

From: [Joy E Singleton](#)
To: [LSIC](#)
Subject: Fwd: Retirement Villages
Date: Friday, 1 July 2016 9:26:11 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

>
>>
>>
>> To whom it may concern.
>>
>> My wife and I are residents of the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. I have lived here for over 5 years and my wife for 71/2 years. We met and married here in the Village, one of the few positive things to happen here.
>>
>> When trying to sell my unit to move in with my wife, we spent 15 months of misery trying to keep our heads above water financially and battling with both [REDACTED] who own the Village. We initially lease our units for 49+ years and this is where our problems began. I vacated my unit, (leaving it spotless, but breaking the lease), handed the keys back to [REDACTED] and there forfeited any right of access. We could NOT sublet or lease the unit but were penalised by [REDACTED] as they claimed that we owned 2 properties thereby losing a large amount of our pensions but NOT having any new form of revenue. In the 15 months that I had the unit I lost \$50,000, an amount which is not to be sneezed at.
>>
>> The Unit was eventually released by [REDACTED] to a new resident but not before we had to wait for 15 months for settlement. We had applied for hardship consideration from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but this fell on deaf ears. We wrote to every politician that we could think of, (including the Prime Minister) but all we received were standard form letters or no response or understanding of what we were going through. We appealed but again had no success. [REDACTED] waived the levy fee of several hundred dollars per month but made sure that they recovered it at settlement.
>>
>> The above scenario has left us feeling very unhappy living here in the Village but there is no way that we can leave as our Unit has to be sold before we can get on with what is left of our lives. I am 82 and my wife is 77. With so many empty units here it would be impossible to sell and move on. We feel imprisoned and unable to make lifestyle choices. Whilst we are no longer battling to make ends meet it has been very detrimental to our health. We also find that the monthly levy of almost
>> \$500 is way too high for pensioners to have to manage. When my wife entered the Village, it appears that the Management of the Village had not been doing very well financially and she was not notified that there would be an increase of \$60 in the levy within months of entering the Village.
>>
>> As an older village it is not a happy place to be when you see so many residents either dying or moving into nursing homes. In our own little street of 8 units, 4 are now empty and two have been vacant for years. Friends and neighbours lived in these villas and we still feel their loss.
>>
>> Whilst there is a Committee of Management it is a farce as their hands are really tied and they are just become puppets of Stockland as has the Manager. [REDACTED] priorities are paramount to the needs of the residents.
>>
>> Maybe for single folk a village serves a purpose but if you wish to maintain some privacy, it is almost impossible. Also the loss of so much financially when a unit becomes vacant is detrimental to families who may rely on this income from their inheritance.
>>
>> I would never recommend Village life, and financially it is a drain. I understand that it is a way of life, and certainly NOT an investment opportunity but nor did I expect it to be a RIPOFF.
>>

>> In all sincerity,
>> Alwyn Singleton and Joy Single
>