

The Hon Vickie Chapman MP



21MPL1467

**Government
of South Australia**

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

Minister for Planning
and Local Government

GPO Exchange
10 Franklin Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 464
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 336

Tel 08 8207 1723

Fax 08 8207 1736

17 June 2021

Ms Jane Mussared
Chief Executive
COTA South Australia

By email: ratkinson@cotasa.org.au

Jane
Dear Ms Mussared

I write in response to your letter regarding the adoption of accessible housing in the National Construction Code (NCC).

I appreciate the hard work of COTA South Australia in advocating for the health, safety and wellbeing of older South Australians. The State Government is committed to protecting South Australia's most vulnerable residents and I thank your organisation for undertaking this valuable role.

As you are aware, Building Ministers met on 30 April 2021 to discuss this important issue affecting communities and the building industry on a national level. As per the official Building Ministers' Meeting (BMM) Communiqué, the majority of State and Territory Ministers agreed to include minimum accessibility provisions for residential housing and apartments in the NCC at a Silver level.

The Communiqué also indicated that Ministers would be free to determine whether and how the new provisions will be applied in their jurisdiction, in order to minimise the regulatory impact on the construction sector.

Whilst South Australia is supportive of encouraging the ongoing voluntary adoption of these standards where they will have the greatest impact, it is considered that the Silver level is inadequate for those most in need. Further, the implications on housing affordability are of primary concern. Accordingly, South Australia does not support the mandatory adoption of the provisions on 1 September 2022.

While I understand your organisation may be disappointed with this decision, I can assure you that the State Government is committed to upholding the rights of people living with disability to access the services and opportunities available to all South Australians, and to foster inclusive housing opportunities across the State.

In particular, the State Government will continue to consider alternative voluntary pathways to increase the availability of adequate accessible housing stock in South

Australia and is working towards future opportunities to ensure those with additional mobility issues are catered for through alternative housing solutions.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in this important matter and for COTA South Australia's continued advocacy and representation for older South Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vickie Chapman', written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

VICKIE CHAPMAN MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT