

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [LSIC](#)
 Subject: Parliamentary Inquiry into Retirement Housing
 Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2016 10:48:05 AM

Dear Margaret

In terms of the "Parliamentary Inquiry into Retirement Housing" which you mention in your email, I can only express my experience of Retirement Village Housing in relation to my 5 years spent here at [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Many residents are elderly, but I am at the *younger* end of the scale for those living at [REDACTED]

It is a friendly environment and being on ground level - not high rise, our surroundings have a "village" feel.

It means those who are limited in their mobility can actually get out for a short walk through the Village. They can get some exercise even if on a walker. Some just like to walk around to keep joints working!

It is a good life-style for people getting older with families that have *left the nest*. There is a feeling of 'neighborhood' and we are encouraged to make sure that those we see regularly are well if they are absent from regular events. Also making sure in Summer they are alright if there is any extreme heat .

A doctor, hairdresser, masseur are available for appointments and visit regularly. We are fortunate in this area to have Epworth North and Box Hill Public hospitals, plus numerous specialists in proximity to the Village.

That is a little background of life in our Village. We have 130 units.

My concern is that all who live in this Village environment are retired, only a few exceptions, but they live on a fixed income and when you are retired (possibly many have long-standing investments) they would now be earning very little interest on their bank deposits/Term Deposits, etc. and some watch every dollar.

Obviously low interest rates help young people but they are not advantageous to the "oldies" who have no way to increase their income. Young people have years ahead and can make choices, retired, older people don't have that choice!

So, uncertainty of future Village fee increases - when you are on a fixed income - is a worry for all residents and it would be very comforting to know that the older generation were not overlooked, when our government seeks to help only the younger people who have many more opportunities.

Obviously Retirement Villages are not run as *charities*, they are "businesses", but the longer someone lives in a village they face regular increases in their maintenance fees and a bigger amount payable to the village, when they leave.

- We are an ageing population and older people don't want to think they might outlive their incomes or not be able to cope. If there was a way of giving

some assurance to people, regarding future fees increases in their Village, that would be a plus.

- Also that their investment returns were not being diminished

All Villages have a Residents' Committee and there is a body called Retirement Villages Victoria who represent these communities. Whether a Retirement Housing Ombudsman would be an asset, I'm not sure.

Margaret, this is merely "giving a picture of what life is like in a Village" and I encourage older people to downsize, get out of their big homes and move into a friendly environment. The problem is some leave it too late and the thought of a move (in your 80s) is too much.

I moved here because I'm an only child, my late mother and her mother were also only children. I think I have 'inherited' some grand parents around me here at [REDACTED] I always planned this move for my future if I ended up on my own, and that's the way my life turned out!

I have never been happier than in this Village (life in South Yarra suits the young, but you outgrow it) and I find that the residents at Hayville have similar values to mine and some wonderful stories to tell - they have been through a war, some worked on the Snowy River Scheme, one retired Engineer discovered why windows were falling out of a building on Collins Street. They play the piano, some are Artists and still exhibit.

Many new residents were nurses, teachers, or like myself worked as PA/Secretaries because that was all that was available to us many years ago. We didn't get hand outs or help.

I'm not sure if this is of any use, but perhaps it gives a view of a life style for older people in Retirement Villages.

Best, jill (paterson)