

1 July 2020

Mr Stephan Knoll MP
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government
GPO BOX 1533
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Minister

Re – Older People and Public Transport

I am writing to congratulate you for the decision by your government not to proceed with the changes to the Adelaide bus network.

Access to public transport is fundamental to the well-being, contribution and participation of many older South Australians. It is also important to their capacity to contribute to our state as shoppers, grandparents, volunteers and carers.

While we are pleased about the Government's announcement that it will be abandoning its proposed changes to the bus network, we continue to urge a focus on improving ways that older people can move about our community (beyond driving themselves) whether they live in Adelaide or in regional areas.

We would encourage the government to focus on –

- Free public transport for all Seniors Card holders all the time
- A review and injection of new resources into rural transport options including securing funding for existing community transport networks
- A campaign to increase the use and confidence in public transport including encouraging older people who want to move away from driving themselves
- Support for older people to make the most of technology associated with public transport including using apps to navigate, buy tickets and use timetables
- A review through customer engagement of what would make public transport more useable. Our limited research suggests security, shelter, accessibility, cost and navigability are all very important.

A very high priority issue among older South Australians is the lack of alternatives to owning and driving a car. COTA SA urges the State Government to explore transport and mobility options for older people all over SA. We would be very interested in being involved in discussions with you about improving and increasing the transport options that keep older people out and about in our state.

Yours sincerely



Jane Mussared
Chief Executive