

To the Review



6th December, 2019.

To the Review Team of the Retirement Villages Act 1986,

I am advising of my opinion on this Review in this format as I am not a Village resident, but have been involved for over 30 years having conversations with prospective and current Retirement Village Residents, especially when considering their need to transfer to Residential Care and the financial costs.

I consider there is lack of understanding in the community re, this issue when transferring to Residential Care, especially now with the growth of Retirement Villages, Parks and people entering these models much younger, 'future Residential Care needs ' are far from their minds.

Hence I welcome this opportunity.

I strongly support the Parliamentary Inquiry Recommendations 7.9. and 13.

Further comments to

3.4 Folk who have entered into a strata title model experience financial difficulties and anxiety if there is a need to transfer to Residential Care; and strongly support the Loan lease / License Model.

[There certainly needs to be understanding by prospective applicants and ideally their immediate family of estimate of departure fees , no matter the fee title; as there may in the future, a need to meet Residential Care entry and ongoing fees.

5.3. While there have been changes requiring Retirement Village Operator to release finance for meeting the above costs, some folk are paying for a long period of time, 2 sets of Fees – one to meet the Retirement Village requirements and the other cost, Residential Care which has become necessary due to Residents decline usually due to their physical / mental changes.

My Background

My sister lives in a Retirement Village and feels she is' locked in financially'; my husband and I are to old to consider relocating to a Retirement Village or Park. If we could no longer live in our own home and not eligible for Residential Care we would consider renting a small unit.

I am aware of the need for your Review as have been for 30 years a Volunteer Admission's Enquiry Officer at one of Bendigo's Residential Care facilities; invited to be a member of the Council of the Ageing Vic. Peer Education Group, City Council Bendigo's Positive Ageing Advocacy Committee, Bendigo Health's Consumer Network and Consumer Rehabilitation Groups.

Best wishes that many will benefit from this Review,

Ruth Hosking.