



Speech by

JOHN ENGLISH

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 8 August 2001

RETIREMENT VILLAGES ACT

Mr ENGLISH (Redlands—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): In 1999 the Beattie government introduced the Retirement Villages Act. The objective of this act was to protect the older members of our community, to increase money spent on the facilities that they were occupying, to try to maintain the value of their investment in their buildings, and to protect the quality of life of our elderly citizens. As a former police officer, and as many experienced members of the House should acknowledge, I acknowledge that legislation introduced with the best intentions can still have flaws.

We have heard a lot in recent weeks from the opposition about the arrogance—the alleged arrogance—of the Beattie government. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have spoken to many residents of retirement villages who have raised concerns about the aspects of the implementation of the Retirement Villages Act. I have spoken to the Honourable Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading about these concerns. What was the government's response? We acknowledged the problems and undertook to hold a review of this legislation.

That is hardly the behaviour of an arrogant government. I applaud the honourable minister for the review and encourage all stakeholders to prepare submissions. I invite the minister to attend the Redlands and examine the retirement villages in the electorate. Whilst this legislation was designed to address the appalling conditions in some retirement villages, the impact on quality villages such as Tranquil Waters, Salford Waters Retirement Estate, Lake Sherrin Homes for the Aged, and the Seventh-Day Adventist Retirement Village needs to be reviewed, and it is.
