

TRANSCRIPT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

Subcommittee

Inquiry into the retirement housing sector

Melbourne — 16 November 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 Jaelyn Symes

Participating Members

Ms Colleen Hartland

Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Staff

Acting Secretary: Mr Patrick O'Brien

Witness

Ms Joane McKnight.

The CHAIR — I call Ms Joane McKnight. Before you start, I will just issue the standard caution again. 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. Please make your contribution in the 2-minute or so time frame.

Ms McKNIGHT — I would like to draw the attention of the committee to a caravan park which the Housing for the Aged Action Group recommends for a site visit. The Central City Caravan Park at 362 High Street, Bendigo, has recently announced closure, after the owners of the land did not renew the lease of the caravan park owners. Ninety long-term residents are due to leave the park before 29 December 2017. The park is made up of 18 owner-occupied part 4A dwellings, 38 owner-occupied caravans, 15 rental caravans and 19 rental cabins as well as some tourist accommodation. Eighty per cent of these residents are older people; one gentleman is in his 90s and most are in their 70s and 80s.

This difficult situation currently faced by residents points to the recommendation of the HAAG submission to your inquiry. I would like to highlight the particular recommendations concerning the illumination of no-reason notices. A visit from your committee could touch on many of the issues under consideration in the inquiry, such as existing legislation that relates to retirement housing, in particular recommendations for reform of retirement housing legislation to ensure it reflects the diversity of retirement housing types; includes proper consumer protections, dispute resolution procedures, fair pricing and consistent, simplified management standards and regulations across the sector; has a focus on dignity, respect, appropriate care and quality of life for retirees; and that the experiences and views of the residents, particularly in this caravan park, of retirement housing and retirement housing owners are well considered.

The CHAIR — Thank you very much. Is Mr Lumley here? No? In that case, the committee stands adjourned.

Committee adjourned.