

Monday, 06 June 2016

Joan & Brian Preece

Rec. 10/6/16

The Secretary
Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House
Spring St
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Ref: Differential rates for retirement villages

Dear Secretary,

We would like to express our opinion regarding the above matter.

As residents of a retirement village in the City of Casey we feel disadvantaged that our Council does not allow for discounted rates for retirement village residents. We would like some form of state legislation to encourage and/or compel councils to be considerate of their resident retirees.

Unlike young and growing families, retirement village residents use less of the facilities councils provide. External lighting, roads, footpaths, landscaping, off-street parking and infrastructure are all kept in order by private contractors paid through our village maintenance fees. Many villages in our municipality provide recreational facilities such as swimming pools, bowling greens, tennis courts, etc. All of which serve to reduce the pressure on similar council provided facilities.

By having to pay full rates we are paying for the provision of services and facilities we hardly, if ever use.

Whilst retirement has its rewards, it comes with limited financial resources that need to be managed cautiously. Any reduction in living costs is welcome and gratefully received. A reduction of 20-25% in rates would help ease the financial burden we experience. Many retirement village residents are on a limited income and struggle to make ends meet. A reduction in rates would go a long way to helping make life that little bit easier.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We trust you and your committee will look upon our appeal with empathy and consideration.

Sincerely

Joan & Brian Preece