

Rec 10/6/16

Marilyn Reid

sub 179

I am a 71 year old widow. For 33 years my family and I lived in a 4 bedroom house on 5 acres, just a few minutes from Morwell in the Latrobe Valley—a great place to bring up our children, and then for them to bring their children for a “farm” holiday.

About 5 years ago I started thinking of making a change sometime in the future, while I was still fit and active enough to make decisions and carry them through, without being a burden on my family, several of whom live interstate. At first I considered 2 options—buying a smaller house in town, or maybe a town house where I wouldn't have the upkeep of a garden. As I approached 70, I began to consider the 3rd option of a retirement village. While still reasonably fit and not yet needing the support a retirement village offers, I realised that in another 10 years or so I would possibly be in need of some support, and that would require another move—not something I would look forward to at that stage!

So I looked around my area and talked to friends, and in March this year I moved into [REDACTED]. While it doesn't have all of the facilities (and this was favourably reflected in the price) which some other complexes have, it provides everything I need—friendly and helpful management and staff, I have several friends who have lived here for some time, and it is close to my church and other activities I am involved with. I enjoy the groups, outings and activities organised by management and the residents' Social Committee. Plus I know that my home will be secure during my regular overseas holidays (which I am able to continue enjoying thanks to the lower price of my villa). It has the added advantage of assisted accommodation being available next door, with good facilities and friendly, caring staff, where village residents are able to enjoy home-style meals when we don't feel like cooking for ourselves.

I have been here for just on 3 months now, and have told my friends and family it is the best move I could have made at this time of my life. I love my little villa, so bright and comfortable, and I will be happy here for as long as I am able to stay.