

EMBARGOED MEDIA RELEASE
For publishing on January 26, 2021

Human rights & social justice campaigner recognised

COTA SA is thrilled Anne Burgess, Deputy President and COTA SA policy council chair, has been recognised in the Australia Day 2021 Honours List, appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

"Anne Burgess is an exceptional consumer advocate," said COTA SA President, Emeritus Professor Anne Edwards AO.

"She is ethical, considered, forceful, kind, intelligent, articulate and strong.

"Rejecting the notion of retirement altogether, Anne moved on from a full-time career as a senior public servant but was quickly invited to serve on a range of largely voluntary boards across health and community sectors.

"Her work has helped to advance the rights and protect the interests of thousands of older people, women and people experiencing mental illness.

"Anne always goes above and beyond, encouraging collaboration across organisations and sectors, with a constant focus on outcomes for people.

"In her long career as a senior public servant, Anne championed mental health and equality for women and other groups, bringing to her work an unrelenting vision for better services and more opportunities within a human rights framework.

"She has a strong reputation and is much sought after for advice about consumer engagement, integrated health care and public policy."

Since leaving full-time work in 2012, Anne has acted in short term capacities in executive roles such as the South Australian Equal Opportunity Commissioner and as the Public Advocate, while the roles were being filled on an ongoing basis.

Anne is now a Board member for the Council on the Ageing (SA), the Aged Rights Advocacy Service, and the Older People's Advocacy Network.

"Anne makes herself available to causes and people whenever they have needed it," said COTA SA chief executive Jane Mussared.

"She is an outstanding shining light for those who are disadvantaged or discriminated against.

"Her intelligent, compassionate and empathetic advocacy is well-known.

"Behind the scenes, Anne acts as a sounding board and mentor for emerging leaders across human services, using her considerable networks to link people and ideas.

"She has a passion for partnerships and collaboration and is scrupulous about fairness."

Examples of Anne Burgess' current and past leadership roles include:

- Deputy President and Chair of the Policy Council, COTA SA
- Director, Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
- Chair, Aged Rights Advocacy Service (SA) and Director Older Person's Advocacy Network
- Director, Supported Community Accommodation Board
- Member, National Aged Care Alliance
- Member, Legal Practitioners Conduct Tribunal
- Director, Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Chair, Advisory Committee, Community Visitors Scheme
- Member, National Aged Care Complaints Authority Consumer Advisory Committee
- Assistant Commissioner, SA Public Sector Grievance Review Commission
- Director, Asthma Australia
- President, Asthma Foundation SA
- Commissioner, Equal Opportunity Commission SA
- Director, Office for Women (SA)
- Director of Mental Health, Dept Human Services

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 media interviews or more information, please contact:

Ben Smeaton – ben@communicate.net.au or 0488 940 010

Bec Tape – rtape@communicate.net.au or 0438 806 983