

TRANSCRIPT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Inquiry into the retirement housing sector

Ballarat — 19 October 2016

Members

Mr Edward O'Donohue — Chair

Ms Nina Springle — Deputy Chair

Ms Margaret Fitzherbert

Mr Daniel Mulino

Ms Fiona Patten

Mrs Inga Peulich

Mr Adem Somyurek

Ms Jaclyn Symes

Participating Members

Ms Colleen Hartland

Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Staff

Acting secretary: Mr Patrick O'Brien

Witness

Ms Faith Thompson.

The CHAIR — Ms Thompson, thank you for taking the opportunity to be part of contributions from the floor. I will just caution that all evidence taken at this hearing is protected by parliamentary privilege. Therefore you are protected against any action for what you say here today, but if you go outside and repeat the same things, those comments may not be protected by this privilege. If you could keep your comments to between 1 and 2 minutes, that would be much appreciated.

Ms THOMPSON — Certainly. Thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Faith Thompson. I live at Hemsley Park, which is one of the Country Club Villages here in Ballarat. I think most of the people here today are from that village. I am on the new residents committee. I also sat on the previous residents committee that got put into recess without some of us having a say in that, as you are aware. That was disbanded, and I am sorry to hear that Robyn has had problems with some of her information not getting through.

I have a couple of things. No disrespect to Lesley Menzies, but I do have to argue with her about there not being any requirements for managers for Country Club Villages. We in fact have had a change of managers, and the recruitment ad from CCV actually asked for new managers to be thick-skinned and be able to say no. That is actually their requirements in their ad, on Seek I believe, so it was a bit of a shock to a lot of residents to think that our managers would need to be that way inclined.

One of the other issues that we currently have is we have a fully equipped gymnasium which is not fully equipped. Some of the equipment has been removed because it is no longer serviceable, and residents have been told to fundraise to replace those pieces of equipment. We have a very active social committee that has some funds there, and it has been suggested we either fundraise to replace our equipment or we use our own social committee funds for that rather than the equipment be replaced. It has hit the 10-year mark. It is certainly not suitable for the residents in there to use, but it has just been set aside in a room and we have been told we need to fundraise for that equipment.

So these are the sort of issues that happen, particularly if you do have funds in a social committee. You are often asked to pay for that rather than it come out of the monthly fees, which is where it is due to come out of, and we seem to have these constant arguments over where the money can come from, and if we do not pay for it, it more or less just does not happen. So those are the issues there.

I will just have a flip through my pages if you do not mind.

The CHAIR — We are at the 2-minute mark. Do you just want to conclude your remarks with any other final points?

Ms THOMPSON — No. That is it. Thank you.

The CHAIR — Okay. Thanks, Ms Thompson.

Committee adjourned.