



## COTA SA 2014-2015 Annual Report

### COTA SA

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# COTA

For older Australians



COTA SA was founded by older people in 1957 and is an organisation run for, by and with older people.

COTA SA's mission is to make sure that SA is a community for all ages - whether male or female, rural or metro, rich or poor, gay or straight, born here or overseas.

While "issues" and "needs" are part of older age as they are with other periods of life, ageing is also full of unexplored possibilities and opportunities.

COTA SA works with and through older people throughout SA to ensure that all are able to share in the life of South Australia - to learn and earn, to look after health, to be part of family, community and friendship networks, to be safe, to have access to services and to housing, and to have opportunities to contribute and influence the world around.

COTA SA is made up of individual, club and organisational members along with a broader community of older people who engage with us for example to support the development of policy positions, provide feedback and advice and reflect on their widely varied views and experiences.

## It is the purpose of COTA SA to:

### Listen to older South Australians

There are 570,000 South Australians over the age of 50 and our job is to hear as many of those voices as we can - their hopes, plans and challenges, and what matters to them.

### Make sure older voices are heard

We represent older South Australians in lots of places and about lots of things including about housing, retirement villages legislation, taxis and uber, the price of water and electricity and changes to health.

### Serve where we add value

We offer a range of services that serve the SA community including the Strength For Life program across almost 80 gyms statewide, support for 220 clubs for older people, and peer education on topics from road safety to medication use to almost 7000 people last year.

### Partner with others

Where our voice and reputation can add value to important work undertaken by other organisations and research, we work with others such as SACOSS and the Multicultural Communities Council SA to meet our common objectives together.

### Incubate opportunities

We offer COTA SA as an incubator of new opportunities as we age. We want to seed, scaffold and support older people to find ways to -

- work with others to tackle issues or create opportunities that affect older people
- work with others over common interests – creative, topical, supportive
- use their skills and experience to help others.

### Through the COTA SA Policy Council, 4 areas of policy priority have been agreed:

- **Employment** - Many more people want to work longer and many are finding it very tough - tough to keep jobs and tough to get jobs. COTA SA is working hard to support business, government and older workers to promote the value of older workers and explore strategies that will extend opportunities to work for the many older people who want to.
- **Cost of living** – COTA SA is actively campaigning for affordable living for older South Australians, paying attention to the things that contribute to cost of living including for example retirement income, housing costs, the rise of co-payment, the price of power and water, continued access to concessions, opportunities for employment and fair taxation treatment
- **Health and well-being** – Health is a very high priority for older people – both the from information and access to health promotion and primary health through to high quality restorative, recovery and treatment services
- **Age Discrimination and Ageism** – Age discrimination and ageism continues to limit the horizons and opportunities of older people including in the fundamental exercise of citizenship such as access to health care, jobs, jury service and in differential rules about driving tests.

# # Reframing Ageing

join the conversation

COTA SA is the peak body promoting the rights, needs and aspirations of older South Australians.

COTA SA is connected to thousands of older people throughout South Australia. We are creating new images and expectations of our older years by opening up new possibilities and opportunities... boldly reframing the way we age.

We represent 570,000 older South Australians on more than 50 influential forums and committees, we provide avenues for older South Australians to contribute to government policy, we offer a range of services and products and we seed new opportunities for older people.

Our 12,000+ members are a vital part of everything we do, supporting the work of COTA SA not only financially but by being an active part of our movement for change. We welcome organisational members who support our work and partner with us to reframe ageing.





### **Board members as at 30 June 2015**

Emeritus Professor Anne Edwards AO, President

Anne Burgess, Vice President

Graeme Hodge, Treasurer

Dr Sophia Matiasz

Graham Inns AM

Julie Obst

Jane Monk

Ray Pincombe

### **2015 Policy Council Members**

Barry APSEY

Dr Michael BOLLEN

Reeva BRICE

Anne BURGESS

Gregory BUSSELL

Anna Maria CARRERA

Mick CURRY

Orazio DI CARLO (resigned 2015)

Ray EDWARDS

Vesna HARACIC

Jennifer HUGHES

Kristin JOHANSSON

Laurie LEWIS

Dr Sophia MATIASZ

Dr Mike RUNGIE

Vivienne SMITH

Dianne STEWART

Joan STONE

Greg MACKIE (resigned 2015)

Michael Cousins (resigned 2015)



# COTA SA External Committee Representatives

COTA SA continues to be represented by a mix of staff, elected officeholders and members on government and non-government organisations and committees.



- CHASE Program
- Aged Care Accreditation Standards Liaison Group (SA)
- ACH Group hospital avoidance and substitution partnership
- Ageing Well Innovation Collaborative Planning Committee
- G-TRAC Advisory Group
- Aged Care Innovation Hub Quality Improvement / Complaints
- Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Better Practice Awards Judging Panel
- NACA Home Care Packages Working Party
- FECCA HARN
- FECCA HARN Working Group
- SACOSS Policy Council
- ElectraNet's Consumer Advisory Panel
- Essential Services Commission SA (ESCOSA) Consumer Advisory Committee
- SACOSS Essential Services Policy & Advocacy Group
- SA Water Residential Customer Advisory Group
- AGN Reference Group
- SA Power Networks consumer advisory committee
- Economic Development Board Healthy Ageing Committee
- SA Human Services Partnership Forum
- Transforming Health Peak Community and Consumer Engagement Forum
- SA Dental Service Consumer Advisory Panel
- Central Adelaide Local Health Network Consumer Advisory Council
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital Consumer Advisory Council
- Royal Adelaide Hospital Consumer Advisory Committee
- SA Health Safety and Quality Community and Consumer Advisory Committee
- SA Ambulance Service Advisory Committee
- Southern Adelaide Local Health Network Partnering with Consumers Advisory Group
- Transforming Health Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group (MCAG) - Orthogeriatrics - Acute Hip Fracture Management
- Transforming Health Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group (MCAG) - Stroke Management
- Transforming Health Ministerial Clinical Advisory Group (MCAG) - Acute Coronary Syndrome - Chest Pain Management
- SA Residential Parks Residents Association (SARPRA)
- Retirement Villages Advisory Committee
- Courts Administration Reference Advisory Committee
- SA Active Ageing Research Cluster (SAAARC)
- Transport Accessibility Advisory Group (TAAG)
- Healthy Minds Healthy Workers Reference Committee

## **POLICY AREA: Employment**

# **EMPLOYMENT FOR THE AGES PROJECT**

As part of the State Government Election platform, COTA SA was allocated funds in 2014-15 to undertake the Employment for the Ages project.

The project was managed through the Department of State Development, and was designed to educate employers on the benefits of employing mature age workers (people aged 50 years and above).

The objectives of the project were to assist employers to see the business benefits of recruiting and retaining mature-age workers, and to promote the views and interests of mature-age people who are either in or seeking employment.

Project activity commenced October 2014, and finished in October 2015.

COTA SA conducted three Employer workshops which demonstrated workforce planning strategies to identify and maximise the skills and experience of older workers. A follow up session was held with Whyalla Aged Care to support its specific workforce requirements.

A Recruiters Focus Group was held to ascertain the views and practices of people in the recruitment industry.

Business SA was engaged to develop a module on age diversity in the workforce for delivery in its THREESIXTY Innovative Business Program.

COTA SA held an Employment Think Tank with eight Chief Executives from the public and private sector to discuss what needs to be done in South Australia to improve the job prospects of older workers.

Following a submission to the Parliamentary Committee on Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation & Compensation inquiry, Working Longer – work health and safety and workers compensation issues, COTA SA appeared as witnesses at the committee to make a presentation on:

- COTA SA's policy priorities of employment and health and wellbeing as they relate to the inquiry terms of reference

- the need for a better focus on health and wellbeing in the workplace – especially for lower skilled and lower income older workers
- developing new expectations of employers and employees for how they view ageing
- investment in enabling older workers to grow, change and learn.

A full report on the project will be available in the future on the COTA SA website.



# No Interest Loans Scheme

## COTA SA NILS helping people on low incomes

NILS is a program designed to assist people on low incomes to buy essential household items such as refrigerators, washing machines, furniture, etc.

The maximum loan amount is \$1200 to be repaid over a 12 to 18 month period with no added fees or interest. The money is recycled, so as each person repays their loan those funds are made available for others.

NILS is backed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) with capital funding provided by National Australia Bank (NAB). The scheme is administered nationwide through Good Shepherd Microfinance in Victoria.

COTA SA NILS is unique amongst the 200 NILS programs around Australia in that it provides loans only for people who are 50 years of age or over. Traditionally only small numbers of older people have taken advantage of NILS loans but the placement with COTA SA is encouraging greater numbers of older applicants to take advantage of this service.

Durina 2014/15 COTA SA has facilitated 20 loans at a value of \$18K. \$58k and 68 borrowers.



# Networking Clubs in the Community (NCC)

As a unique state-wide program, NCC has assisted COTA SA member clubs with resources, support, visits, information and networking opportunities.

The NCC program is a capacity building program, supporting clubs to promote inclusion and wellbeing. NCC worked throughout South Australia including club networking forums in Marion, Adelaide Hills, Mt. Barker, West Torrens, Holdfast Bay and Gawler plus Seniors Multicultural and More Expo with Active Elders Association.

NCC Project Officers provide assistance such as

- the launch of Oakden Salvation Army Companion Club
- clubs with updating of constitutions,
- management matters,
- governance,
- clubs to transition to council auspice,
- increase membership,
- develop strategic plans.

Promotional activities included Expos in Freeling, Marion Community, Barossa Ageing in Style; Riverland Seniors rally; Hewitt Centre Men's Health Week; Coast FM Radio; Seniors' Forums with local Members of Parliament from Port Adelaide, Playford, Port Broughton, Port Pirie and Gawler. Visits were to Brighton, Osborne, Enfield, Klemzig, Williamstown, Woodville, Strathalbyn, Naracoorte, Keith, Port Augusta, Clare, Blair Athol, Victor Harbor.

Resource publications, providing information assisting clubs to develop and support their members, include a quarterly Clubs Bulletin magazine, Essential Resource Guide and the revised Program Ideas for clubs, groups & associations booklet (over 120 new entries including Walks). The Every Generation Festival NCC Annual Clubs Awards for Excellence acknowledges the valuable work of seniors' clubs in their communities.

Seniors clubs provide important spaces for meaningful involvement and familiarity NCC's Social Linking activity links individual seniors with clubs matched to their interests.

To encourage social media use for clubs and seniors, NCC Project Officers and volunteers have provided Seniors Information Technology expos; speakers and demonstrations at its Clubs' Forums, a pilot program "Keeping People Connected" and an Introducing iPad treasured memory activity with seniors at Resthaven Paradise. NCC is consulting with clubs about introducing resources as electronic copies available on a member portal on COTA SA website.



# Peer Education

COTA SA's Peer Education Program continues to share health and wellbeing information with seniors clubs and groups and aims to empower older people to live a full, healthy and active life.

## Pills & Spills

COTA SA worked with Central Adelaide and Hills Medicare Local (CAHML) to co-design a project that educates older people about falls prevention and medicines management.

Southern Adelaide Fleureu Kangaroo Island Medicare Local and Country South SA Medicare Local both saw the value in the program and funded COTA SA to deliver sessions in those areas.

Twenty trained volunteer peer educators facilitated nearly 90 Pills & Spills sessions to seniors clubs and groups in the three Medicare Local catchment areas during the first half of 2015. Pills & Spills offered two one-hour interactive peer education sessions – medicines (Pills) and falls prevention (Spills). Both topics were popular, and the practical information was well received.

COTA SA is hopeful that Pills & Spills can be continued in the future.

## Controlling My Own Life – making the most of consumer directed care

As part of the national Home Care Today program, ten COTA SA peer educators are trained and supported to share information with groups of seniors across South Australia, about aged care reform and in particular home care packages and consumer directed care. The program continues from last year and to date over 120 sessions have been held.

The key messages of the sessions are;

- Take control – your life – your choice
- Work together – you and your care provider
- You have the right to have your wishes for lifestyle and support respected
- Information and assistance is available to guide you with your decisions

Sessions are targeted at groups of older people either in receipt of a home care package, their carers or those who may benefit from a home care package in the near future. The program continues into 2017.

## Step Forward - Together

Funded by Home Care Today and Community West, the national Step Forward – Together program works with three aged care providers in South Australia during the 2015 pilot phase. The project trials approaches to consumer engagement in co-production of new service models that promote wellness and enablement, and trained peer educators will support consumers' informed decision making. Peer education sessions on wellness will be widely available in 2016.

## Planning Ahead

COTA developed a peer education session called Planning Ahead – Making your wishes known, which included information on wills, power of attorney, Advance Care Directives and organ and tissue donation. Ten sessions were held across SA during 2015 engaging over 250 older people and carers.

## Moving Right Along

Due to the high level of interest in Moving Right Along (MRA) – Obligations and opportunities for older drivers, the program was extended to 31 December 2015. Sessions are now also available to seniors groups and clubs located in regional centres: SE Mt Gambier, Port Pirie and Yorke Peninsula. A new topic, Session 3 Motorised Mobility Scooters – information for a safe scooter experience, was added to the program during 2015.

Moving Right Along is a resource developed by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and is being delivered by COTA SA.

49 MRA sessions were facilitated during the first half of 2015 and 60 Sessions from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2014 – a total of 109 sessions have been delivered by 15 peer educators.

MRA is a finalist in the Hunt & Hunt Lawyers Community Road Safety Awards 2015, one of seven categories in the SA Community Achievement Awards.

# Strength for life Program (SFL)

SFL currently operates from 83 accredited sites, including 18 in regional areas across South Australia, but this is expected to grow with the collaboration with the Lions Clubs to introduce SFL to small regional areas.

Since inception, 11,004 older people have commenced sessions with Strength for life and the latest survey shows that the program continues to provide safe and effective, strength and balance exercises to older people.

Participants report that they manage their chronic conditions better and in some instances their medication can be reduced and they are much happier in themselves.

The fitness re-testing at Tier 1 sites has validated the physical improvements that participants make over the 6 month period.

Eight original SFL partners received a 10 year certificate at the Positive Ageing awards and the ongoing contribution of the CPAA was recognised.

SFL mentored 10 third-year exercise physiology students this year. All students completed the SFL training, which will make them ready for the workforce once their study is completed.

The Better Balance training program for instructors has been updated, and accredited by Fitness Australia and is now ready to be delivered to fitness trainers, exercise physiologists and students. As a result SFL programs will now include extra balance options and dedicated Better Balance programs can also be offered to people with greater falls risks.

In collaboration with Lifecare Active, 2 focus groups have been held to assess the nutrition knowledge of over 50's. SFL will also survey instructors to investigate their knowledge to enable education sessions to be developed for SFL clients and instructors.



# Every Generation Program

Now in its 48th year, the COTA SA Every Generation Festival (EGF) is one of Australia's longest running annual arts and community festivals regularly attracting over 100,000 participants across the South Australia.

The 2015 Every Generation Festival and Positive Ageing Awards proved a successful departure from the format of previous years. Six COTA SA curated events ran alongside close to 200 registered community events in a shortened festival which ran from October 1–16. The compacted festival proved popular with media, sponsors and audiences alike.

Over 800 people attended the COTA SA events with a further 30,000 estimated to have participated across the state as event creators, developers, managers and participants. Close to 30% of all events took place in regional and remote areas and featured everything from Club morning teas to fitness activities, gourmet lunches and dinners, film events, day trips and plenty of concerts.

## Glenn A Baker's Musical Explosion

The highlights of the COTA SA events were Glenn A Baker's Musical Explosion, held on 9th October at the iconic Arkaba Hotel 'Top Room'. Australia's 'rock brain of the universe' Glenn A Baker held court with John Schumann, John Bywaters (The Twilights), Peter Tilbrook (Masters Apprentices), John McKay (5 Sided Circle), John 'Swanee' Swan (our current SA Senior of the Year) and Taasha Coates from 3-time ARIA Award winning duo 'The Audreys'. Needless to say, the mix of fascinating 'backstage' stories from years gone by and live performances from all the artists kept everyone intrigued and there was plenty of singing and dancing way, way beyond bedtime!

## Lecture on Ageing

COTA SA's 1st Annual Lecture on Ageing was presented by Festival sponsor KeyInvest and featured the remarkable Bryan Dawe. Bryan's hilarious presentation on the topic 'Why Can't We Age' was followed by a panel discussion chaired by Radio Five AA's David Penberthy and featured Dorinda Hafner (chef), Dr Faizal Ibrahim (Consultant Geriatrician, QEH), Eric Russell (international Paralympic Committee Athlete Classifier), Jane Reilly (radio identity) and Bryan Dawe. If you ever have

the opportunity experience Bryan Dawe live, don't miss the opportunity. His insightful and satirical look at our yesterdays, todays and our future as we age was nothing short of brilliant.

## COTA SA Positive Ageing Awards

Finally, the annual COTA SA Positive Ageing Awards were handed out at a swanky 'Old Hollywood Glamour - Red/Black/White' themed Cocktail Party at the Intercontinental Hotel on Fri 16th October. It was wonderful to see Dracula and his bride, Marilyn Monroe, Rita Hayworth, Arnold Schwarzenegger and other notable film stars of the era all making appearances! Everyone embraced the fun and the winners were duly honoured.



# VOLUNTEER REPORT

COTA SA values the contribution, commitment and passion of its members who are also active volunteers. We are continually building on mutually collaborative relationships to provide services and programs that contribute to the wellbeing of older people.

COTA SA has 102 volunteers who are engaged in diverse roles. This year, volunteers have contributed more than 3000 hours to COTA SA, by promoting the interests of older people, informing people in the community about rights and access to services, assisting in programs that promote health and wellbeing, and generally enhancing the positive contribution of older people to their communities, through COTA SA activities.

Volunteers as peer educators have enabled increased access for community groups to structured information and programs such as Moving Right Along: Obligations and opportunities for older drivers, a collaborative partnership by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Pills & Spills: medicines and falls prevention, coproduced and funded by; Central Adelaide and Hills Medicare Local, Southern Adelaide Fleurieu Kangaroo Island Medicare Local and Country South SA Medicare Local. These sessions have been delivered by peer educators across South Australia. Participants in the Moving Right Along Sessions have reported they have made changes to their driving habits to ensure their safety and undertake more active travel options.

In addition, valuable volunteer involvement has extended in areas related to; information and communications, publications, reception and accounts.

It is through the participation of volunteers that COTA SA continues to flourish in 2015, with the value of each individual volunteer recognized and the diversity celebrated.

Four volunteer morning/afternoon teas were held to provide increased opportunities for volunteers to socialise.

COTA SA formally recognised the contribution of volunteers, at the Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Lunch and The Volunteer Recognition Awards, with 90 volunteers, staff and guests attending these events. The Volunteer Recognition Awards event was held during National Volunteers Week, with this year's theme being "Give Happy, Live Happy". This was a precious opportunity for us to recognise and thank volunteers and celebrate volunteering.

Ten volunteers received awards

## **Silver Level Certificate 200 - 499 hours**

Jan Shepherd

John Hoffmann

Les Barker

## **Special Level Certificate 1000 - 2999 hours**

Martin Lewis

## **Premier's Certificate**

Giovanna Pianezzola

Susan Simes

Terry Boswell

## **Honorary Life Membership**

Giovanna Pianezzola

Susan Simes

Terry Boswell

# COTA SA Volunteer Roll Call and Awards

Reporting period September 2014 to September 2015

Silver Level 200 - 499 hours .....	(1)
Gold Level 500 - 999 hours .....	(2)
Special Award Certificate 1000 - 2999 .....	(3)
Platinum Award 3000 - 4000 hours.....	(4)
Honorary Life Member .....	(5)
Premier's Certificate of Appreciation (Highest Award) .....	(6)

Barry Apsey	Jean Coote (1, 2)
Sue Averay	Michael Cousins
Lyn Bacon (1, 2)	Lyn Coveney
Barbara Baggoley	Rick Coy
Marion Bahr (1)	Cathy Craddock
Nora Barker (1, 6)	Mick Curry
Les Barker (1, 6)	Jill Davies (1)
Dianne Barrington	Pat Davies
Robert Bormann	Orazio Di Carlo
Jai Bhandari	Professor Anne Edwards AO
Michael Bollen	Ray Edwards (6)
Terry Boswell (1, 2, 5, 6)	Andree Faddoul
Jackie Bowness	Julienne Feast
Reeva Brice	Linda Flitton
Anne Burgess	Kaye Fortanier
Gregory Bussell	Judy Gorey
Elaine Candlett	Susan Graham
Anna Maria Carrera	Pat Graske (1, 3, 5, 6)
Shirley Carter	Ronda Grigg
David Chalk (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	Elisabeth Hakkarainen
Robert Chandler	Vesna Haracic
Janet Chambers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	Margaret Harper
Margaret Chester (1, 2, 3, 5, 6)	Janice Harrison
Christine Christopoulos	Marilyn Henderson
Tricia Clement (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)	Carol Hillman
	Garry Hiskey



Tim Hobbs  
Graeme Hodge  
John Hoffmann (1)  
Jennifer Hughes  
Phuong Hua  
Jennifer Hughes  
Graham Inns AM  
Kristin Johansson  
Robin Kelly  
Laurie Lewis (3)  
Martin Lewis (1, 2, 3)  
Colin Lumsden (1, 2)  
Greg Mackie  
Irene Makris (1)  
Christos Makris  
Dr Sophia Matiasz  
Glenys Mayer  
John Mattingly  
Pamela Mattingly  
Elizabeth Mercieca  
Loretta McFarlane (1, 2, 3)  
Margaret McKenzie (1, 2, 6)  
Anne Megaw (5, 6)  
Lily Michailov  
Elisabeta Mihart 1,2,6  
Daryl Mills  
Christine Mitchell (1, 2, 3)  
Jane Monk  
Pamela Mosel  
Phil Mount  
Ann Murcott  
Tieu Nguyen  
Julie Obst  
Belinda Oswald

Pauline Pearson  
Angela Perilli (1)  
Giovanna Pianezzola (1, 2, 5, 6)  
Ray Pincombe  
Toula Pirone  
Rae Porter  
Jan Provis  
Colin Purvis  
Santi Reeves  
Lyla Rhodes (1, 2, 3)  
Michael Roberts  
Carole Rogers  
Mike Rungie  
Jan Shepherd (1)  
Anna Sheppard  
Susan Simes (1, 2, 5, 6)  
Paul Simpson (1, 2, 3)  
Steven Smart  
John Smith  
Vivienne Smith  
Irene Somers (1)  
Graham Southern  
Dianne Stewart  
Joan Stone (5)  
Wan Tang  
Josephine Tin  
Gundi Tophinke  
Kim Trimbell  
Ivan Vezis (1)  
Roma Webb  
Geoffrey White  
Lyn Whiteway (1, 2)  
Mike Whiteway (1)  
Cholly Winter (1, 2, 3)

Ji Yeon Yang  
Luciana Zanette

## **Honorary Life Members**

Anne Megaw  
Betty Hockley  
Chris Overland  
David Chalk  
Debra Petrys  
Dorothy Pash  
Giovanna Pianezzola  
Harry Cresswell  
Jan Adcock  
Janet Chambers  
Joan Stone  
Joan Watkinson  
John Spencer  
Margaret Chester  
Margaret King  
Margaret Scharer  
Pat Graske  
Pauline Mason  
Ray Edwards  
Rita Northcott  
Shirley Maywald  
Stuart Hart  
Susan Simes  
Terry Boswell  
Tricia Clement  
Val Megson

# COTA SA MANAGEMENT TEAM

## Management Team

**Jane Mussared** Chief Executive COTA SA

**Sarah Groth** Business Manager

**Kirsty Rawlings** Senior Manager, Programs

## COTA SA STAFF

**Dorina Fanning**  
Publications/Editor ONECOTA

**Fiona Dunt**  
Project Officer Moving Right  
Along

**Gagan Singh**  
Accounts Officer

**Germaine Rowberry**  
Peer Education Program  
Officer

**Jan McKay**  
Networking Clubs in the  
Community  
Project Officer

**Jan Wheatley**  
Employment for the ages  
Project Officer

**Jane Intini**  
Every Generation Festival &  
Awards Coordinator

**Jeanette Richards**  
Manager Strength For life

**Kirsteen Roy**  
IT Administrator

**Kristina Barnett**  
Networking Clubs in the  
Community  
Project Officer

**Lyn Rogers**  
Receptionist

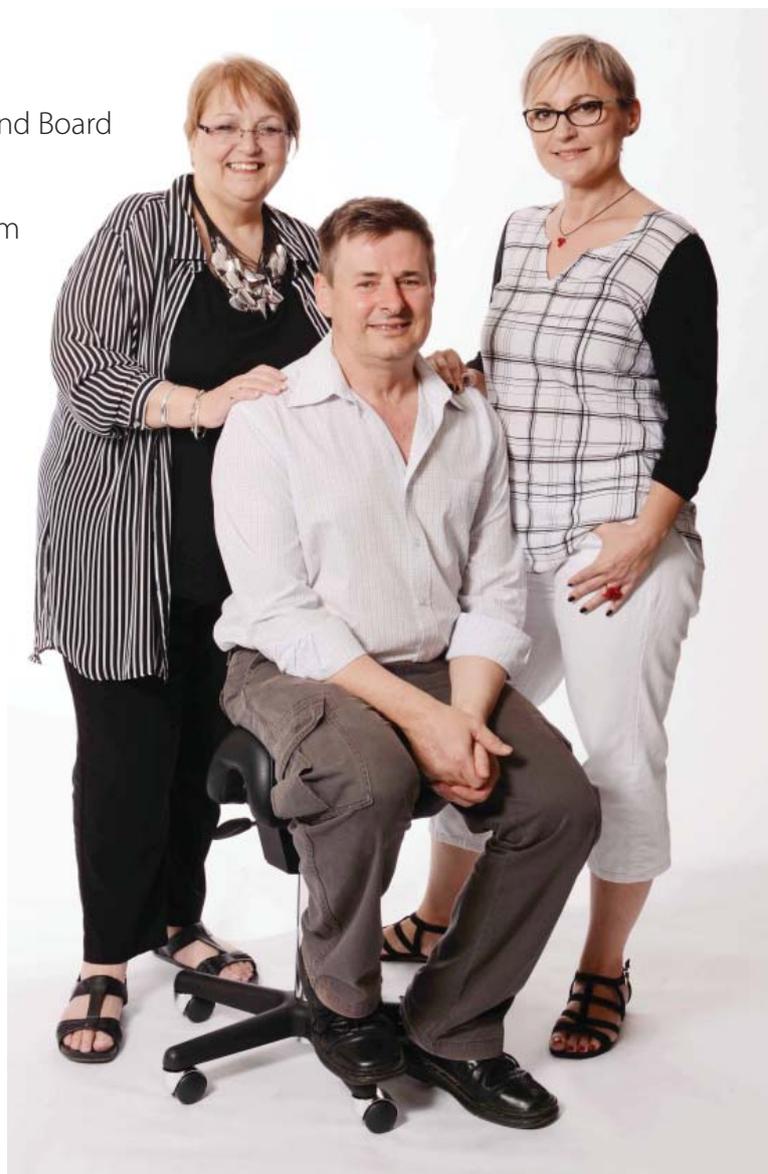
**Nicola Thurston**  
Policy Assistant and Board

**Paloma Wraith**  
Volunteer Program  
Coordinator

**Robert Andrews**  
IT Administrator

**Ross Atkinson**  
Assistant to the Chief  
Executive  
and the Peer Education  
Programs

**Tanya Kecojevic**  
Senior Support Officer



# COTA SA FINANCES

Our audited financial statements are to be presented to the AGM and are available as a separate document and on our website [www.cotasa.org.au](http://www.cotasa.org.au)

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and meet the requirements of the Association's Incorporation Act. The Auditor's Report was unqualified.

COTA Member Services Pty Ltd (CMS) is a wholly owned subsidiary of COTA SA (COTA) and the financial statements are presented to identify CMS, COTA SA and the consolidated accounts of the two entities with comparative 2014 figures as required by accounting standards.

CMS was established in 2009 to improve the value of COTA individual membership and attempt to significantly grow individual membership numbers. As reported last year, CMS had been unable to derive the anticipated level of new member acquisition that was required to keep it viable. As a result the COTA SA Board decided last year to wind up CMS at 30 June 2015.

## CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

There was a slight reduction in total consolidated income of \$78,011. Whilst there were several programs where funding ceased, there were some new programs that commence to assist in offsetting the financial impact. Some new initiatives in the 2015 financial year included Pills for Spills, Moving Right Along and Employment for the Ages.

Overall expenditure increased by \$242,260. Changes in staffing arrangements had a negative impact of \$105,499 as structures were reviewed and some overlap of staff occurred.

Coupled with the higher staffing costs, some vacant space in the building has also resulted in an increase in overall rental costs, impacting the increased costs in 2015

The Strength for life program reserve was increased by \$22,928 during the year and it, together with the Peer Education reserve, are shown as separate lines with the retained surplus to make up the balance of total equity. These reserves now total \$260,247.

Overall, COTA reported a consolidated deficit for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 of \$35,054 compared to a surplus of \$129,197 in 2014. Total consolidated equity at 30 June 2015 has decreased to \$1,147,312.