

A retirement village residents  
association?

**Why Bother?**

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ACT RVRA Forum  
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# The retirement village demographic

- ▶ Residents are all old
- ▶ As a group they're getting older
- ▶ Elder abuse

# The retirement village demographic

- ▶ The ageing process affects everyone differently:
  - ▶ Declining social skills
  - ▶ Physical decline
  - ▶ Loneliness - family and friends disappearing
  - ▶ Fear that resources are inadequate
  - ▶ Mental approach to life:
    - ▶ “I’m retired - leave me alone”
    - ▶ “I’m retired, let’s party”
    - ▶ “If I don’t say anything, they won’t hurt me”



Financial

Bladder

Feet

Knees

Hips

Business Experience

Spouse

Family

Bowls

Golf



# The environment of retirement villages

- ▶ Community living - for the first time?
- ▶ Contractual rights and obligations
- ▶ Reliance on staff
- ▶ Close statutory living:
  - ▶ Retirement Villages Act 2012 - over 260 sections
  - ▶ A Regulation and two statutory instruments - Over 60 clauses
  - ▶ Village Rules
  - ▶ Village budgets
  - ▶ Disputes Committee
  - ▶ ACT Civil & Administrative Tribunal (ACAT)

## A Personal View

**Our RV laws are and have been conceived, written, applied and enforced by NON-OLD People**

Ageing residents cannot necessarily:

- ▶ Form and run committees
- ▶ Understand accounts and budgets
- ▶ Speak up for themselves
- ▶ Interpret legislation
- ▶ Represent themselves before tribunals
- ▶ Effectively lobby Ministers and politicians

## A Personal View

**Our RV laws are and have been conceived, written, applied and enforced by NON-OLD People**

**We need an agency to step in and influence these processes **from a resident perspective!****

**The ACT RVRA is the way to get there, but it has to apply **constant pressure over time!****

# ACT RVRA advocates and lobbies for residents' interests

- ▶ Village operators
- ▶ Ministers and members of Parliament
- ▶ Ministerial staff
- ▶ Access Canberra (Fair Trading) and other public administrators
- ▶ ACAT
- ▶ Property Council of Australia
- ▶ Council on the Ageing (COTA)

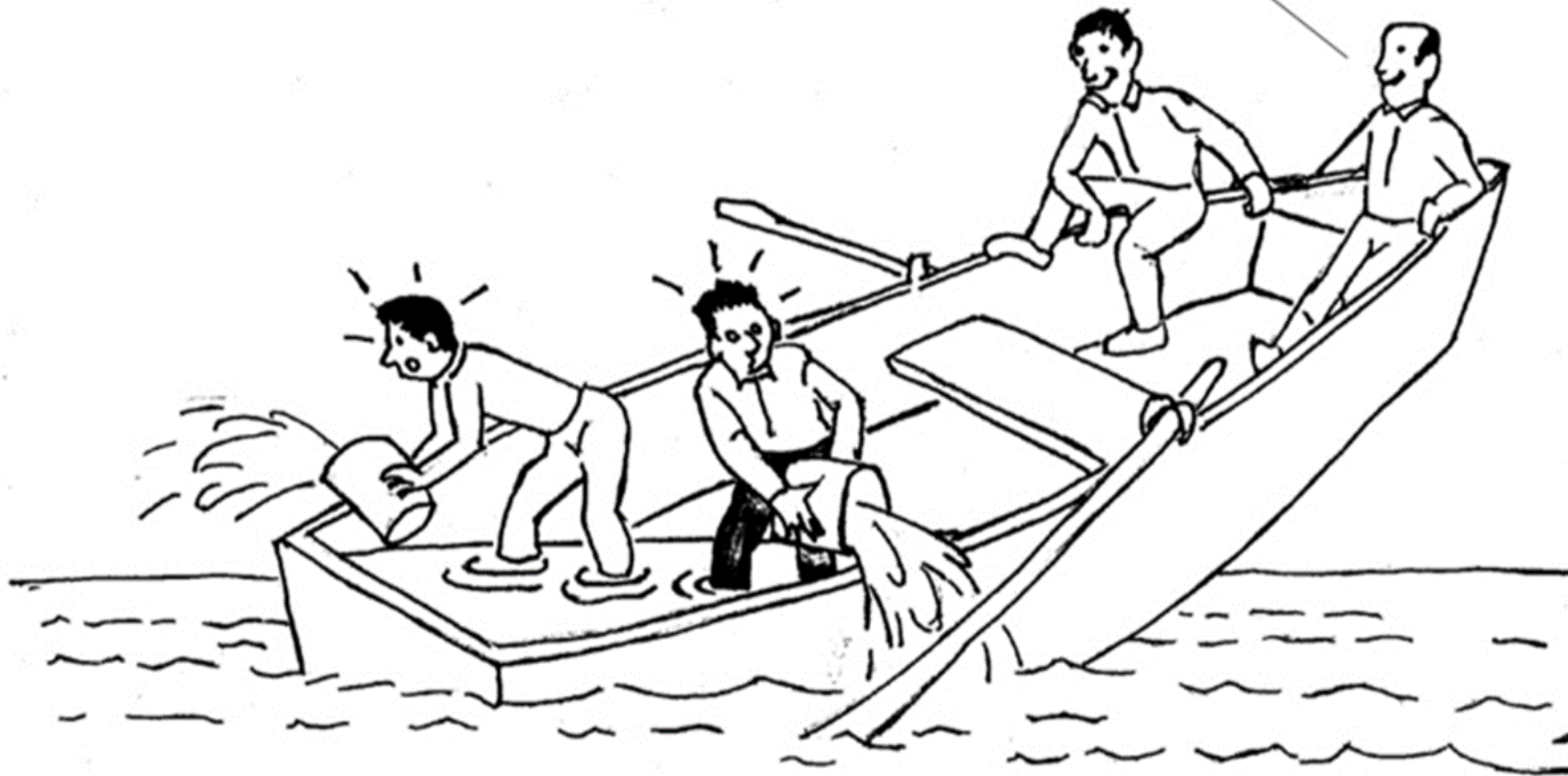
# ACT RVRA advocates and lobbies for residents' interests

## **Don't get me wrong!**

- ▶ The ACT RVRA is not like a trade union
- ▶ The ACT RVRA is not the enemy of operators
- ▶ It is in the interests of everyone that operators are successful and profitable
- ▶ It is in the interests of everyone that residents are happy and content

# We are all in the same boat

Sure glad the hole isn't at our end.



# Need help?

## The ACT RVRA is there!

- ▶ ACT RVRA re-constituted
- ▶ ACT RVRA Committee Members:
  - ▶ All village residents
  - ▶ All volunteers
- ▶ Sole focus is retirement village residents
- ▶ Committee members know what RV living is like and can give advice and guidance
- ▶ Apolitical

## Why join the RVRA?

- ▶ It's not a bag of onions
- ▶ You don't get something in your hand when you pay to join
- ▶ **It IS** a place for knowledgeable help and advice
- ▶ **It IS** a body that works for your interests publicly and behind the scenes



# Value for money?

- ▶ Legislative and administrative reform can save residents money
- ▶ Time volunteered by the RVRA Committee in the interests of residents is valuable
- ▶ An investment to reduce stress when you need help or advice

