

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$7 MILLION TO SUPPORT SENIORS TO LIVE WELL

The 2017-18 Budget will help tackle elder abuse, ease cost of living pressures for older people, and enable more seniors than ever to maintain independence by empowering them to become tech savvy.

Minister for Ageing, Tanya Davies, said the Budget enables the Government to help make communities more inclusive, accessible and safe for the increasing number of older people in NSW.

“People in NSW are living longer and we want to make sure all people, regardless of age or ability, can lead active, independent, healthy lives with access to their community,” Mrs Davies said.

“We want people to live longer and healthier lives - we want them to live better.”

Key budget highlights for older people include:

- \$6.5 million to continue to implement the NSW Ageing Strategy, including:
 - \$1 million for the Liveable Communities Grants Program delivering innovative ways to make our communities more accessible and inclusive
 - More than \$600,000 toward the vital Elder Abuse Helpline and Resource Unit, every year giving more than 10,000 people across NSW access to support and resources on elder abuse
 - \$500,000 to expand the highly successful digital literacy program Tech Savvy Seniors, including the creation of 3,500 new training places for older people across the state
- \$500,000 to continue the NSW Seniors Card program, giving the 1.5 million card holders access to more discounts on living and entertainment

“This year’s Budget delivers the Government’s election commitment to ease cost of living pressures for seniors, and ensures the NSW Liberals and Nationals lend our seniors a helping hand,” Mrs Davies said.

More than 5,500 businesses are now offering Seniors Card members discounts on food, entertainment, and essential living services like electricity, phone and internet products.

MEDIA: Elizabeth Williams | 0439 807 672