10th August, 2016

RESPECTING TERRITORY SENIORS

Labor Leader Michael Gunner and Shadow Minister for Senior Territorians Lauren Moss say a Labor Government will work hard to support senior Territorians and to keep seniors in the Territory with a new package of incentives released today.

"It is critical that we respect the contribution of our seniors and the role they will play into the future. We must keep our seniors.” Mr Gunner said.

"We believe that if the grandparents leave, then families with grandchildren will follow soon after.

"We also believe senior Territorians should be rewarded for their years of support for the Territory.

"That’s why Labor will introduce a seniors package that supports our Territorians staying in the Territory.

"The Labor package will include:

- Bringing back concessions to reduce the cost of living to Territory seniors.
- Better housing options in retirement
- The opportunity to continue part time work in the public service.
- Introduce more age friendly planning and
- Act against elder abuse.

"Labor will restore senior concessions for the 3000 people knocked out by the CLP in 2014 to the value of $2.1 million.

"Labor will provide those people with $700 in a debit card every 2 years, allowing them to choose how they wish to spend it on items that reduce their cost of living.

"We are also committing a Labor Government to working with Treasury and seniors organisations to bring back relief for seniors on power and water costs.

"This is particularly the case for those people in retirement villages who have lost this concession because of the ownership structures of these residences.

"Labor will provide free bus travel to all senior Territorians who receive a seniors card or pensioner concession card.”
"These concessions will encourage senior Territorians to stay in the Territory. The past two years has seen weak population growth here in the Territory. Part of that is as a result of seniors moving down south.”

Michael Gunner and Lauren Moss said Labor will develop retirement villages in the rural area, Darwin’s inner suburbs, as well as in remote and regional centres.

"People want to retire in the area where they live. In the Territory this is very difficult to do.

"Rural residents deserve better retirement options than what they have at the moment. Labor will work with the private sector and is prepared to provide the land for the establishment of this new village.

"The same applies in the Darwin inner suburbs and regional towns such as Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.

"Labor will also support the development of culturally appropriate facilities such as those proposed by the Greek orthodox community."

Michael Gunner and Lauren Moss also announced that Labor’s $1.1 billion investment into remote housing will include housing for seniors.

"The importance of seniors continuing to be able to work will not be ignored by a Labor Government.

"We will undertake a joint project with the Commissioner for Public Employment to change working arrangements in the public service to accommodate older workers who wish to work part time hours,”

Labor has also committed to a coordinated approach to reporting elder abuse and supporting the victims of this abuse.
## COSTINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>2016-17 $m</th>
<th>2017-18 $m</th>
<th>2018-19 $m</th>
<th>2019-20 $m</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recurrent Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Concessions Scheme (costing Option 3)*</td>
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<td>2.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elder abuse program (funded from within)</td>
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<td>Seniors within the workplace.(funded from within.)</td>
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<td>Free bus travel from 1 Jan 2017 (Alice Springs and Darwin)</td>
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<td>0.35</td>
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*This assumes full take up of the benefits as opposed to the 75% costed by the CLP.
^ Assumes part year introduction.

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