



the voice of older Australians

COTA Over 50s Ltd.

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COTA Over 50s' Postgraduate Research Awards

The Award

COTA Over 50s is pleased to offer a number of annual research awards to a maximum of \$500 for cutting-edge research papers on issues relevant to COTA Over 50s' current policy priorities. The recipients will also be presented with a certificate.

Selected research papers will appear in *Issues in Ageing: A Journal of Award-Winning Postgraduate Research Papers*, published online by COTA Over 50s' National Policy Research Centre.

Eligibility

Graduate research students must be enrolled in Honours, Graduate Diploma, Masters or Doctorate programs in the field of ageing, and within an area of focus that meets the social policy priorities of COTA Over 50s.

Process

COTA Over 50s seeks out constructive relationships with academic institutions willing to take part in the scheme. Its relationship with the University of Queensland exemplifies the arrangements by which tertiary institutions can assist COTA Over 50s and, as a result, encourage and promote research on ageing. It is expected that research Schools call for expressions of interest in the award, identify suitable proposals and then review students' research papers submitted within a framework of set deadlines and guidelines. Students' supervisors or panels would function as a referring body, identifying exceptional and relevant research papers. Their recommendations for the Award will then be presented and reviewed by COTA Over 50s' policy experts and consultants.

Subsequently, papers awarded the prize will appear in *Issues in Ageing: A Journal of Award-Winning Postgraduate Research Papers*, published online by COTA Over 50s' National Policy Research Centre.

The following steps summarise the process:

- Agreement on Award structure and process
- Invitation to students to submit Proposals
- Closing deadline for Proposals.
- Announcement of successful Proposals
- Closing deadline for submission of research papers
- Recommendation of the Award
- Review by COTA Over 50s
- Notification of awardees
- Publication of awarded research papers in *Issues in Ageing: A Journal of Award-Winning Postgraduate Research Papers*, produced by COTA Over 50s' National Policy Research Centre.
- Awards Ceremony with a COTA Over 50s representative.

Research Paper Requirements and Parameters

The research paper will reflect the student's course requirements, and be of high academic standard. The paper should follow a basic research paper structure and contain a title page, summary, literature review, research questions, methodology, data, analysis, discussion, recommendations and references.

Particular requirements, including proposal submission, topic, focus, format conventions and paper length, must be agreed to at the proposal submission stage. Requirements definition is the responsibility of the research institution in consultation with COTA Over 50s, which also requests a copy of successful research proposals.

Research papers must contribute to informed discussion and improvements in national social policy, in line with COTA Over 50s' current policy priorities which are summarised in this document and on the COTA Over 50s' website.

The research paper must be accompanied by a statement by the academic supervisor certifying that the work has been carried out as part of an accredited research program and is the student's work.

For further information, please visit COTA Over 50s' website <http://www.cotaover50s.org.au> or contact COTA Over 50s directly info@cotaover50s.org.au

Background to the Award

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, not just its members, and particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Through its National Policy Council, the National Policy Office, COTA Over 50s, 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 cultivates 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.

COTA Over 50s is pleased to offer a small number of awards, to a maximum of \$500, to research students - enrolled in Honours, Graduate Diploma, Masters and PhD programs across Australia - for research projects in the field of ageing and with focus on the social policy priorities of COTA Over 50s.

This initiative is expected to assist COTA Over 50s in providing the government with expert advice on social policy issues. Furthermore, the research papers will appear in *Issues in Ageing: A Journal of Award-Winning Postgraduate Research Papers*, published online by COTA Over 50s' National Policy Research Centre.

COTA Over 50s' Policy Priorities for 2008

The following policy priorities are intended to guide researchers into understanding COTA Over 50s' preferred areas of research focus. These include:

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,

Contact

If you are a student and think that your research supervisors would be interested in this program, please bring it to their attention.

To progress this award project with your institution, please email:
Email: info@cotaover50s.org.au or wwtrunz@cotaover50s.org.au

or contact:

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