

June 2020

COTA SA congratulates Joan Stone's AM

COTA SA welcomes 92-year-old Joan Stone's award of an AM in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Jane Mussared, Chief Executive of COTA SA, said Joan had been a respected, influential and principled advocate for older people for more than 30 years.

"Joan is an exceptional person and her award is a timely reminder that we must not write off people, and especially women, as they age," she said.

"They may well just be getting started, with their opportunities to influence, contribute and command attention still ahead of them.

"Joan's remarkable contribution began in earnest later in life.

"She was been a much-loved wife, mother and employee until she retired in her 60s, but it has been in the three decades since then that Joan has made an enormous public and community impact.

"She has been a leader in a revolution about the way people are making use of their older lives, and her unwavering support of human rights for all defines her world view.

"Her contribution is unwavering and energetic, her advocacy is strident but wise, her attention to detail supports her capability to see a bigger picture, her sense of social justice is clear and constant, and she has an enormous capability to understand and represent a wide range of people.

"Joan provides an outstanding role model across the generations. She has huge integrity, honesty and courage which is recognised in whichever sphere she is active. Joan has contributed her time and energy freely to the welfare of older South Australians."

"Someone described Joan to me not as a "they ought to do" person but as someone who asks herself "what is it that I ought to do."

Joan is recognised as an authority on retirement villages, contributing to legislative reform, and as a fierce but fair and practical defender of the rights of retirement village residents. She has also championed elder abuse prevention, aged rights and a host of other issues.

Joan was a foundation Board member and then chair of the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS) until her retirement from that role in 2018 and she served the COTA SA Policy Council for 22 years.

COTA SA is an older people's movement and the peak body representing the rights, interests and futures of more than 633,000 older South Australians aged over 50.

For interview requests or more information, please contact:

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