



16th January 2018

Department of Treasury and Finance
Revenue Discussion Paper
GPO Box 154
DARWIN NT 0801

RE: NORTHERN TERRITORY REVENUE – DISCUSSION PAPER OVERVIEW

I write on behalf of the COTA NT Board regarding the NT Revenue Discussion Paper Overview. COTA NT understands the need for the NT Government to investigate and discuss the important issue of taxation with Territorians, especially Senior Territorians who are on a set income and how these changes would affect them.

Payroll Tax:

COTA NT would recommend that the tax free threshold be adjusted to \$2m. As we can appreciate, it has been a volatile time for businesses in the Territory and we believe that lowering the threshold would act as an incentive for more businesses to relocate and also stay in business. We also believe that this could also encourage more local employment.

Property Taxes:

COTA NT oppose a land tax on the principal place of residence, as again Territorians on a limited income and strict budget as young families and older Territorians would find it difficult to pay this tax. However, as South Australia has a land tax on investment properties, we believe that this could be a consideration but again this cost would be passed onto the tenant. If businesses are also taxed on their land value, this cost would also be passed on to consumer.

Gambling Taxes:

COTA NT believes that this area could bear the increase of revenue. We believe that a 5% CBF levy be imposed on all poker machines in clubs. A decrease in the cap for the bookmaker and betting exchange tax is also recommended.

Tourism Tax – Bed Tax

I believe the Territory used to have a 2.5% “Bed Tax” – COTA NT believes that this should be put on the table again. It is time to look at ways to access more revenue and this should also be part of a serious discussion. This would also capture all the FIFO workers that the company does not pay payroll tax for.

Licensing Fees etc:

COTA NT believes that the NT’s Alcohol license are one of the cheapest in Australia. We believe that this could be an area for an increase coupled with annual audit fees for incorporated bodies. We believe that these could easily double, along with other licenses. As an example – application fees are \$200.00 for an alcohol license, we believe that this should be \$1,000.00.

Other examples would be Mutual Recognition for plumbers and other areas that the NT has MOU’s regarding Mutual Recognition – at present with plumbers a Mutual Recognition fee is \$79.00 – it should be at least \$150.00 and the Journeyman renewal is only \$39.00 – this could also be brought up to \$100.00. The same for all renewals – i.e. Journeyman is \$60.00 – should be \$120.00. Electrical licenses as are only \$100.00 we believe that this could also be doubled. This should apply for all licenses and renewals. Lodgement fees could also be increased without difficulty for financial audited reports from various organisations.

We would be delighted to provide further information if required.

Yours sincerely



Sue Shearer, CEO – Council of the Aging – NT

CC: The Hon. Nicole Manison, MLA, Treasurer
CC: The Hon Michael Gunner, MLA, Chief Minister