

TODAY show

complaints spark SA retirement home review

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Complaints about retirement villages have sparked a review with submissions sought from the public into the state of the industry in South Australia.

Minister for Ageing Jennifer Rankine released discussion papers on Thursday outlining a review of state legislation regulating the rights of residents in retirement villages.

Ms Rankine said the review was sparked after receiving a number of complaints from people about the industry.

"I've received a number of complaints and concerns about the information provided to people who buy into these villages and unexpected fees and charges," she told AAP on Thursday.

"There have been some concerns about management practices and the clarity of contracts they're signing."

Ms Rankine said the regulations governing the growing retirement industry in South Australia had not been reviewed since 2006.

"This review will allow members of the public, advocacy groups and people in the industry to have their say about what they think should be included or strengthened in the regulations."

Ms Rankine said strengthened regulations could see non-complying retirement villages hit with fines or audited.

The discussion papers, developed in consultation with industry groups, identify key areas of concern such as management practices, auditing standards and transparency in South Australia's retirement villages.

Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler has welcomed the review.

"Retirement villages are a wonderful addition to the options that older Australians have," he told AAP on Thursday.

"But it's very important appropriate consumer protections be in place to ensure older Australians who make that choice are not going to be financially exploited."