



**HON. JOHN DARLEY MLC**  
MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
Parliament House  
ADELAIDE SA 5000

PH: (08) 8237 9114  
FAX: (08) 8231 0525

E-MAIL: [john.darley@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:john.darley@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Ms Anne Edwards  
President COTA SA  
Via email: [cotasa@cotasa.org.au](mailto:cotasa@cotasa.org.au)

Dear Ms Edwards,

Thank you for sending a copy of your 2022 State Election Platform. I would like to contribute my views and comments:

1. The emphasis on the resource and service needs of older Australians in SA's regions is strongly endorsed and supported. This is consistent with the general need of South Australians in the regions to have much better access to a range of services. I note the figure that you provide that one in four older South Australians live in country South Australia.
2. I support the need for Government to maintain non-online systems for information, support and government funded services. Digital exclusion not only relates to difficulties of older Australians in keeping up with tech change but to the equity issue of variable access to the internet across SA.
3. Ageism not only needs to be countered by a targeted media and awareness campaign but the need wherever possible to enact legislative protections. For example, I refer to my attempt to legislatively protect the human rights of the frail aged in residential care and receiving home care packages. I have also examined the need to amend the Carers Recognition Act to ensure that there is a real partnership between carers and service providers to ensure the best outcomes for the frail aged and will be executing this case over the coming months.
4. I strongly endorse your employment, housing and health and wellness strategies. I note your ambulance travel free plan for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card Holders consistent with other States. I would argue that the State Government should pay the ambulance cover of those citizens and make that additional funding available to the ambulance service. This should be the case for all centrelink payment recipients to boost the funds paid to provide a better ambulance service. All South Australians should be encouraged to pay for Ambulance cover to assist in funding a better ambulance service. In addition, the need to better fund and accelerate strategies to reduce ambulance ramping for older people by improved management and funding of EDs is essential.
5. I support your focus on social inclusion and the need to focus of marginalised groups for extra assistance.

I look forward to support from COTA SA for legislative initiatives to protect the rights of the frail aged in residential care and an improved partnership between carers and service providers to deliver better outcomes for the frail aged.

Yours sincerely

  
**JOHN DARLEY**

01/12/2021