

# YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Be a part of a conversation to improve  
the lives of older Queenslanders.



# AGEING IN QUEENSLAND

Queensland demographic profile is changing with 1 in 5 Queenslanders projected to be 65 and older in 2047. It is important that all communities prepare for this and create an Age-friendly and secure environment which optimises community participation and healthy living for all.

## ABOUT THE CONVERSATIONS

Council on the Ageing (COTA) Queensland conducted nine community conversations across seven regional locations in Queensland to get deeper insights into what an Age-friendly community means to people living in those areas.

The primary purpose of the Community Conversations was to explore the issues experienced by older people in the community. We did this in order to be able to inform local government and the wider community on these findings, to foster social change and provide expert advice and encourage communities to take the lead and create change.

Guiding the development of Age-friendly places is a process that actively involves older Queenslanders in the decision-making, implementation and evaluation process.

# WHAT WAS COVERED

What's being done well in your community?

What needs to change or can be done better?

What bold steps can we take?

What are the priority issues?

9

workshops were delivered in Rockhampton, Townsville, Cairns, Longreach, Mackay, Mt Isa, and Maryborough .



# WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

WE ASKED THE PARTICIPANTS WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

The top five were:

- Accessible and affordable public/ community transport
- Better community care and reduced queues for Home Care
- More GPs and bulk billing and 24hr clinics
- Employment opportunities
- Intergenerational understanding

Common suggestions for ways forward included improved public and community transport, innovative accessible housing, appreciation and respect for older people, positive media portrayal of older people and employment opportunities.

## TOP PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- 1** Provide more affordable & accessible public transport with priority seating and wheelchair accessibility
- 2** Promote intergenerational understanding/ connectivity & improve portrayal of older people to increase respect and inclusion
- 3** Increase availability of affordable, accessible and innovative housing
- 4** Improve Community Care & Home Care Packages
- 5** Reduce hospital waitlists & Increased Allied Health services

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**COTA Queensland recommends that an Age in all Policies approach is needed, along with commitment at all levels of Government.**

Increased funding to support age-friendly local leadership

Local Governments work with their communities to explore issues and co-design solutions

Change involves collaboration between all levels of Government

Community members are supported to become change leaders

Change requires that age be considered in all policies

The aspects of communities requiring change, and the top priorities for action, reflect all the World Health Organisation's eight domains of an age-friendly community. Therefore attention is needed in all areas of policy.

The issues raised also reflect a combination of local, state, and federal responsibilities. Sustained change requires a commitment to action and collaboration across all levels of Government. This must include a particular role for Local Governments in exploring issues with their communities and co-designing solutions with community and with State and Federal Government.

A commitment is also needed from State and Federal Government to support local, co-designed solutions, including through increased funding and support for local and community leadership.