



TASMANIAN ELECTION: CHANCE TO REPRESENT SENIORS

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Ahead of the upcoming state election, National Seniors Australia (NSA) calls on whomever forms government to better represent older Tasmanians by introducing responsibility for seniors in an expanded ministry role.

NSA CEO Chris Grice said the election is an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution and needs of older Tasmanians. Seniors face many issues with cost of living, health, housing, transport, and aged care to name just a few.

“According to the 2023 Intergenerational Report, the number of Australians aged 65 and older will more than double and the number aged 85 and older will more than triple over the next forty years. We need to plan for this impact and opportunity now. Tasmania is no exception,” Mr Grice said.

“Representation is about ensuring the contribution and needs of older Tasmanians are understood and reflected in good public policy. Older Tasmanians support the economy and society in many ways, but they also have specific and diverse needs.

“The appointment of a Minister for Seniors and Ageing would bring Tasmania in line with other states and territories such as Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and the Northern Territory, and provide the necessary focus on improving the government services this cohort relies on.

“The current situation requires seniors to raise their concerns with multiple departments, which is both confusing and impractical.

“This is an opportunity for government to give older Tasmanians a stronger say within government. A minister with specific responsibilities for seniors would be a step in the right direction, and very welcomed.”

National Seniors Australia also calls on the Tasmanian State Government to:

- Fund hospitals adequately to improve emergency department wait times
- Introduce free public transport for seniors
- Strengthen the duty concession to promote downsizing among older Tasmanians
- Ensure state-based concessions and rebates for essential services are maintained at appropriate levels for older Tasmanians.

For more information, download the National Seniors Australia Tasmanian Budget Submission [here](#)

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