



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
12th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	16
Title	DIFFICULTY OF SHARED PORTFOLIOS FOR SENIORS
Presented on	27 JUNE 2013
Presented by	MS FINOCCHIARO (MEMBER FOR DRYSDALE)
Referred to	Minister for Senior (Hon Peter Styles MLA)
Date referred	27 June 2013
Response due	17 October 2013
Response received	18 October 2013
Response to be presented	26 November 2013

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

That Senior Northern Territorians are important to all Territorians and deserve recognition of the issues they raise.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

A solution to the agreed difficulties of shared portfolios for seniors be found immediately. One solution suggested is that the Minister for seniors represents all seniors in all matters relevant to seniors. This will alleviate the problem of seniors having to go to separate Ministers.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

Response

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2013 advising of the Petition read in the Legislative Assembly on 27 June 2013 (Petition No. 16).

As per Administrative Arrangements Order the Minister for Senior Territorians is responsible for the Office of Senior Territorians (OST). This includes Senior Territorians policy, the provision of grants for Seniors' Month, the Senior Territorians Advisory Council and the Seniors Card Scheme.

There are many issues relevant to senior Territorians which cross over multiple portfolio areas such as transport, public and personal safety, employment, adult education, health, housing, planning, essential services, arts, sport and recreation. It would not be feasible to extract officers from each of these agencies to focus on the particular portfolio issue in the OST. Rather, the OST is working on developing linkages with key agencies to progress issues of importance for seniors as they relate to those portfolio areas.

The transfer of the Office of Senior Territorians from the Department of Health to the Department of the Chief Minister has provided opportunity to seek innovative solutions to issues and develop linkages and synergies with key agencies across government. A proposal for a seniors representative advisory council is currently being developed and will be focussed on creating real linkages between seniors and government.

I trust that this response will reassure you that services to Senior Territorians is important to Government.