

[REDACTED]

May 24th 2016

The Secretary
Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
East Melbourne, VIC 3002

I would like to make the following brief submission to the Committee.

My name is Robin Johnson, and I am a recent – about 1 year – resident of this Retirement Village. Like the other residents, I purchased a 45-year lease on a villa within the Village from the developers, who are a commercial, profit-making, business.

There are some restrictions that do not seem reasonable to me, established by the developers.

One is that it is mandatory to use their communications system, so one's own choice of telephone service, television and internet service provider is not available: one effect of this is that despite the rollout of the NBN, we are still limited to a multiplexed copper connection, which at busy times becomes seriously overloaded. This means that services such as Netflix are out of reach.

It also means that unlike many people nowadays we have to pay for a fixed-line phone even if we have a mobile.

This contrasts with the supply of other utilities, such as electricity and gas, where there is no difficulty about contracting with any of the multiple suppliers available.

Another complaint is that we are prevented from installing solar panels. This is particularly unreasonable, I contend, given both the ever-increasing cost of power and the need to reduce carbon use.

The State should, I feel, ensure that these restrictions are removed so that retirement village residents have more control over the services available to them.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Robin Johnson ✓
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