



## Discussion Forum

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### Help for quake-hit retirement village residents

NZPA May 12, 2011

Elderly people affected by the closure of Christchurch retirement village Kate Sheppard Gardens will be offered assistance packages, the Retirement Villages Association announced today.

The village was virtually destroyed in the city's February 22 earthquake, which claimed 181 lives.

Association executive director John Collyns said the village was a member of the organisation, and that it was committed to looking after residents.

"The major problem is that cash payout on their investment in the village will be delayed by complex insurance processes, and may be less than they need to enter another village under market terms," Mr Collyns said

"Therefore, the most useful things to offer at the moment involve lowering barriers to getting them into new units."

Those affected would be offered different help depending on their needs and what was available at other villages; some would get discounts on units, others interest-free loans, while others could have facility fees waived.

"Each package will involve a significant cost for each village, so they are only being offered to residents of Kate Sheppard Gardens," Mr Collyns said.

"It's good to know that our whole organisation stands behind each member village. Members across the country

Posted by: John Cooper - 18 May 2011

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