



the voice of older Australians

COTA Over 50s Ltd.

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COTA Over 50s' Postgraduate Research Awards

Background

COTA Over 50s is the national peak seniors organisation. Its prime objective is to promote, improve and protect the circumstances and wellbeing of older people in Australia, of which there are over six million, not just its members, and particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Through its National Policy Council, the COTA Over 50s National Policy Office identifies policy priorities, researches them, and publishes findings and policy recommendations. It responds to government requests for inputs to government reviews, inquiries and policy initiatives. Policy statements, research papers and other information are distributed directly to parliament and through regular media releases. Information is also disseminated directly to member organisations and our constituents, and placed on the COTA Over 50s website.

COTA Over 50s works to generate collaborative spirit between government at all levels, corporate and business organisations, peak bodies, research institutions and community organisations. It also generates initiatives for significant national projects.

COTA Over 50s is strongly committed to partnering with academic and other research institutions. Our expertise and enthusiasm for collaboration offers our research partners the chance to more fully realise their goals while allowing COTA Over 50s to achieve its policy objectives. This research would potentially provide an informed basis for social policy development. Research papers would be published under the author's name, with a reference to COTA Over 50s.

It is a simple university prize or assistance with grant applications and the partnership should be very beneficial to both parties. As a first step, COTA Over 50s is pleased to offer a small number of awards, to a maximum of \$500, to

research students (Honours, Graduate Diploma, Masters and PhD candidates) across Australia, for research projects in the field of “ageing” and with focus on the social policy priorities of COTA Over 50s.

COTA Over 50s encourages the exploration and establishment of research partnerships where precise details and processes may also be tailored to individual program needs.

Objectives

The objectives of this social research initiative are:

1. To improve the reach and quality of social research in the aged sector,
2. To develop a research basis for strong policy recommendations to the Australian government,
3. To encourage and support postgraduate students researching in the field of “ageing”,
4. Develop greater recognition of the value of “ageing” as an area worthy of scholarly endeavour.

COTA Over 50s Policy Priorities 2008

The following Policy Priorities are intended to guide researchers into understanding COTA Over 50s’ preferred areas of research focus—which will inform its constant push to combat ageism, develop a comprehensive program for active ageing, and to establish policies & practices for decision-making in health and aged care.

COTA Over 50s seven policy priorities for 2008 are:

1. Sufficient income for all seniors – linked to modest living
2. Affordable and appropriate housing for all older people, including people who rent
3. Commonwealth HACC Funding increased in real terms, matched by States and Territories, including:
 - A new Commonwealth program combining HACC & packages
 - An emphasis on community care
 - Development of a community care policy.
4. Workforce issues and development—doctors, nurses, allied health and aged care
5. Mature aged workforce issues.
6. Health Issues
 - Developing a national mental health strategy for seniors.
 - Dental review implementation
7. A national approach to end of life planning

For more information, researchers and research supervisors should explore the COTA Over 50s' website, in particular our Public Policy and Publications areas, at www.cotaover50s.org.au.

Contact

To progress this award project with your institution, please email:

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