

Minister of Seniors Appointment Position Paper

[Professors Emeriti Network](#)

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What can we, seniors, do good for the seniors - for ourselves?

Given the growing proportion of elderly people in most countries and their increasing contribution to silver economy, it is encouraging to see that some have a government minister with responsibilities for senior citizens. Here are the links to the website of the minister of (for) seniors in [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Malta](#), [New Zealand](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#).

Many seniors are either still employed or working by looking after others – their children, grandchildren, others in their communities – rather than being in need of help themselves. Younger generations can still learn in every field (technical, artisanal, and cognitive learning from elementary school up to university) from seniors and their knowhow should be transmitted and not dispersed. The more seniors there are, the more diverse the society. We need to recognise this to act correctly and create proper government policies. It is important for the citizens of all countries to unite, and build a stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient society. It is the responsibility of the government to engage with the citizens, civil society and stakeholders, including businesses of all sizes, organised labour, the broader public sector and not-for-profit sectors.

Why is it important to appoint a minister of seniors in every country?

The idea of having a minister of seniors is based upon the experience of several countries. It was first presented to the professors emeriti in the article *All Countries Need a Minister for Seniors*, by Gričar J. (p153), published in [Reports from 2020 World Day of Older Persons. A Contribution of the European Association of Professors Emeriti](#). The Bulletin of the European Association of Professors Emeriti. Supplement 2020; 1(S1): 113-165.

Having a minister solely responsible for seniors ensures that policies concerning health care and financial security are considered through the seniors' eyes. The minister has to be proactive in ensuring that a broad array of voices provides him with advice from all areas and regions of the country. The minister of seniors is expected to help the government to better understand and make decisions on the needs of seniors and ensure that programs and services are developed which respond to the aging population. She/he should support other ministers on initiatives across government that impact seniors.

The minister should argue for greater security and a better quality of life for seniors and future retirees. She/he must be an "equal voice at the table" with other ministers,

speaking on behalf of seniors. Of great importance is the minister's collaborations with the ministers of health/ work/ families and social development, on initiatives to promote active and healthy aging. This includes learning from and building on government-supported programs that have proven successful and are supporting the needs of seniors and their families, as well as actions indicated in the [Decade of Healthy Aging: Baseline report](#), World Health Organization 2021-2030.

In order to engage with seniors, stakeholders and experts to provide advice on matters related to the health, well-being and quality of life of seniors, the government is expected to establish the national seniors council. For example, [National Seniors Council](#), Government of Canada.

Countries need to think differently about ageing if they are to tap into the potential of the growing senior population and to offer people the best possible future. It is necessary to ensure government investments in home care, community care and palliative care for these services to be well coordinated and have the intended impacts, especially for low-income citizens.

An important area of the focus should be to make sure that if seniors want to remain in the workforce, the barriers should be removed. More work is required in collaboration with all partners to bridge the gaps between research, education and practice by fostering interactions among students, educators and community members.

Collaborative projects can establish meaningful roles for seniors in their communities by providing more connections with young people, identifying possible community programs that seniors with mild to moderate problems can take part in, and educating students to increase their knowledge and awareness of aging.

The knowledge, competences, and experience of socially and economically engaged seniors contribute more than just an intergenerational bond in the work process. The contribution of previously acquired goods, values and assets paves the way for the success of the younger generations. Cyber reality is driven by the technology of data accumulation, but life is played out in the causes and consequences of its use. Here are the valuable experiences of the seniors.

We, members of the [Professors Emeriti Network](#), are interested in actively seizing the opportunities offered by the [silver economy](#) and reducing the problems posed by a [long-lived society](#). In the [cross-border region](#), we want to help by [interdisciplinary eCollaboration](#).

We will disseminate information on the *Position Paper: Minister of Seniors Appointment* in our respective environment.

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Links to the Ministers of (for) Seniors

[Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services, Minister for Sport](#)
[Minister of Seniors Canada](#)
[Hon. Dr. Michael Farrugia, MD, Minister, Ministry for Senior Citizens and Active Aging](#), Valletta, Malta
[Diane Turner, Director, Office for Seniors, New Zealand](#), Wellington
[Shirley-Anne Somerville, Secretary for Social Security and Older People](#), Ministry for
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[Heléna Herklots CBE, Commissioner, Older People's Commissioner for Wales](#)