

7<sup>th</sup> August 2019

The Hon Jo Haylen, MP  
Member for Summer Hill  
Electorate Office  
299-301 Marrickville Road  
Marrickville NSW 2204

**Re: Retirement Villages Exit Entitlements & Cap on Recurrent Charges**

Dear Ms Haylen

On 9 July last, the Hon. Kevin Anderson released a discussion paper inviting submissions from the community as to how the Government should proceed with its announced intention to:

- Introduce a 42-day limit on the length of time that retirement villages can charge for general services after the departure of a resident, and
- Mandate that exit entitlements be repaid within six months of a resident moving out of a retirement village in metropolitan areas and twelve months for regional areas.

These reforms were a recommendation of the *Greiner Inquiry into the Retirement Village Sector* in 2017 and they were an election commitment in the lead up to the State elections last March. **The Government undertook to implement them.**

The discussion paper makes it clear that the Government is countenancing the possibility of a “grandfather” scenario that will protect the operators of retirement villages from claims lodged by existing residents. In other words, those that fought to have these changes made will be sequestered from the benefits ensuing. While this may be a defensible economic argument, it flies in the face of the undertakings and understandings of all those who were involved in getting this matter on the screen. There are thousands of residents in the numerous retirement villages that will be adversely affected if this grandfathering is allowed to be enshrined in law. They are the victims, not those who in the future elect to benefit from the hard efforts of those who now are fighting.

To this end, I encourage you and your Labor Party colleagues to oppose any attempt by the Government to undermine the basis on which existing residents of retirement villages fought to have this burdensome penalty ameliorated, only for those who come in the future. The campaign was not fought on the basis of what would happen to those who came after but rather on the basis that those who were involved in the retirement villages contract process would achieve some relief from what is no more than a millstone around the neck of executors.

I ask that you brief your colleagues on this important matter and use your political powers to ensure that this sleight of hand by the Government, no doubt triggered by the big end of town, does not get approved.

Yours sincerely