

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

19 September 2017

### **Leading seniors advocate, COTA SA, says Yes to marriage equality**

COTA SA has announced its strong support for marriage equality and is encouraging older South Australians to vote in the Same Sex Marriage survey.

COTA SA President Professor Anne Edwards says the organisation is highly conscious of the experience of the LGBTIQ community and the need for equality.

"We see this as an issue of equal rights and believe everyone should be able to marry the person they choose," Professor Edwards said.

"COTA SA has decided to publicly support Marriage Equality in the context of the Same Sex Marriage survey and endorse the position and statements made by COTA Australia today. We also recognise that individual older South Australians will have varied opinions and should freely express those. "

"COTA SA has considered this very carefully and sought advice from its own Policy Council and external sources.

"We support equal rights in all areas of life, including the right to marry, and we are very conscious that the LGBTIQ community still experiences various forms of discrimination. Equality is an important issue for older people and their families as it is for all ages.

"We also recognise that marriage equality is an issue for every person to determine for themselves and our members have the right to vote as they choose."

For information on the Same Sex Marriage survey go to <https://marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au/>

**COTA SA is an older people's movement run by, for and with older people. COTA SA represents the aspirations, interests and rights of 590,000 older South Australians, with 17,000 individual members and 250 organisation members. In 2017 COTA SA turns 60.**

Further information on COTA SA can be found at [www.cotasa.org.au](http://www.cotasa.org.au)

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