



Speech by

**Mrs J. GAMIN**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Hansard 24 November 1999

### **BURLEIGH TOWN VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK**

**Mrs GAMIN** (Burleigh—NPA) (10.27 a.m.): I have had many contacts from residents of a mobile home park in the Burleigh electorate expressing concern about the level of site fees. At Burleigh Town Village, an agreement was reached some years ago between relocatable home owners—who do not, of course, own the land on which their houses sit—and the park proprietor. This includes an annual increase of 5% or the increase in the CPI, whichever is the greater. The CPI has been quite low for several years, so the 5% applies. The annual 5% rent increase has caused site rentals to more than double over the past 10 years, and the site fee is now \$91.17. For a pensioner resident, rent assistance is \$37.80 per week. So the net payment works out at \$53.37 per week—a fair chunk out of the Social Security benefit received by those residents.

Each year when the site fee has been increased, rent assistance has also been increased. However, Social Security has informed single pensioners that \$37.80 is the maximum amount of rent assistance for a single person and there will be no more increases. The site rent increase of 5% each year from now on will have to be met out of the pension. Pensioner couples are a little better off, as they have only one rental account and one electricity account, etc., to pay out of the two pensions.

The Minister for Fair Trading has recently advised me that key concerns by residents of mobile home parks are now being assessed and a revised discussion paper will be released. I do urge the Minister to expedite the discussion paper and the review of the Mobile Homes Act, as pensioner owners of relocatable homes are deeply concerned about their financial future. It really is a very serious situation for pensioner owners of relocatable homes in my electorate and in many other areas. They are anxious to see a rental structure that is fair and reasonable for home owners, not just beneficial for park proprietors.

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