

NSA WELCOMES ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR AGEING

31 July 2024

National Seniors Australia (NSA) has welcomed the appointment of The Hon Kate Thwaites MP to the important role of Assistant Minister for Ageing following a pre-election cabinet reshuffle spurred by the upcoming retirement of Ministers Linda Burney and Brendan O'Connor.

NSA Chief Executive Officer Mr Chris Grice said the appointment is recognition that older Australians need to be better represented in the deliberations of the Federal Government. The issues facing seniors are many and touch on multiple ministries and portfolios, far beyond aged care.

"It's a timely appointment. According to the 2023 Intergenerational Report, the number of Australians aged 65 and over will more than double and the number aged 85 and over will more than triple over the next forty years. We need to plan for this impact and opportunity now," Mr Grice said.

Last month, NSA supported Independent Federal Member for Mayo Ms Rebekha Sharkie's call for a Minister for Older Australians.

"As Ms Sharkie has flagged, aged care is just one of the many issues facing older Australians. Many also experience ageism, elder abuse, poverty, homelessness as well as cost-of-living pressures, cyber safety threats, financial and digital literacy exclusion," Mr Grice said.

"Representation is about ensuring the social, physical, and economic contributions of all older Australians are understood and reflected in good public policy. Older Australians support the economy and society in many ways, but they also have specific and diverse needs. A successful Assistant Minister for Ageing will understand older people and be able to communicate their needs to colleagues and to the public, ensuring better outcomes.

"This is an opportunity for government to give millions of older Australians a stronger say within government. An Assistant Minister for Ageing is a step in the right direction, and very welcomed.

"National Seniors Australia looks forward to working with the Assistant Minister to ensure this growing cohort has both the support and recognition it needs and deserves."

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