

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate circulation

Country Liberal Government will implement five point plan for seniors in the Territory

A Country Liberal Government will implement a five-pronged strategy to provide certainty and enhance quality of life for seniors in the Northern Territory. This plan will focus on certainty surrounding benefits, seniors friendly communities, bridging the digital divide, health and safety, and future planning, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

“According to the last census, the Territory has the fastest growing population of seniors over 65. It’s important the Territory Government considers the needs of seniors in planning and policy going forward. A Country Liberal Government will do that,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A Country Liberal Government will:

- **Provide certainty on benefits** – We will support and retain the NT Concession Scheme and improve the Seniors Recognition Scheme (SRS) by ensuring that seniors in rural and remote areas have equal access to the Scheme by expanding the approved vendors to include white goods, vet fees and home health and security upgrade providers.
- **Provide senior friendly communities** – We will support opportunities for seniors in sport and recreational activities, education, training and employment and will fund the Portrait of a Senior Territorians and Seniors Month grants. We will continue our engagement with peak bodies like COTA, National Seniors and the Association of Independent Retirees.
- **Bridge the digital divide** – A significant gap exists in over 65s accessing technology so a CLP Government will provide technology grants to community organisations with programs that will help seniors navigate digital technologies and make technology hardware and services available and accessible for seniors.
- **Enhance senior health and safety** – We will develop a framework to reduce elder abuse and support victims, and explore options for increased support for victims including demand for assistance leaving crisis situations and the feasibility of dedicated elder abuse safe houses. We will also consider personal alert rebates to supply seniors who want to live more independently.
- **Implement genuine future planning** – A CLP Government will work with the Commonwealth towards adjusting the Commonwealth Rental Assistance Scheme to reflect the high cost of rent in some areas.

“Senior Territorians contribute greatly to the community through their life and professional knowledge and experience and their support through volunteering. There are unique

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

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challenges to retiring and living as a senior in the Territory, like being long distances from family and friends. It's important that a future Government supports our seniors to ensure a greater quality of life," Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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