

5 May 2020

Ms Vickie Chapman MP
Deputy Premier and Attorney General
GPO Exchange
10 Franklin Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Attorney-General

Re - Mandated access standard for housing in the NCC

We understand that on 30 April 2021, a majority of Ministers agreed to include minimum accessibility provisions for residential housing and apartments in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 with a voluntary technical gold standard also to be published in the NCC.

This is an important step for older Australians.

Since the inclusion of voluntary Livable Housing Design Guidelines in 2010, only 5% of new builds have complied. We believe the case for mandated accessibility standards has been well-made and is now overdue – both as a bedrock of inclusion but also in terms of anticipating and meeting the housing needs of all South Australians now and in the future.

COTA SA is disappointed that you, as South Australia's representative, did not support the decision.

We are now seeking clarification from you about what that means for SA. We oppose any exemption in SA and continue to urge that SA is part of a clear national timeframe and pathway for implementation.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

JANE MUSSARED
Chief Executive