

Monday 12 September 2022

**RE: Media Statement: Emerita Professor Carmen Lawrence AO appointed Chair, COTA (WA) Positive Ageing Alliance 2022**

Council on the Ageing WA [COTA (WA)] Board Chair, Mary Anne Stephens is delighted to announce the appointment of Emerita Professor Carmen Lawrence AO as the new Chair of the Positive Ageing Alliance. Dr. Lawrence succeeds Emeritus Professor Gary Martin, who was the inaugural chair.

The Alliance, comprising 25 industry leaders drawn from a wide range of sectors, meet regularly to deliberate on the key challenges for older Western Australians and to provide feedback and suggest measures and policy changes to support positive ageing in Western Australia.



Carmen Lawrence has worn several hats, from Australia's first female State Premier to Federal Minister to university academic, with many awards bestowed along the way.

But when asked to single out some of her proudest achievements, she said it was often *"the little things that nobody remembers, including introducing video testimony for victims of child sexual abuse and being involved in listing the West Kimberley as a heritage site"* that stuck in her mind as the most important.

Adding to her long list of achievements, Dr. Lawrence has recently been appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to the people and Parliaments of Australia and Western Australia, to conservation and to arts administration.

Mary Anne Stephens believes Dr. Lawrence will bring an *"enviable intellect, coupled with a very grounded and practical approach to the deliberations of the Alliance as well as an emphasis on practical outcomes which will lead to the Alliance fulfilling its aims to raise the awareness of, and consider solutions to, key issues facing the growing numbers of older people in this State."*

Dr. Lawrence's first meeting as Chair of the Alliance is scheduled for late October 2022 and will explore the complex issues surrounding seniors' housing.



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## For More Information

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## About Council on the Ageing Western Australia (COTA WA)

The Council on the Ageing Western Australia (COTA WA) was established in 1959 and was recently appointed by the Government of Western Australia as the Vulnerable Seniors Peak Body.

COTA (WA) is a federation member of the National COTA network.

COTA WA focuses on policy issues affecting seniors and seeks to promote, improve and protect the circumstances and wellbeing of older people in Western Australia.

### COTA (WA)

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