bess) Newman

(Service Providers Electorate)

Councillor Annette Reilly

(Local Government Electorate)

Len Sly

(Electorate of Seniors –resigned May 2002)

Mary Snell

(Electorate of Seniors)

Jim Whalan

(Organisations of Seniors Electorate – co-opted)

Michael Rice & Associates

AUDITORS

STAFF

Executive Director

Mark Tucker-Evans

Project Officer

Melissa Bailey (p/t)

Administration & Finance Officer

Jill Shipley

Library Resource Officer

Jane Geddes (p/t)

Information Officer

Tony Rivera (p/t)

(resigned December 2001)

Bookkeeper

Wendy Wylie (p/t)

VOLUNTEERS

Administrative Assistant

Sue Draffin

Angela Roberts

(resigned January 2002)

Shelley Chand

(March 2002 onwards)

Library Assistant

Merril Rylance

(resigned April 2002)

Computermentors

Alan Rawlings

Kevin Hortle

Joan Daffurn

Jennifer Thomas

(resigned July 2001)

COTA News

Anooska Tucker-Evans

(from September 2001)

Receptionist

Wendy Willmont

(resigned October 2001)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for 2002.

In preparing my report it became very clear that a major focus of our activities has been the successful transition of COTAQ into the COTA National Seniors Partnership. This included a Special General Meeting in June this year when a number of changes to our Constitution were agreed.

The proposal to merge the two organizations was first raised in 1989 when Later Years approached COTA Australia. It had been discussed within the COTA Movement a number of times over the years that the two organisations should work together more but until recently the time has never seemed quite right. Ageing issues are now firmly on the political agenda and it has become increasingly important to have one very strong voice to deal with the many issues facing an ageing Australia.

The activities of COTAQ like most non government community organizations are constrained by funding difficulties. Staff and volunteers are consistently asked to go the extra mile and I never cease to be amazed at how much can be achieved by a few dedicated people. I would like to mention just some of the more important achievements this year.

Firstly the State Conference sponsored by the Noosa and Cooloola Shire Councils in June was an outstanding success and clearly achieved its objectives of bringing together older people, policy makers and researchers to explore and discuss key issues that will affect older Queenslanders over the next 20 years. A number of the outcomes from these discussions will contribute to the policy development work of the new COTA NSA Policy Council in 2003. It was very pleasing to have our National President Mr. Jim Giles who lives in Adelaide attend the Conference.

Secondly the State Forum of Committees on the Ageing, which followed the Conference at Noosa was well attended and we were grateful for the presence of two senior public servants Peta Jervois (Families) and Jo Root (Q Health) to provide direct answers to our member's questions particularly on a number of regional concerns.

Thirdly the new premises in the CBD will be a much more convenient location for staff, members, colleagues and government officers. As NSA is co-located within these premises it will assist both organizations in working together. At this point I would like to mention the dedicated work of the Executive Director Mark Tucker-Evans. Much of what has been achieved, some of which is not so clearly visible is in no small way due to the work done by Mark in building and developing good relationships with numerous Organisations and Government Departments.

On behalf of the Board of COTAQ I would like to thank Gary McNabb for his support in the role of Treasurer in the first half of the year. Ms Julie Sultmann accepted the position of Honorary Treasurer in March this year. Julie is well qualified to provide welcome financial advice and guidance during this period of change.

A special thanks to our efficient and dedicated staff both paid and unpaid. I am grateful to the members of the Board for their support and the enthusiasm they have demonstrated throughout this negotiation process.

Four COTAQ Board members Cr June Colley, Glenda McChesney-Clark, Dr Mary Daly and Bess Newman will be the COTAQ members on the new State Policy Council.

COTAQ acknowledges the financial project support provided by Queensland Health and the Department of Families.

This past year has been one of changes and achievements but I feel confident that our new partnership will move forward to meet the challenges of an ageing population and work cooperatively with other sectors in the community to achieve the best outcomes for all older Australians.

Judith Skinner OAM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It seems incredible that twelve months have passed since I wrote the last Annual Report. At that time I had just started in the job and was writing without any personal involvement in COTAQ's achievements.

COTAQ has a proud history of promoting and protecting the well-being of older Queenslanders auspicing many new initiatives since it was established in 1957. Many of these organisations have gone on to become successful in their own right whilst COTAQ has struggled to sustain its existence let alone fund its growth.

Consequently the past year has been one of taking stock – reviewing, evaluating and planning for future growth.

The Board met with staff in July 2001 and agreed that the five strategic objectives for COTAQ over the next 3-5 years were to:

1. Ensure that policies, based on research, are developed to advance the well-being of older Queenslanders
2. Provide the voice to articulate the concerns & expectations of older Queenslanders
3. Foster community understanding of positive ageing
4. Ensure appropriate services are provided to satisfy the diverse needs of older Queenslanders
5. Ensure COTAQ keeps pace with dynamic social change.

In developing COTAQ's Operational Plan we separated our core business into four broad areas:

1. Member Services
2. Policy
3. Education
4. Project Management

Each one of these areas and indeed the administrative, human and financial support systems that underpin COTAQ's business have demanded and will continue to require considerable attention to ensure we achieve our objectives.

Member Services

COTAQ has both individual and organisational members. As members will know we have been in negotiation with National Seniors Association for much of the past twelve months and are moving towards a Partnership agreement. We are confident that this Partnership arrangement will deliver to members increased benefits and the opportunity to take part in activities at a local level.

We intend to work with both our individual and organisational members through a series of Forums, Focus Groups and other mechanisms to identify and respond to issues impacting on older Queenslanders.

Policy

A substantial amount of time has been spent building relations with Government and Non Government organisations. This will continue and indeed be increased as the ageing of the population is recognised as a key issue.

COTAQ's 3rd State Conference **2020 INSIGHT Queensland: The Senior-Friendly State?** was held at the Noosa Lakes Convention & Exhibition Centre on 20-21 June 2002. This Conference will be used as the model for an annual Policy Conference to provide the opportunity for older Queenslanders to meet with policy-makers, service providers, researchers, et.al within Queensland to consider and discuss key issues facing Queensland's ageing population.

The **2020 INSIGHT** Conference Committee headed by Cr June Colley and comprising Judith Skinner and Mary Snell skilfully assisted by the Community Development staff of Noosa Shire Council ensured that the Conference was an enjoyable as well as informative event. COTAQ's staff ably handled all the administrative aspects of the Conference.

Education & Information

The Education & Information Committee under the Chairmanship of Mary Snell has responded to the increasing demand for Talks from community organisations, TAFE, universities, etc.

A Peer Educators Training Day was held in May to support the 'Be Wise With Medicines' program. This program continues to be sought after.

Members of the Committee also assisted at a number of activities including the 'Suicide Prevention and Older People' Seminar run in association with the Department of Families and the two 'Strong Women and Men Beat Arthritis' featuring international author Miriam E Nelson PH.D run in association with the Arthritis Foundation.

Projects

We have worked with Queensland Health and Department of Families to review the outcomes of our two major projects. We believe that we can assist government, business and the community to develop innovative strategic responses to the issues identified through both the HACC 100 Project and the Safe and Confident Living Project.

Promotion

Major promotions were held in conjunction with AMP's Centenary of Federation and again COTAQ joined forces with Aged Care Queensland at the Retirement & Lifestyle Expo at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Festival of Music & Song

The 19th Annual Festival of Music & Song was held in the Concert Hall of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in October in the presence of our Patron His Excellency the Governor of Queensland Major General Peter Arnison, AO.

The Australian Army Band was once again the focal point with Royce Perkins as usual adding to the occasion as compere. We are grateful to Luke Harriman who produced the concert and all the performers who gave their time freely.

Computer Classes

COTAQ was at the forefront of facilitating older people to take up computers and to access the Internet through the computer courses conducted at the Nundah office. In recent years others including many Senior Citizens Clubs/ Centres and the Brisbane City Council have become very active in this area. This, the cost of replacing ageing hardware and an increasingly statewide focus has resulted in the cessation of classes with the relocation to Brisbane's CBD.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Compumentors Alan Rawlings, Kevin Hortle ably assisted by Joan Daffurn who together with past compumentors have introduced and supported hundreds of older people through the terrors of computer and Internet technology.

We are keen that the Senior Surfers Computer User Group continues to meet and expands its activities in our new CBD location.

Committees on the Ageing

Two Forums for the Committees on the Ageing were held during the past year.

The first, held on 26 October was hosted by the Central Gladstone Committee on the Ageing. A Welcome Dinner the previous night enabled representatives to either catch up or get to know each other prior to the formal Forum on the Friday. Each Committee was given time to provide an overview of their activities. As a new boy on the block I found this session enormously informative as did many of the other attendees. Although all Committees work to the same Constitution each has responded to local needs in a very individual manner.

The Committees on the Ageing 8th Annual State Forum was held in conjunction with COTAQ's 3rd State Conference **2020 INSIGHT** at Noosa in June 2002. We are grateful for the financial support provided by Noosa and Cooloola Shire Councils for this Forum. We are also indebted to the Public Trustee of Queensland for their continued financial support of COTAQ's work.

Staff

The past year has provided many challenges for COTAQ's staff as they have been asked to take more responsibility and to work towards specific outcomes. I take this opportunity to formally acknowledge their contribution and support during a demanding period.

The Future

The future is exciting yet will continue to challenge us as we strive to respond to the growing concerns of an ageing population.

We intend to continue to build effective relationships with members, other older persons organizations, Service Providers and Government through staging Forums every six months to provide a platform for sharing issues and policies.

We are currently strengthening our project management capacity because we believe the lessons learned from our community project work can be fed into our policy processes and vice versa.

We will enter the COTA NSA Partnership with the responsibility of providing policy development, research, advocacy and representational support to the Queensland Policy Council. This Policy Council will build on our Policy Committee, which has been exploring appropriate policies to ensure that Queensland is the Senior-Friendly State.

The Partnership with almost 100,000 members in Queensland has the potential to be a potent force in bringing about positive change for older persons. Our policy processes will ensure that members have the opportunity to contribute to policy in Queensland and to the National Policy Council.

Mark Tucker-Evans
Executive Director

COUNCIL ON THE AGEING QUEENSLAND INC.

CONSTITUTION

At a Special General Meeting of the Council on the Ageing Queensland Inc. held at the Noosa Lakes Convention & Exhibition Centre on Friday 21 June 2002 members voted unanimously to change the Constitution to facilitate the Partnership Agreement between COTA and National Seniors Association.

In summary the changes to the Constitution have the following effects:

- The only full members now are Seniors and Seniors organisations – others such as service providers, have become associates although they can be involved in the Policy Council as participating observers. The full members constitute only one electorate.
- The Board is reduced to between six and nine voting members – half elected, two to be co-opted from NSA (by Agreement) and one who will be the Chair of the Policy Council.
- The Officers are reduced in number as a consequence (as a by-product the Immediate Past President position ceases).
- The first elected Board members under the new arrangements will actually be appointed by and from the current elected Board members, as a transition arrangement.
- The other amendments are technical and consequential to these changes.