



Discussion Forum

The comments and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Retirement Village Residents Association (RVRA) or its Members.

A Fairy Tale

Posted - Thursday, 18 Nov 2010 9:52am - By **R V Resident**.

A Fairy Tale

By Future Grimm (No relation to the Brothers Grimm)

Once upon a time there was an old fellow named Joe. Joe's wife had died a couple of years previously. Joe lived interstate and had grown tired of mowing the lawns, cleaning the leaves out of the guttering and trying to maintain a large home. Joe decided to move to Sydney where his children were and started to look at the options that retirement village living might offer him.

Being a rather cautious fellow Joe made enquiries of and inspected a number of retirement villages in the general area of which he wished to live. He found that there were various types of villages; loan/licence; leasehold; strata and community title; rental and company title. All of the different villages had contracts and disclosure statements that varied.

In an effort to try and understand the varied differences Joe phoned the "Department of Just Deals" (DJD). This is a State Government Department which had been set up to offer safeguards on consumer rights and advise business and traders on fair and ethical practice.

Joe spoke to a young lady at the DJD whom he advised that he was seriously considering moving into a loan/licence village. The main reason he had made that choice was that when he vacated the unit, he or his estate would only have to pay recurrent charges for 42 days, whereas in a leasehold village the recurrent charges were ongoing in one form or another until the unit was sold and he just wanted to confirm that the 42 day payment of recurrent charges was in fact the case.

The young lady told Joe while he was talking about this, that the Minister and DJD thought that it had been unconscionable previously that people had to pay for so long so they changed the legislation to be fairer. She then went on to say that they don't feel they have to consider the "rich" people who pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to move into a retirement village – "they can look after themselves".

Joe thought about the friends he had who were residents in a leasehold village which were owned and operated by "for profit" operators, he did not consider any of them to be "rich" and he knew that a number of them had used all of their capital to purchase their lease entitlement and that they now existed solely on the Aged Pension.

Joe was amazed at this attitude and wondered if this was typical of the culture in the DJD and if it was so, then how that culture may have influenced the legislation that governs the retirement village industry.

The end of this fairy tale is that Joe decided to move into a loan/licence retirement village and he lived happily ever .

The End

The moral of this story is that when the attitude of Public Servants leads them to believe that they do not have to take into consideration of the opinions of the very people whom they are supposed to protect then something needs to be changed.

The characters and events contained in this fairy Tale are fictitious and have and have no reference to any organisation or person either dead or alive.

R V Resident.

Re: A Fairy Tale

Posted: Thursday, 18 November 2010 1:43pm - By jmp

This is a coincidence.

Recently someone told me a "true story" similar to this. It makes for a "Grimm story" indeed. The person who told me was just as bemused as Joe in the Fairy Tale.

It certainly shows that the most important thing when making a decision like a life change to move into a different living situation needs a great deal of research, and needs to have not only the person who is moving, but also any family or beneficiaries involved as well.

I want my family to know what they are going to be likely to have to pay in case something happens to me, or I have to move into care.

From what I hear, Retirement Villages are a great lifestyle - but the lifestyle can be spoilt if people are always worried about the costs involved.

So - good for Joe. I'm glad he made a good choice. I hope I live "Happily ever after as well".

jmp
