

# ACT Retirement Village Residents Association Inc.

*To: provide independent information, advice, advocacy and representation*

## **Recent Achievements**

- Production of a Dispute Resolution Options brochure for ACT Retirement Village (RV) residents where an Operator and Resident are in dispute. This was done as a cooperative effort primarily between the ACT RVRA and the Property Council of Australia and its Retirement Living Council, but also with the ACT Human Rights Commission, COTA ACT and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) of the ACT Government. See [actrvra.org.au](http://actrvra.org.au) for details of the brochure.
- The ACT RVRA was instrumental in the ACT Government's decision to set up a Working Group primarily to review the legal and regulatory framework for RVs (see below).

## **Current Projects and Activities**

Currently working:

- to increase our membership so that we are able to speak to, and for, more residents living in the retirement village community;
- to raise funds to enable us to carry out our work (funds have been promised by the ACT Government);
- to prepare Information Sheets (similar to the NSW RVRA Information Sheets) to be available for RV residents, including RV Resident Committees, which aim to set out a wide range of information about the operation of the ACT RV legislation and in particular, the operations of a RV Resident Committee;
- with the ACT Government to consider the introduction of a Star Rating System for ACT RVs, as is the case on an Australia-wide basis for Nursing Homes;
- with a number of key stakeholders (see below) in an ACT Government Working Group, to examine and consider a range of issues, including:
  - ❖ amendments that are, or may be, required to the Retirement Villages legislation (Act and Regulation) to address a number of problems that have been identified, including an amendment to the RV Regulation to allow certain Resident Committee (RC) members to stay in a RC position for more than 3 years if there is no person with the relevant skills to effectively carry out a particular role (eg Treasurer);
  - ❖ the registration of RV operators to ensure that all stakeholders, including the RV regulator (Access Canberra) have more visibility over, and information about, which organisations are running RV's, how many RV's there are, which RV's have Aged Care facilities in them etc;
  - ❖ the possibility of producing a 'standard form' contract (as NSW has) for people who are entering an ACT RV (instead of each operator having its own contract);
  - ❖ improvements to the current finance models that are offered by RV operators;
  - ❖ Model Rules for RV Resident Committees; and
  - ❖ Legislative arrangements governing rental arrangements in RVs.

Stakeholders involved in the Working Group include:

- Justice and Community Safety Directorate (ACT Govt) (WG Convenor & Manager)
- ACT RVRA
- ACT Human Rights Commission
- COTA ACT;
- Property Council of Australia/Retirement Living Council
- Vintage Reds
- KJB Law
- CARE Consumer Law
- ACT Law Society
- Legal Aid ACT
- Access Canberra (ACT Govt)

The members of the Working Group were asked to send details to JACS of any further issues that come to their attention as possibly requiring some legislative or other action in time for the next WG meeting in March 2024.

The ACT RVRA made a submission to JACS on 14 December 2023.

**If that you can think of an issue that it would be appropriate for the WG to consider and possibly address, please send details to [enquiries@actrvra.org.au](mailto:enquiries@actrvra.org.au)**

### **Visits to ACT Retirement Villages**

The ACT RVRA recently embarked on a program of visits to ACT RVs to talk to residents about the role and activities of the ACT RVRA.

If you would like a visit to your village, or know of residents of other villages who would like the ACT RVRA to visit, please let us know at [enquiries@actrvra.org.au](mailto:enquiries@actrvra.org.au).

ACT RVRA Committee

19 December 2023