

28 July 2011

Mr Gary Henry
Director (Electricity and Gas)
Queensland Competition Authority
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Brisbane QLD 4001
Fax: 07 3222 0599
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Re: Review of Regulated Retail Electricity Tariffs and Prices

Dear Mr Henry

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on the QCA Issues Paper published in June 2011 regarding the Review of Regulated Retail Electricity Tariffs and Prices. COTA Queensland advocates on behalf of older people, particularly those who are financially disadvantaged or at risk of social or cultural isolation. We are interested in being part of any QCA consultation process regarding electricity tariffs and prices between now and March 2012.

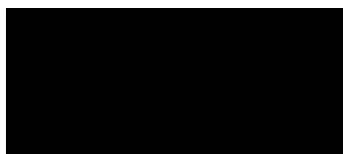
The complexity of electricity pricing means that it is imperative that seniors are given every opportunity to understand the implications of likely changes to their bills, household energy use, or decisions which they may be required to make about their choice of electricity retailer.

We would certainly be concerned if fixed network costs were to adversely affect the total household electricity bill of seniors on fixed low incomes or in rental accommodation. Research from COTA New South Wales indicates that seniors are at risk of 'fuel poverty' when they are required to spend more than 4% of their income on all household energy sources in order to achieve a satisfactory indoor heating or cooling regime.

COTA Queensland looks forward to contributing to a thorough consultation by QCA on this matter. Our contact person for energy policy is Mr Mark Young, Policy Officer, who can be contacted on telephone 3316 2912 or email markyoung@cotaq.org.au.

If you require additional information, please contact me on telephone 3316 2999 or by email to mte@cotaq.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Mark Tucker-Evans
Chief Executive