

PsychAGE News

Information and commentary about older adult and carer wellbeing

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Work. It's what makes our economy go round. It puts 'bread on the table' and can be a source of satisfaction and connection to others. Issues related to the workforce is a theme running through announcements and commentary this month in relation to older adults or those who work with them.

Yesterday the Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP announced the release of the Aged Care Workforce Strategy Taskforce's report, *A Matter of Care – Australia's aged care workforce strategy* which you can view [here](#).

The 132-page report contains 14 strategies to address current and future workforce challenges. Of significance is the, "Creation of a social change campaign to reframe caring and promote the workforce" (Strategic action number 1, page 18) which highlights the problem of aged care workers feeling "persecuted and undervalued." Knowing how destructive the tentacles of ageism can be, I find this development encouraging and a Community Care Review article which you can view [here](#) reports on how COTA has also welcomed this report and the strategies in it.

Speaking of COTA, COTA SA has recently established a, "mature employment think tank" (COTA SA eNews, 12th September 2018). The idea is to bring together a number of stake holders to nut out problems faced by older Australians in employment. The initial focus is on mature women and the challenges they face in relation to low salaries, a broken work history due to caring roles and sub standard superannuation.

Finally, there is an interesting article in The Conversation which you can view [here](#) which discusses how ageing populations can boost economic productivity. While the social and ethical issues surrounding this argument are far from simple, what I like about it is that it challenges the notion that an ageing population is just another burden for our society to bear.



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